

# EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

**REGULAR MEETING: June 14, 2017**

**East Windsor Town Hall  
11 Rye Street, Broad Brook, CT 06106**

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## **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Stremper. Commissioners Filipone and Leach were present. Commissioner Hayes arrived at 7:12pm. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr., Deputy Chief Roger Hart, and Attorney Joshua Hawks-Ladds. Present in the audience were Ms. Corrie Tamrog and Ms. Joan O'Rourke.

## **2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:**

None.

## **3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

The minutes from the May 10, 2017, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the regular meeting minutes of 05/10/2017.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Leach.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Pippin

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Hayes

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Chairman Stremper, Commissioners Filipone/Leach

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

## **4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:**

**A) Police Department – Monthly Billing:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to accept the monthly billing as of June 9, 2017, to include Animal Control, in the total amount of \$21,505.30.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Filipone asked what the CA Marketing cost was for. Chief DeMarco explained it is for the detective bureau's camera supplies for crime scene photos, memory cards, etc.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Chairman Stremper, Commissioners Filipone/Leach

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**B) Police Department – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to approve the monthly financial statements, through 6/9/17, including Animal Control.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Filipone asked if the reimbursement money they were expecting came in. Deputy Chief replied that it did.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Chairman Stremper, Commissioners Filipone/Leach

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly billing as of 05/31/17 in the total amount of \$125.00.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Leach.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Chairman Stremper, Commissioners Filipone/Leach

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**D) Police Commission – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 05/31/2017 as submitted.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Chairman Stremper, Commissioners Filipone/Leach

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

## **6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:**

Chief DeMarco stated he received a request from Mr. Joseph Ouellette asking for a stop ahead sign on the northbound approach of Windsorville Road at its intersection with Old Ellington Road and Reservoir Road. Chief DeMarco went on to say the request does fit the guidelines of allowing a stop ahead advisory sign. Chairman Stremper and Commissioner Leach agreed with putting up the stop ahead advisory sign. Chief DeMarco will put this request in writing and send it to the Director of Public Works.

Chief DeMarco said the Park Hill traffic study is complete. He will get copies of the report to the police commission, Len Norton, and Linda Collins so they may review the information to discuss at the next police commission meeting. Deputy Chief Hart gave a summary of the report.

**ARRIVAL:** Commissioner Hayes arrived 7:12 pm.

Ms. Corrie Jamrog of 2 Gardner Street would like additional signs and/or speed bumps in the areas of Pleasant Street, Gardner Street, and Grandview Street. She stated the cars speed through the areas and stop signs and drive very dangerously. She went on to say they have driven on her lawn and speed even during school bus pick-ups and drop-offs. She has children and wants to feel they are safe if they are in the yard or waiting for the bus. She stated the residents and visitors at Carousel Apartments are some of the biggest offenders.

Ms. Joan O'Rourke suggested putting extra officers in the area to give tickets to those speeding and not stopping at the stop signs. She stated the extra visibility of police officers in the area is a great deterrent. She then went on to thank the Police Chief and the members of the police department "for the commendable job that you guys do that goes unnoticed and unappreciated". Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart thanked her.

Ms. Joan O'Rourke stated she had been working on organizing a "Block Watch" and has been speaking with the neighbors about it. She feels it's a good opportunity for everyone to get to know one another and stay informed. She went on to say Carousel Apartments has quite a few sex offenders so a Block Watch would be good for everyone to be communicating.

Chief DeMarco explained stop signs cannot be put in to control speed and speed bumps are difficult to support because they are only put in based on number of accidents, etc. that have occurred. He did go on to say they should use the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) in those areas to try to reduce the speed of the offenders. They will study the area and report back at next month's police commission meeting to put the STEP plan in place. Deputy Chief Hart gave his business card to them and said if they identify a specific vehicle continuously violating the speed limit to contact him with the information and they will investigate it. A discussion ensued.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chief DeMarco explained a level 1 grievance was filed by union president Sgt. Jeff Reimer. He responded in writing and it was delivered to the union president. At that time a Step 2 grievance was filed and he instructed Judith Tweedlie to add it to the police commission agenda to be heard at June 14, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. He then instructed Judith Tweedlie to notify, in writing, the police union president. At this time, Chief DeMarco handed out a copy of the written notice to Sgt. Reimer to the police commissioners. Attorney Hawks-Ladds confirmed with Judith Tweedlie that police union President Sgt. Reimer was notified on June 5, 2017, by written agenda placed in his police department mailbox (per department policy mailboxes must be checked daily), that the Step 2 union grievance (topic-Officer Mitchell) would be heard before the East Windsor Police Commission on June 14, 2017, at 7:00 pm

Since Sgt. Reimer (the complainant) was absent from this meeting the option for the grievance to be discussed in executive session was not relevant.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Hayes to have the Police Chief and Deputy Chief make a presentation to the police commission in reference to the grievance of Jeff Reimer Step 1 dated May 12, 2017, and Step 2 dated June 3, 2017.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioner Filipone/Leach/Hayes

**ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

Deputy Chief Hart gave a summary of what has since occurred. Step 1 grievance was filed on May 12, 2017, and the Chief did deny that grievance and a copy of the denial was sent out to the police commissioners after he sent his denial to Sgt. Reimer. Chief DeMarco went on to read the letter. Chief DeMarco then stated the grievance is not timely or warranted. Sgt.

Reimer had the opportunity to file this grievance on 01/05/2016 and he did not. Furthermore, Officer Mitchell does not meet the guidelines to be a lateral transfer based on the language in the union contract of having two or more years of full-time police officer experience. Chief DeMarco also looked at past practice since the inception of the language from 12 years ago and found that there have been 12-14 lateral transfers (including dispatchers) and two laterals were exactly (stepwise/payroll) like Officer Mitchell so the language in the contract does not justify this grievance. Deputy Chief Hart added the union was given the actual payroll documents showing payroll changes (including step increases) for Officer Mitchell. This shows that Officer Mitchell was aware of his payroll and therefore this grievance is untimely. Deputy Chief also went on to explain that the department had 12-14 lateral transfers in the past which shows past practice. He gave examples of James Aspesi, Andrew Tudryn, Deb Mendola, and Officer Ostriekis and showed the commissioners supporting payroll documentation supporting past practice.

Chief DeMarco read the closing statement of the letter to the union president – “We believe the grievance is neither timely nor warranted. If Officer Mitchell was aggrieved at his step increase then the grievance should been filed within 21 days after his first step increase on 01/05/2016, nearly one and a quarter years ago. The grievance is unwarranted because the union has failed to identify a legitimate violation of the collective bargaining agreement. The grievance ignores the clear language that all laterals will have two years minimum of full-time police experience”.

Attorney Hawks-Ladd asked them to clarify the language for a lateral transfer. He stated Officer Mitchell had one year experience and the contract definition says “all lateral applications will have a minimum of two or more years of full-time police officer experience”. Chief DeMarco replied that is correct. Attorney Hawks-Ladd stated then Officer Mitchell is not a lateral transfer by definition of the contract. Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart agreed that Officer Mitchell is not a lateral transfer.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Leach wanted to express his disappointment this grievance has been brought from a Step 1 to a Step 2 grievance when Officer Mitchell does not even meet the requirements of being a lateral transfer.

Judith Tweedlie will notify the union president in writing the action of the police commission.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to deny the second step union grievance of Sgt. Reimer on behalf of Officer Mitchell with the date of Step 1 of May 12, 2017, and Step 2 of June 3, 2017.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Hayes.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioner Filipone/Leach/Hayes

**ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED**

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

## 9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

In regards to the Showcase Cinema traffic light, Chief DeMarco explained that in the police commission meeting on May 10, 2017, First Selectman Maynard said he would put the cost of the light up on the agenda for the last Board of Selectmen meeting, but this did not occur. He now needs the LTA to allow the town of East Windsor to be the secondary for the financial responsibility of this light.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone that they agree with the Chief that the Town of East Windsor will take financial responsibility as the secondary responsible party for the Showcase Cinema traffic light.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Hayes.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioner Filipone/Leach/Hayes

**ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED**

Chief DeMarco explained to Commissioner Hayes that they researched the engine braking issue he was concerned about. Deputy Chief Hart went on to say no engine braking signs would need to be backed up by a town ordinance. Commissioner Hayes thanked them for looking into the matter.

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

None.

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

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Hayes to enter into Executive Session (7:52 pm) to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart for discussion on legal issues.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Leach/Hayes

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to end Executive Session (8:30pm)

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Hayes.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Leach/Hayes

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Hayes.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Leach/Hayes

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary**