

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Regular Meeting

June 24, 2019

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, June 24, 2019 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Present: Chairman Von Dassel, Secretary Shippee, Commissioners Moran, Cooper, Reid, Keeney and Wilcox. Chief Spera and Lieutenant DePerry were present from the Department of Police Services.

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Von Dassel called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Minutes

a. April 24, 2019 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to accept the April 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion. The motion to accept the April 24, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.

III. Executive Reports

a. Financial

1. FY 19 Budget- End of the Fiscal Year Process

Chief advised the Commission that there is no FY 19 report ready as the Town is closing out the fiscal year. He stated that the final reports come out in August. He stated that he is confident that the Department will finish in black. He stated that he has been having conversations with First Selectman on how money is currently being spent. He stated that the Department has purchased supplies for Officer Safety, and efficiency such as individual narcan, fingerprint kit and DNA swabs in each patrol car etc.

Secretary Shippee asked the Chief is there is items that can be purchased with this extra money now since the Board of Finance will not give any of the money back.

Chief stated that yes that is what he is doing right now purchasing the Officer Safety and First Responder Medical Equipment.

2. FY 20 Budget Process

Chief stated that the FY 2020 Budget has been approved and passed Town vote. He thanked the Commission for their dedication to the process and for their support.

b. Administrative

1. Personnel Report

Chief Spera stated that two Police Commissioners will attend Police Academy graduation Wednesday. He stated that it is a very exciting time for the two students graduating after graduation they will come back to the Police Department and start their 12 weeks of field training.

He advised the Commission that the new full time dispatcher has resigned. He stated that the will stay on as a per diem employee but that life changes had him returning back to his job in Massachusetts.

He stated that the employment pool is low due to unemployment numbers being down.

2. LPR Program Update

Chief stated that he cannot say enough about how this has enhanced Officer Safety and detecting crime on all shifts. He stated that the License Plate Reader is being used pro-actively. He stated that if a vehicle is parked we are putting a notice on windshield letting the owner know that there is a problem with their registration, insurance etc. He stated that they are seeing a 55% return rate on leaving the notices. He stated that the Police Officers will continue that program as it's a great tool and the personnel like using it.

3. K-9 Program Update

Chief stated that K-9 Chase has graduated from narcotic detection school. He stated that Shepard's can have two specialties, Chase is certified in tracking and narcotics. His goal is to bring on a second canine so that there is always dog in the Department. Dogs have always been donated dogs. He stated that he will have more funding to purchase a second dog. The canine handler will hopefully go to school late summer or early fall with the dog. There will be do additional budget costs for FY20 to add the second canine handler.

Chief stated that K-9 Chase is 2 years 9 months old. He graduated June 2018 and Police K-9's generally last 4-5 years. The new canine would be ready for patrol work January 2020 and would attend narcotic school fall 2020. January 2021 the second canine would finally be a full asset. Chief stated that they already have a second canine officer and car. He stated that he doesn't have an Officer in mind but he knows that it is a career path that a couple of people would be interested in.

Commissioner Reid made a motion to follow Chief's recommendation and proceed with adding a second K-9 and handler. Commissioner Wilcox seconded the motion. The vote to add a second K-9 and handler passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 abstaining and 1 against.

4. Correspondence

Chief Spera passed around the most recent correspondence.

IV. Discussion and Action concerning the nomination of a Vice Chairman

Commissioner Reid nominated Commissioner Keeney for the position of Vice Chairman. Chairman Von Dassel seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Wilcox nominated Secretary Shippee. Commissioner Cooper seconded the nomination.

The Police Commission took a vote.

Chairman Von Dassel, Commissioner Reid and Keeney voted for Commissioner Keeney to assume the position of Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Wilcox, Moran, Cooper and Secretary Shippee voted for Secretary Shippee to assume the position of Vice Chairman.

Secretary Shippee resigned her position as Secretary and was appointed Vice Chairman. Commissioner Wilcox volunteered for the position of Secretary. Commissioner Cooper nominated Commissioner Wilcox for the position of Secretary. Chairman Von Dassel, Vice Chairman Shippee, Commissioners Cooper, Moran, Keeney and Wilcox voted for Commissioner Wilcox to assume the Secretary position. Commissioner Reid opposed.

V. Comments from the Public

There was no public in attendance.

VI. Comments from the Chief of Police

Chief stated that the Board of Education has expressed interest in updating their memo concerning the School Resource Officers, he will be working with them on doing that.

He wanted to speak with the Commission regarding the recent crackdown on narcotics. He stated that his personnel has risen to task and that it has been a Department wide commitment.

Since April 22 to June 21 there have been 112 arrests, 76 were drug related charges. He stated that out of those arrests 11 were charged with distribution or sale of narcotics. He also added that a sexual assault of minor case was just solved and the arrest warrant will be submitted for the person who committed the crime.

VII. Comments and/or Concerns from Commissioners

Commissioner Cooper asked if the students in Old Saybrook participate in active shooter drills.

Chief Spera stated that yes before the school year even begins and many times throughout the year. There is a very robust and comprehensive plan in place.

Secretary Wilcox stated that he was very disappointed in that the RFP/RFQ staffing study was shelved by the subcommittee. He stated that he was looking to make three motions and that he had a new draft of the RFP that he wrote.

Chief Spera stated that a motion cannot be made unless it's a posted item on the agenda.

Chairman Von Dassel stated that something can be added to the next agenda.

Commissioner Keeney stated that he wanted to thank the Chief for his fiscal responsibility and excellence to the Department.

VIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Moran seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer D'Amato
Records Clerk for the Old Saybrook Police Commission