

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: June 12, 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, Hayes, and Long were present. Also present was Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. Present in the audience were Ms. Cynthia Jute and Ms. Sarah Muska.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

MOTION made by Commissioner Hayes to add Agenda #5, Unfinished Business: Dog pound

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Long

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the May 8, 2019, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to accept the regular meeting minutes of 05/08/2019.

SECONDED by Commissioner Hayes

EXCUSED: Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/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 \$11,003.09.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone asked what the \$1696.00 CSS charge was for. Chief DeMarco explained it was to fix a vehicle that had a leak which shorted out the sirens, lights, etc.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

DISCUSSION: Chairman Leach asked where we would finish with the budget this year. Chief DeMarco stated we would finish under budget. Commissioner Hayes asked if we would be giving any money back to the town. Chief DeMarco stated we would be giving money back; some of which is due to personnel vacancies at the police department. A discussion ensued. Chairman Leach noted there was a \$12,000 shortage last year in the budget because the town accidentally did not put the 2% in the budget that should have been there. He will be checking to make sure the money is accounted for and will check with the Board of Finance.

SECONDED by Commissioner Hayes

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Hayes to approve the monthly billing as of 05/31/19 in the total amount of \$125.00

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 05/31/2019 as submitted.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chairman Leach stated he did not present the compiled information regarding the dog pound/Tyler Regional Animal Care Shelter (TRACS) to the Board of Selectmen; he believes they need more time in order to gather more data. He isn't sure if the Board signed the TRACS contract yet and the Police Commissioners have not even seen the contract. Chief DeMarco explained Deputy Chief Hart gave pertinent information to the town officials regarding the obligations and fees regarding the pound and TRACS. A discussion ensued. The Police Commissioners all agreed that one of their concerns is police officers having to go out of town to TRACS if the one part-time ACO we have right now is not available (only works approx. 3-4 hours/day, 5 days a week). Another concern is they do not believe there is any money to be saved by switching to TRACS. Chairman Leach is going to contact the Animal Control Officers in East Hartford and Manchester to obtain more information on TRACS in order to make an informed decision; there seems to be conflicting information and he wants to make sure he gets the facts. Until the Police Commission makes a decision, they will continue to use the pound we currently have in East Windsor.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Chief DeMarco stated the Park Hill project of installing signs is going to be started.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Chief DeMarco stated the unofficial crime rates were released and there was a reduction in larcenies.

MOTION made by Commissioner Hayes to take “Public Input” out of order

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Long

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Ms. Cynthia Jute of 34C Depot Street is concerned about cars speeding and squealing their tires when they turn from Main Street to Depot Street in Broad Brook. She believes it’s a safety and noise issue. People walk in the area, kids play in the area and ride their bikes, and cars continually speed through. She stated the worst times are from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm and Friday and Saturday nights after the German Club closes. She suggests turning the intersection of Emily Road and Depot Street into a three way stop and would like a feasibility study done to submit to the state. Chairman Leach said that unfortunately, state regulations don’t allow you to use stop signs to slow traffic. Ms. Jute stated she understands there needs to be a study done to see if it’s feasible and would like that study to be sent to the state to see if her request could be granted. Chief DeMarco stated they are sensitive to the traffic concerns of residents; he will do a feasibility study and will make a recommendation based on the results. A discussion ensued. Once the information is compiled, which will take a few months, he will contact Ms. Jute. In addition, he will assign the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program to the area.

Ms. Sarah Muska of 25 Maple Avenue went on a ride-a-long with Officer Mitchell a few weeks ago. He was very professional and extremely informative during the ride-a-long. She went on to say she put it on Facebook and hopes other people will take advantage of ride-a-longs to be able to understand a day in the life of a police officer. She has a great respect for the police department and also likes they share positive information via social media. She stated its very disheartening about the lack of respect this agency receives from our current leadership. In addition, she can’t believe the current leadership hasn’t involved the Police Commission/Police Department with the decision on the pound. Chief DeMarco thanked her and added they work hard to develop good relationships within the community and continue to strive to develop it further through community policing and social media. A discussion ensued.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief DeMarco explained he received a letter from WESTCOMM, which is a regional dispatching center in Massachusetts (Longmeadow, Chicopee and surrounding towns). The letter is requesting they use our main channel and stated it would not cause interference. Per FCC rules, he only has 20 days to respond, so he has turned them down at this time with a letter explaining once we receive information on their specific design, our radio vendor will perform an engineering review and further advise the town on how to proceed.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Hayes to enter into Executive Session at 7:50 pm to include Chief DeMarco for discussion on legal issues.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Hayes to end Executive Session at 8:30 pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

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

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary