

OLD SAYBROOK POLICE COMMISSION

Regular Meeting
September 25, 2017
MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, September 25, 2017 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Present: Chairman Stuart, Vice Chairman Von Dassel, Commissioner Burnham, Maselli and Coppes. Chief Spera and Sergeant DePerry were present from the Department of Police Services.

This meeting was video and audio taped by the Town of Old Saybrook.

I. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Stuart called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Minutes**

A. **August 28, 2017 Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Burnham made a motion to approve the August 28, 2017 regular meeting minutes. Vice Chairman Von Dassel seconded the motion. The motion to approve the August 28th regular meeting minutes passed with a vote of 4 in favor and 0 against. Commissioner Maselli previously disclosed that he would be late to the meeting and had not arrived yet.

III. **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the Public.

IV. **Executive Reports**

A. **Financial**

Chief Spera stated that the reports have come back from Town Hall and as he stated previously the department ended the year in the black. Most of the savings came from creative scheduling and the personnel salary line item.

1. FY 18 Budget Status

Chief Spera stated that all the normal reports were included in the packets. He stated that on the payroll spreadsheet there is a retro pay line item which was for the support/supervisor nonunion staff. The union support/supervisor settled on a 2.35% percent raise. All nonunion members were given a 2.00% raise so the First Selectman authorized the .35% increase.

He stated that the 2017-2018 budget is looking good. He predicts that it will end very similar to how 2016-2017 ended with the salary line item will be under expended but the extra personnel will be over expended.

2. Report of Off Budget Accounts

Chief Spera stated that the packet also included the off budget account to review. He stated that an Old Saybrook resident recently passed away and in lieu of flowers the family requested that donations be made to the DARE fund.

Chairman Stuart asked if the donations could have been deposited into the Old Saybrook Police Fund.

Chief Spera stated that in this instance the family specified that they wanted the donations to be made to the DARE Fund but that yes donations can be made to the Old Saybrook Police Fund.

B. Administrative

Commissioner Coppes made a motion to enter into Executive Session inviting Chief Spera and Sergeant DePerry to join them. Commissioner Burnham seconded the motion.

The Police Commission entered into Executive Session at 7:01 PM

1. Possible Executive Session – To Interview Candidates for the Position of Patrolman Trainee.

Commissioner Coppes made a motion to enter into Executive Session inviting Chief Spera and Sergeant DePerry to join them. Commissioner Burnham seconded the motion.

The Police Commission entered into Executive Session at 7:01 PM

The Police Commission exited Executive Session at 7:57 PM and resumed regular session.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on the Appointment of Patrolman Trainees to fill current vacancies.

Commissioner Coppes made a motion to appoint Mark Testoni as Patrolman pending successful completion of the hiring process at a time that meets operational demands of the Department which will be determined by Chief Spera. Commissioner Maselli seconded the motion. The motion to appoint Mark Testoni as Patrolman passed with a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.

Commissioner Burnham made a motion to appoint Christopher Palmieri as a Patrolman Trainee pending the completion of the hiring process at a time that meets operational demands of the Department to be determined by Chief Spera. Commissioner Coppes seconded the motion. The motion to appoint Christopher Palmieri as Patrolman Trainee passed with a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.

3. Personnel Report

Chief Spera stated that SRO Gabianelli is able to work on her own in the High School now. She will participate in field training so that she will be able to also work the road when her schedule permits.

He also stated that after negotiations with the Police Union he has accepted Miss. Santello's irrevocable resignation from the Department.

V. **Commission Subcommittee Reports**

Chairman Stuart stated that the ad hoc committee will be meeting in October. An email should be going out tomorrow for dates.

Vice Chairman Von Dassel stated that the evaluation of the Police of Chief is at a standstill. A similar model cannot be found. There is not one in the entire country to evaluate a Police Chief so there is no way to move forward. He stated that he has searched high and low and pulled CEO, Fire Chief and more models and none would work.

Commissioner Maselli stated that he agrees and that every month the Commissioners have an opportunity to ask questions and hear updates.

Vice Chairman Von Dassel stated that if something was wrong with how the Department was being managed the issues would be brought up at these meetings by other Commissioners or by the Public.

Commissioner Coppes stated that you can look at the Commission meetings as a 12 step review for evaluation.

The Commission and Chief Spera discussed evaluation methods.

Commissioner Burnham made a motion to accept the report from the subcommittee and disband the subcommittee. Commissioner Maselli seconded the motion. The motion to accept the subcommittee report and disband was passed with a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.

Commissioner Burnham stated that she had no updated from the Law Enforcement Fund subcommittee.

VI. **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the Public.

VII. **Comments from the Chief of Police**

Chief Spera reported that the NIBERS report for 2016 is available on the FBI website. He stated that on Friday at 3:00PM Route 1 will be shut down around Center Road to replace the bridge and hopefully the road will reopen Tuesday.

VIII. **Comments and/or Concerns from Commissioners**

There were no comments and or concerns from Commissioners.

IX. **Adjournment**

Commissioner Maselli made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Von Dassel seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 4 in favor and 0 against. Commissioner Coppes had left the meeting early.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM

The next regular Police Commission meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the first floor conference room at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Damato
Records Clerk for the Old Saybrook Police Commission