

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: August 10, 2022

7:00 p.m.

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Filipone and Riordan were present. Also present were Deputy Chief Roger Hart and Administrative Lieutenant Matt Carl. Present in the audience were Selectman Marie DeSousa and Ms. Noreen Farmer.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to add Agenda #6, Traffic: Rockville Road and Thrall Road.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Riordan

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to strike from last month's minutes, the words "per year" from the motion on the last page (page 4, section 11).

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Riordan

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The minutes from the July 13, 2022, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the regular meeting minutes of 7/13/2022.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

EXCUSED: Commissioner Long/Rivera-Hills

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Riordan

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly billing in the amount of \$10,800.99, as of August 10.

DISCUSSION: Deputy Chief Hart explained this amount was revised from what was sent in the original email. The original one had an \$800 charge for AWR Web Design which actually belonged in the IT budget.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Riordan

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to approve the monthly financial statements, with a balance of \$3,538,711.81, as submitted.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/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 Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Riordan

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 7/31/2022 as submitted with a balance of \$1,600.00.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Riordan

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Deputy Chief Hart received a complaint from 149 Rockville Road from the Scandinavian Gift Shop next to East Road. They noticed up the street closer to the center of Rockville there's a "blind driveway" sign and they would like a "blind driveway" sign. We did a traffic study and most of the traffic is coming out of East Road and using it as a driveway. Lt. Poliquin suggested a "blind driveway" sign, but after I drove through the area, I don't think the "blind driveway" sign is the best means of fixing that. The best way to fix it is to have a "intersection warning" sign before East Road Eastbound and before East Road Westbound, which is a standard W22 sign; it's a warning sign and not a regulatory sign so they don't need a motion from the Commission. With the Commission's permission, he'll ask DPW to post the signs. The Police Commissioners agree.

The First Selectman received a letter from the O'Donnell family of 17 Thrall Road as they believe there is a hazardous road condition before the intersection of Thrall Road, Wapping Road, and Windsorville Road, and would like a "stop sign ahead" sign. Deputy Chief Hart responded to all parties by email after consideration and review. Placement of a "stop ahead" sign at the current speed sign location, would be inappropriate based on guidance from the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. There is no obstruction of the stop sign and there is no crash data in the past five years to support the change. Commissioner Filipone asked if it's a problem at night to see the stop sign. Deputy Chief Hart stated no because the sign is reflective. The underlying issue seems to be vehicle speeds and we will add this street to our Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP).

7. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Deputy Chief Hart stated that on 7/17/2022, the ambulance hit the gate while it was closing which damaged the gate and the ambulance. An incident report was created and the ambulance insurance will pay a certain amount to fix it. We will be upgrading to an aluminum gate which could be close to \$20,000. DPW will pitch in some money, plus money from the ambulance insurance (around \$8,000), but we will most likely have to request money for it.

Deputy Chief Hart stated on 8/4/2022, our drone crashed and there was a lot of damage to it. It is insured through CIRMA, but we need to send it out to the company to assess the damage and give us an estimate.

Deputy Chief Hart stated we are moving forward with the Glock 9mm transfer purchase. We put in a purchase for the ammunition, and they will be starting training and trading out in the next month.

Deputy Chief Hart stated he wanted to recognize our Records Supervisor, Judy, for doing a great job working on and completing a very difficult Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. A Public Defender's office requested many of our standard operating procedures and she had to go through them all and make a determination if they're releasable or not, all while doing her regular work duties and other FOIA requests.

Adm. Lt. Matt Carl wanted to speak about positive movement on a few high-profile cases. He said in the past year we've had three bank robberies, three convenience store robberies, sex assaults and fraud investigations. We've also had multiple shootings in the following areas: Mill Pond, Geissler's, Winkler Road, Mardi Gras, two at the Roadway, and Osborne Park. He went on to give details about each of the shootings. He wanted to commend the detectives, dispatchers, and patrol division, for a tremendous job they have been doing on all the cases. We only have one detective and we need to start working on getting more staff for that division especially with the increase in shootings. A discussion ensued. Deputy Chief Hart

added he wanted everyone to know this police department has employees that are doing their jobs well and that the Detective Division will need help in the near future.

Chairman Leach stated he attended the Selectmen's meeting and they voted to postpone the payroll change. He doesn't know why and we'll see where it goes.

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

Ms. Noreen Farmer of 247 S. Water Street wanted to voice a few concerns she has. First, in reading the minutes, there was nothing on the agenda about salary increases so the public would know. The vote was taken after executive session, so she believes the conversation took place in that executive session, and she says its an FOI issue. Second, she said to come out and make a standard vote with no discussion leaves everyone in a weird world of what is it. She wants to understand what it is in order to make a decision on it. So, if the conversation is about getting the salaries to a comparable level with other towns, merit, salary etc. that should be a public facing conversation in the minutes. She thinks its important that the agendas and minutes express what happens because you're not on video. Third, she wants to know about the level of the increase and she's concerned about it being understood from the perspective for other boards and commissions that are dealing with contract negotiations. They should have background and public conversations about it. Fourth, Broad Brook school is going to open soon and traffic is a problem in the morning. It doesn't have anything to do with traffic, but to do with stupid people who park their cars where they aren't supposed to. Most people aren't using the crosswalk and when they walk out past the parked cars, she's seen them almost get hit. She wants to know if we can we line the area with no parking signs so they can't physically park there and put a curb there. It's dangerous and she's surprised no one has been hurt. Chairman Leach agreed it has been and still is a problem and they'll look at it again. Deputy Chief Hart said they asked the principal to mail letters in the past and that has worked well. Ms. Farmer said they still do it regardless of the letter. A discussion ensued. Deputy Chief Hart said the no parking signs and curb is a good idea. They will look into the matter and report recommendations at the next meeting.

Chairman Leach explained the wage increase is no different than contract negotiations and is done in executive session and not shared publicly. Ms. Farmer said once a decision and vote is made you can discuss and put it in the minutes. Chairman Leach said he could give many reasons as to why they made the decision, one being to bring them in line with similar towns. As a short comparison, this would bring us in line with the Windsor Locks Chief's salary and we are also an accredited department and could go on and on. Commissioner Filipone stated he was approached by some people and they questioned the amounts being more than the Hartford Chief and that can't be possible. Chairman Leach stated that is true, but it's a totally different job. Hartford Chief is a political appointee with a very narrow scope of what their work is, unlike what we do here. Other departments such as Old Saybrook are similar and the Chief there has a salary of \$222,000, and Southington is over \$200,000. You need to compare by going to similar size towns, experience, education, etc. Chairman Leach and the Commissioners said they may make a written public statement as to why they put forward the increase.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to enter into Executive Session at 7:42 pm to include Deputy Chief Hart and Adm. Lt. Carl for discussion on legal and security issues.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Riordan

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to end Executive Session at 8:54 pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Riordan

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Riordan

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary