

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Regular Meeting

August 26, 2019

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, August 26, 2019 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Present: Chairman Von Dassel, Secretary Shippee, Commissioners 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 6:00 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Minutes

a. July 22, 2019 Special Meeting

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to accept the July 22, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes. Secretary Wilcox seconded the motion. The motion to accept the July 22, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes passed with a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against. Commissioner Cooper had just walked in during the vote.

III. Executive Reports

a. Financial

1. FY 19 End of Year Report

Chief Spera stated that in the packets included the fiscal 18-19 end of year reports. He stated that the Board of Finance was just given their end of year reports too. He stated as predicted the Department returned a little over \$200,000.00 back to the Town. He added that some monies were taken out and put into capital non-recurring accounts not necessarily for the Police Department though. He stated that as he has previously said the surplus was due to being down full time employees. He added that with the surplus in health care money the Town took some extra money and put it towards a Town's retiree account.

2. FY 20 Status Report

Chief Spera stated that he has hired new dispatchers and that after training the delta should level out for the support services personnel.

b. Administrative

1. Personnel Report

Chief stated that he has hired three dispatchers. Lea Offner is full time dispatcher # 7, Caitlin Murray will fill full time dispatcher # 8 starting January 1 or sooner if possible budget wise and Douglas Wisner as a per diem dispatcher. All are going thru training right now and Caitlin will come on per diem until the full time slot is open.

He also added that the Police Department has hired a Per Diem building maintainer, Fred Kametic. Patrick who the Commission knows from the Explorers is now off to college and Fred will be around the building doing different jobs that are tailored to his skillset. He recently built a cabinet in Dispatch for less than half of what it would have cost to buy one elsewhere.

2. OSPD 60

3. K-9 Program Update

Patrolman Schulz and Patrolman White went to Pennsylvania and came back with K-9 Sonny. Patrolman White will start school with Sonny mid-September. He does have one last agility test to take which Chief stated he will have no problem passing.

4. Correspondence

Chief Spera passed around the most recent correspondence.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action to Enter into Executive Session for the Purpose of Interviewing a Candidate for the Position of Patrolman Trainee.

Chairman Von Dassel made a motion to Enter into Executive Session inviting Chief Spera and Lieutenant DePerry to participate. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion to Enter into Executive Session. The motion to pass into Executive Session passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.

Enter Executive Session at 6:45 PM

Austin Harris enters at 6:56PM

Austin Harris exits 7:14 PM

Exits Executive Session and resumes Public Session at 7:20PM

V. Discussion and Action concerning the Appointment of a Patrolman Trainee.

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to approve a conditional employment offer be given to Austin Harris based upon completion of the Old Saybrook Police Department's requirements and will be appointed at a time operationally for the Department. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion. The motion to approve Austin Harris be extended a conditional offer of employment passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.

VI. Comments from the Public

Chris Root asked if this new hire will complete the force.

Chief Spera stated that yes Mr. Harris make 25 Officers.

VII. Comments from the Chief of Police

VIII. Comments and/or Concerns from Commissioners

Chairman Von Dassel asked if there have been dates selected for the subcommittee's next meeting.

Chief Spera stated that he and Secretary Wilcox need to meet before that can happen.

Commissioner Cooper asked if the amount of overtime that the Police Officers are working due to the personnel shortage is affecting the Officers. He means emotionally, physically etc.

Chief Spera stated that while he cannot violate the contract a Police Officer's personal life is always taken into account.

Commissioner Cooper asked if the Records Specialist who just left for a different job was the one the Commission voted a year or so ago to give more hours to make her full time with benefits.

Chief Spera stated yes and that the Police Department did the best they could to retain her. He stated that the Police Department cannot compete with what the Board of Education offers for pay, benefits and retirement.

IX. Adjournment

Commissioner Reid made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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