

# EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: June 8, 2022

7:00 p.m.

East Windsor Police Department  
25 School Street, East Windsor, CT 06088

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## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Filipone, Long, and Riordan were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Present in the audience was Selectman Marie DeSousa.

## 2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

## 3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the May 11, 2022, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to accept the regular meeting minutes of 5/11/2022.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Riordan

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Rivera-Hills

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan

**ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

**A) Police Department – Monthly Billing:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to approve the monthly billing in the amount of \$5,343.20, as of June 8, 2022.

**DISCUSSION:** Chairman Leach said he noticed a bill for Grafix. Deputy Chief said it's for three cruisers. We had limited funds from the grant so used the CNR funds.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**B) Police Department – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly financial statements, with a balance of \$284,112.81, as submitted.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Filipone asked if we are going to make it. Deputy Chief said yes.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Riordan to approve the monthly billing in the total amount of \$125.00.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**D) Police Commission – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Riordan to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 5/31/2022 as submitted with a balance of \$256.37.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Chairman Leach asked about the sub-committee that was set up last month and if there's any updates. Commissioner Filipone said they had a tour of the police facility and there were many deficiencies and repairs that need attention. He then mentioned a plan he heard about from Jason the First Selectman but wasn't sure it was public information yet. Selectman DeSousa stated the public has been made aware of a plan to purchase Scout Hall to turn into the new Parks & Recreation, Social Services and Senior Center. The Board of Finance will need to review the plan before it moves forward and will also require a town meeting to put on the ballot for approval from the town. A discussion ensued. Chairman Leach stated the police department may need to look for a new facility and they need to come up with a plan. They have outgrown what we have. A discussion ensued. Chief DeMarco stated this facility has been pieced together over many years which is unacceptable; it has mold, floods, and many other issues that are safety and technology based. An investment should be made for this police department. Deputy Chief Hart added most of the money we have used over the years on the police facility has come from private duty funds and donations. The town has not put in nearly as much for this department. A discussion ensued.

## **6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:**

Chairman Leach asked about the "No Thru Trucks" request from a citizen. Deputy Chief Hart explained he spoke to the complainant on 6/4/22 and he withdrew his complaint. The police department did put out speed signs and picked two days randomly. There were about 800 vehicles per day and not one was a truck. The average speed on the road was 36 miles per hour. Deputy Chief Hart added that he had another request for a "Slow Child" sign on the road. He explained those signs are generally for a specific need such as a playground. The more signs that are up, the less people pay attention to them. They will continue to have enforcement in the area, and it should have a positive effect.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS:

Deputy Chief Hart stated while they were doing first responder certifications, they discovered our Automated External Defibrillators (AED's) are very old and they were end of life last year in June, so they are no longer supported. Seven of the LifePak 500 units batteries were dead. We have three LifePak 1000 AED's which were from private duty funds. We currently have four working AED's for the entire patrol division. They need funding to replace the seven and would also like one for the building. The total cost is \$16,900, but they will get \$100 trade-in for each LifePak 500 they turn in. He would like permission to reach out to the Treasurer to see if the town has any money for this purchase. Chairman Leach said they can reach out to the Treasurer. Commissioner Filipone asked how much ammunition would cost for a training session. Deputy Chief Hart said its approximately \$2,000 for the department to certify. There are additional costs, like overtime, etc. A discussion ensued.

Chairman Leach said we'll need a motion to transfer two vehicles to the First Selectman's office.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Riordan to transfer two vehicles (2009 Ford Crown Victoria VIN: 2FAHP71V49X115819 and 2015 Ford Police Interceptor VIN: 1FAHP2MKXFG116611) to the First Selectman's office.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Leach said Commissioner Rivera-Hills heard chatter of parents' concern with our active shooter plans. He went on to say he knows we have them in place and they are confidential and not for public release. Chief DeMarco stated we have active shooter protocol and our department is prepared. Parents should be concerned and our nation should be concerned about what is happening. Our agency is trained and we have policy in place. Deputy Chief Hart added there are confidential plans in place they cannot talk about, but what he can say is that our policy and training is to go to the threat and eliminate the threat immediately. Chief DeMarco stated we have trained that way repeatedly and prepared our people as best we can. He does wish we could get more equipment funded, but they are prepared today. Deputy Chief said our policy covers everything and is in place. Commissioner Filipone asked about the school personnel regarding keeping doors and windows closed. Chief DeMarco stated there's been some training and spot checking by risk assessment people, but he cannot discuss any details. A discussion ensued.

## 9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

None.

## 10. PUBLIC INPUT – Comments and Discussion (5 minutes maximum time per subject)

Selectman DeSousa said there was a threat at the middle school several weeks back. She drove through the school because she wanted to feel comfortable with her granddaughter

there. From the parents to the kids and herself, everyone was ecstatic and pleased with the efforts put forth by the East Windsor Police Department. The police officers were at the door walking kids in, asking them how they feel and if they had concerns and put them at ease. She noticed there were two officers in a vehicle at the front entrance, another vehicle on the other side, and some around the sides of the building. The police were very visible to the children and parents. She wants to publicly thank the police department for doing that. The police are an important agency in this town and its time we get that message out there and they have her support. Chief DeMarco said he appreciates her support. They have always tried to present a budget that was honest and have earned the trust of the community. When they ask for something its because they need it. Deputy Chief Hart added he also appreciates her support over the years.

Chief DeMarco would like to officially recognize the upcoming retirement of Sgt. Jeff Reimer after 27 years of service; his last day will be Friday. He worked all hours, in all weather conditions, he risked his life and served this community well. As the union president he was a strong advocate for his people, doing it with respect and honor. He was also a good supervisor as well. Everyone will miss him here. Chairman Leach would also like to recognize Sgt. Reimer. He enjoyed working with him in negotiations and through union issues. He was a man of his word and a get it done guy. Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart wish him the best of luck.

#### **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to enter into Executive Session at 8:06 pm to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart for discussion on legal and security issues.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Riordan

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Riordan to end Executive Session at 9:13 pm

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Riordan to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary**