

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: October 12, 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 7:00 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Filipone, Long, Riordan, and Rivera-Hills were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr., Deputy Chief Roger Hart, and Administrative Lieutenant Matt Carl. Present in the audience were First Selectman Jason Bowsza and Selectman Marie DeSousa.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to add Agenda #5, Unfinished Business: Building sub-committee.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION made by Chairman Leach add Agenda #7, New Business: Meeting dates and location.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the September 14, 2022, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to accept the regular meeting minutes of 9/14/2022.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

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 \$18,243.12, as of October 12.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone asked about the reimbursement for a hotel for Ofc. Devlin. Deputy Chief Hart stated it was for training off site. Chairman Leach said we

reimbursed for WSU summer fee for approximately \$4,500. He wants to know if it's for tuition and if it's for the in-state or out-of-state tuition rate. Deputy Chief Hart explained it is for tuition and hasn't been changed that they know of. This was originally submitted in our normal course of business back in the summer, but per the Treasurer, it was denied at the Selectman's office and returned and they would have to complete the course, show the grades to the First Selectman and the First Selectman would approve.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

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 \$2,953,244.83, as of October 7, 2022.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone said we are a quarter of the way through the year and used a quarter so that's a good start.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 9/30/2022 as submitted with a balance of \$1,350.00.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chairman Leach stated a building sub-committee was established but they haven't gotten off the ground with it yet. He received a text from Commissioner Rivera-Hills that asked to recess the committee until after the new year. The Commissioners were not opposed to it.

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to recess the building sub-committee until after the new year.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Deputy Chief Hart said a couple issues crossed his desk and they dealt with it on a lower level because they weren't big issues. The signage on Rockville Road is still in process and DPW is trying to get the "call before you dig" to come out before putting the signs out. Wells Road had too many stop ahead signs. Thrall Road was put on the STEP list and they are rotating the speed signs to slow people down. It was against the manual for traffic control regulations to put a stop ahead sign. Commissioner Filipone asked if traffic speeds up when we remove the signs. Deputy Chief Hart explained they have no actual data because the sign isn't there to track, but they've had positive feedback from the signs and usually between 70-80% slow down. Follow-up and enforcement seem to work. Commissioner Long asked about the signs that are permanent and said they had spoken about changing the flash to flashing and no flashing and wants to know if there's been any progress on that? Deputy Chief Hart stated there has not been any progress. The software is difficult to use and is pretty involved. He spoke to Joe Sauerhoefer and he said the same thing. If they know anyone that has the skill, they would do it. Chairman Leach stated on Winkler approaching Route 5 there is no stop ahead sign and it sort of turns a corner there. Deputy Chief Hart said they will take a look at it.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Leach said they need to determine next year's meeting location. The dates will stay the same (second Wednesday of every month), but they need to decide on a location. The Annex room is not available because they use the room for yoga. Park Hill is an option. He thinks the big room in the Annex would be the most beneficial to us because there is access to records and the ability to have data at our hands. First Selectman Bowsza stated the Town Hall is open and has video capability. He believes the room is available and that Chairman Leach should check to make sure. Commissioner Filipone is not in favor of moving it out of this building as we have records available here and we don't normally draw people from the public to the meetings. Commissioner Rivera-Hills is in favor of moving the meeting to the Town Hall which is consistent with what everyone else is doing for meetings. Commissioner Long said we should find out about the Town Hall and then decide. Chairman Leach stated we will make a location decision next month.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

None.

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

First Selectman Bowsza wanted to give clarification for something Deputy Chief Hart said earlier in the meeting regarding tuition reimbursement. He said he is not the arbiter of what is or is not reimbursed. We are requiring that the terms that are outlined in the collective bargaining unit agreement be followed, which is a reimbursement, not an advance payment. There have been instances in the past the town has gotten stuck not reaping the benefit of the negotiated terms of the contract. They are just maintaining what the terms of the contract are, which is a different practice than what has been happening for some time. Chairman Leach said his concern is the tuition rate and if we don't pay ahead of time, we don't get the in-state rate. Selectman Bowsza stated unless that practice has changed, East Windsor has gotten the in-state rate in terms of residents and that members of his household have enjoyed the in-state rate. Even still, it is a negotiated benefit, with a capped amount (\$13,500). If the amount is depleted, then it's depleted. Chairman Leach said he doesn't want it to impact our officers if the tuition rates are five times what they were. Selectman Bowsza stated it's unlikely Westfield would be five times the amount. Chairman Leach said the in-state tuition starts at \$970 and the out-of-state starts at \$7,500 so that's a huge difference. Selectman Bowsza stated \$7,500 is not per class it's per semester for a full-time student with five classes. Deputy Chief Hart added it was the Treasurer's office, as of last week, that said they would not process them without seeing the grades. He has approved the grades for the past fifteen and a half years that he's been doing it and that's been acceptable, but now it's not acceptable. He's not saying it's you [Jason], but that's what is being reported back to us. Selectman Bowsza thanked him, and that the representation was that he was signing off on them and that is not the case; we are following the terms of the contract. Deputy Chief Hart said he can send the emails from the Treasurer if he would like. Selectman Bowsza just wants to make sure we are all clear.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to enter into Executive Session at 7:23 pm to include candidate Brittany Dixon for police officer.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to end Executive Session at 7:50 pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to make a conditional offer to hire Brittany Dixon for position of police officer contingent upon successful completion of background check and processing.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera-Hills

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary