

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: December 13, 2023

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 6:59 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Filipone, Menard, Riordan, and Rivera-Hills were present. Also present was Chief Matthew Carl and Deputy Chief Benjamin Murphy. Present in the audience was Deputy First Selectman Marie DeSousa, Mr. Rich Teller, and Mr. Don Arsenault.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to add Agenda #7*, New Business: Statement for the Record.

SECONDED by Commissioner Rivera-Hills

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

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills Agenda #7e, New Business: ACO Incident.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

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

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to take Public Input out of order and move to be done before the previous meeting minutes.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

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

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

10. PUBLIC INPUT – Comments and Discussion (3 minutes maximum time per subject)

Mr. Rich Teller of 412 Canyon Ridge Road said the state will issue regulations around January 1st for speed and red light cameras and would like the police commission to address the issue and see if they would be interested in this for East Windsor. He sees value in it because he got a ticket (his only ticket) in D.C. from a camera and has been a better driver because of it.

Mr. Don Arsenault talked to the First Selectman a couple months ago about an issue with the police department and was directed to contact the police commission. He first passed around

a plaque for 33 years of service with the Town of Simsbury. He then said he got arrested and he thought it was unnecessary for the police officer to have entered his house to serve the warrant and he feels they should have done it outside. At the police station he was asked to remove his shoes and shoelaces and when he made bond, he retrieved his shoelaces and they had been cut. He said he put in a complaint with the old administration (Deputy Chief Hart). He gave two letters to the Chairman to read. One was from the previous Deputy Chief Hart and the other from Lt. Poliquin who's letter said the cutting of the laces was justified because he was going to court. He does not think his laces should have been cut because he bonded out. He says the last administration told him to buy a new pair of shoelaces and submit to the town for reimbursement. He says he's a taxpayer in town and would only be reimbursing himself. He also wanted them to look into the date of March 16, 2023, because he said he came in and wasn't told he had a warrant and then on March 17, 2023, he was arrested by warrant at his house. He said regardless of what happens with his complaint, he plans to go to small claims court for the shoelaces.

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to enter into Executive Session at 7:15 pm to include Chief Matthew Carl and Deputy Chief Murphy for police officer interview.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

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

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to end Executive Session at 7:56 pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

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

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to make a conditional offer to hire Dylan Breen for position of Police Officer contingent upon successful completion of background check and processing.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

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

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the November 8, 2023, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to accept the regular meeting minutes of 11/08/2023.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Menard/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 \$9,320.40, dated December 7.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone said he would still like a list of vendors. Chief Carl stated that they are still working on creating one.

SECONDED by Commissioner Rivera-Hills

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

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 \$2,342,770.16.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone said we are over in over-time. Chief Carl stated it continues to be an issue with being down officers. They officer salary line is 35% so at the end of the year it will absorb the over-time line and may even have a surplus.

SECONDED by Commissioner Rivera-Hills

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

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Menard/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 11/30/2023 as submitted with a balance of \$1,078.02.02.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

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

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

*) **Statement**

Commissioner Rivera-Hills read a statement. We don't play politics. Our affiliation has never been a factor in our decision making and they decide on the merits and facts because the law is black and white. She wants you to vote your conscience.

A) **Election of Officers**

The floor was open for nomination of Chairman.

Chairman: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to nominate Chairman Bob Leach to the position of Chairman. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Riordan.

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

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

The floor was open for nomination of Secretary.

Secretary: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to nominate Tom Riordan to the position of Secretary. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone.

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

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) **Improving the Police Commission's Image**

Commissioner Menard said he's had several conversations with different people, and he got the feeling we didn't have a positive image in the community. He suggests all of them should think about it. He would like to have a police commission email so he could be more visible and more available to the public. Commissioner Rivera-Hills asked if he has any action items. Commissioner Menard thinks they should be in a larger room and have the ability to record their meetings and make them available to the public like the Selectmen do. He also would like to meet every officer and feel if they have something they want to discuss they can go to him. He thinks it would be a good idea for all of them to meet the officers. A discussion ensued. Chief Carl stated they can set up ride-a-longs, attend roll calls and also meet the officers at town events and in the public. Deputy First Selectman DeSousa told him to contact Joe Sauerhoefer to get a town email.

C) **Explanation of Tracking Overtime**

Chief Carl explained how they have created a way to track overtime with more detail. They will continue to work on it to add even more detail so it can be used for transparency and budgeting.

D) **Police Commission Budget**

Chief Carl will be presenting the budget on December 29th. He wants to know if he needs to submit the police commission budget. He also wants to know if there's been an increase in recording secretary fees in the last several years. Chairman Leach said they submit their own budget and there has not been any increase in recording secretary fees.

E) ACO Issue

Commissioner Filipone said he received a call from a resident that was bitten by his own dog, in his own home. The dog had to be quarantined for 10 days and the resident chose to quarantine the dog in his home. There was an appointment made for the dog to be euthanized yesterday. He thinks there was a communication problem between the ACO and the resident. They were expecting a call, but he doesn't know why, but he knows something needed to be signed off on by the ACO, but the ACO was going to be off today and not back until tomorrow. That's why he called Commissioner Filipone. Commissioner Filipone talked to a dispatcher who was supposed to call him back and didn't. The ACO did call the resident back and made an appointment with them to come here in the morning to sign the document. So, everything turned out the way it was supposed to. Chief Carl explained the ACO had to come in and sign off that the 10-day quarantine had expired. The supervisor he spoke to did contact himself, Deputy Chief, and the Lieutenant. The Lieutenant then contacted the ACO to come in this morning to meet with the complainant and sign off. He apologizes that the dispatcher didn't call him back, but the complainant did get contacted. They only have one part-time ACO right now and are in the process of revamping that. He believes we should have a full-time ACO. Currently, they are working with rescue groups to be able to get any dogs out of the pound and officers are going down to feed and get the dogs out of the cages.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief Carl went over his monthly report with the commissioners. The background for the dispatcher position should be done soon and hopefully she will be starting soon. Anthony Calderon who they hired for police officer is progressing. They started to align the supervision and are creating an office space for the lieutenants. They have made a request to the State of CT for bonding for the radio system. They put up "No Trespass" signs at the front gate. He's attended several community events including Stuff a Cruiser, Shop with a Cop, the Warehouse Point annual holiday dinner and will be going to the Broad Brook Fire Department one this weekend. He completed the LTA 101 which is a requirement for the certification and Deputy Chief will complete that in future, too. The Deputy Chief attended the Milford academy this month to teach a leadership class with D2C, and organization called Dedication to Community and will also be going to our local high school and another local high school to talk about leadership. They also had a command staff meeting with the lieutenant, all the sergeants and all the corporals to realign them with expectations going forward.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Riordan to enter into Executive Session at 8:43 pm to include Chief Matthew Carl for legal and security updates and police officer interview.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Menard/Riordan/Rivera-Hills
ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to end Executive Session at 9:18 pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Menard

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Menard/Riordan/Rivera-Hills
ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera-Hills to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Menard

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Menard/Riordan/Rivera-Hills
ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary