

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: December 11, 2019

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, Burns (via conference call), Long, and Safford were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Present in the audience was Selectman Charles Nordell.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to add Agenda #7A, New Business: Election of Police Commission Officers.

SECONDED by Commissioner Safford

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long/Safford

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to add Agenda #7B, New Business: Animal Control Facility.

SECONDED by Commissioner Safford

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long/Safford

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

The Commission agreed to take #7A, New Business: Election of Officers out of order.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to elect the Police Commission Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary.

SECONDED by Commissioner Safford

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long/Safford

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Leach opened up the floor for nominations.

MOTION made by Commissioner Safford to nominate Bob Leach for Chairman.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone for nominations to be closed for position of Chairman.

SECONDED by Commissioner Safford

Original motion to nominate Bob Leach for Chairman was approved.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long/Safford

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to nominate Darren Long for Secretary.

SECONDED by Commissioner Safford

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone for nominations to be closed for position of Secretary.

SECONDED by Commissioner Safford

Original motion to nominate Darren Long for Secretary was approved.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long/Safford

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION: Chairman Leach asked if the Commissioners wanted to vote for a Vice Chairman. The Commission decided they do not need a Vice Chairman and the Secretary will run the meeting if the Chairman is out.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the November 13, 2019, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to accept the regular meeting minutes of 11/13/2019.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

ABSTAINED: Commissioner Safford

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long

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 \$12,033.95.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Leach asked if the animal hospital bill was for the new K-9. Deputy Chief Hart responded it is for the K-9 and there will be more vet bills moving forward as the K-9 will need check-ups, x-rays, etc. Chairman Leach asked what the Chinook Medical bill was for. Deputy Chief Hart explained it was for medical supplies such as gloves. Chairman Leach noticed he didn't see any Animal Control billing. Deputy Chief Hart explained the Treasurer is moving everything out of this budget and putting everything in and Animal Control budget. Chief DeMarco explained this is because there's a new system they will be using starting in April.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly financial statements as submitted.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Leach noticed the Part-Time ACO line was at zero, but now he understands it's due to the new system starting in April. Deputy Chief Hart explained the money was transferred and it should all be fixed in April and they will be able to see Animal Control again.

SECONDED by Commissioner Safford

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to approve the monthly billing as of 11/30/19 in the total amount of \$125.00

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Long to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 11/30/2019 as submitted.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Leach explained he received the budget requests from the Selectmen's Office, and he added \$100 for Supplies and \$125 for a Special Meeting.

SECONDED by Commissioner Hayes

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:**B) ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY**

Chairman Leach received a phone call from the First Selectman asking about our Animal Control facility and the possibility of regionalizing. He went on to say the First Selectman said he had spoken to Suffield and East Granby and he's looking for numbers such as how many animals we've had at a time, etc. Chief DeMarco explained the First Selectman has touched base with them regarding the possibility of Suffield and East Granby coming here, but didn't ask for numbers at this time, but they can prepare them for him. Chairman Leach will touch base with the First Selectman to get details on what exactly he needs for information. Chairman Leach went on to say that during the Selectmen meetings, he contacted the Public Works Operations Manager (Joe Sauerhoefer) and spoke to him regarding the Animal Control facility. Also, the facility is town property, so he's not sure if he can ask for an added appropriation. Furthermore, on the Capital Improvement Plan, town buildings would be maintenance repairs (town properties). Chairman Leach is concerned about the current facility with the cold winter months now and believes we should get that fixed immediately as the cold can get in through the doors. He's going to stay in close contact with the Selectmen to get things moving with the facility.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Burns has a citizen that wants to know if the police department would give them the information to program a scanner they just got. Chief DeMarco stated we don't provide that as a public service, and they can get the information on the internet. Deputy Chief Hart went on to say they can go to the FCC's website and search for East Windsor to get the frequency.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief DeMarco explained the new budget for 2021 is due December 20th. They just recently got the notification and they would like time to prepare a presentation. He passed out last year's budget presentation and a discussion ensued. The Dispatch salary line had a 4.07% increase due to a Lead Dispatcher position that has not been filled at this time. There is still a possibility of regionalizing Animal Control which could include Dispatch. The Clerical and Supervisors unions settled their contracts so that needs to be funded, but the Police and Dispatchers have not settled their contracts yet. Chief DeMarco explained technology, equipment and training necessary for public safety is imperative. Chairman Leach and Commissioner Filipone agree 2% over last year is not enough to cover the expenses essential for public safety. Commissioner Filipone stated the majority of the budget is contract/salary and we shouldn't decrease requests for other safety needs; we should not cut back on public safety. Chief DeMarco agreed and went on to say failure to train and failure to supervise are main reasons police departments get sued. Training is expensive and some of the trainings that used to be free are no longer free. A discussion ensued. Chief DeMarco asked for an extension to put together a presentation for the budget. Commissioner Safford agrees with

having a PowerPoint presentation in order to explain to the community why the expenses are necessary for public safety. Chairman Leach agrees with doing the presentation and hopes it will be shown on social media so it can help the voters understand what they are asking for in the budget. The Commissioners agreed to having an extension and Chief DeMarco will call the First Selectman tomorrow to ask for an extension to present the budget on January 9th.

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

Selectman Charles Nordell stated he has attended various toy drives the police department was involved in including Walmart and the Trolley Museum. The officers are a great group and very good at what they do, and the toy drives were a great success. It was good to see a lot of the Selectmen out helping them, too. Chairman Leach asked if he had mentioned wanting to do a ride-a-long with an officer. Selectman Nordell said he would like to and would wait until after the busy holidays and then sign up for one.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Safford to enter into Executive Session at 7:38 pm to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart for discussion on legal issues. Commissioner Burns will not be attending executive session via conference call.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

EXCUSED: Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to end Executive Session at 8:09 pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

EXCUSED: Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

EXCUSED: Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary