

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Regular Meeting

May 18, 2020

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, May 18, 2020 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Present: Vice Chairman Reid, Secretary Maselli, Commissioners Quish, Keeney, Cortese-Costs and Shippee. Chief Spera and Lieutenant DePerry were present from the Department of Police Services.

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Reid called the meeting to order at 5:59 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Comment

There was no public in attendance.

Vice Chairman Reid advised the Commission that Chairman Von Dassel has submitted a letter stating that he was stepping down as Chairman of the Police Commission but would still remain a member so a new Chairman would need to be elected.

Commissioner Shippee asked if this was a special meeting or regular meeting.

The meeting is a regular meeting.

Secretary Maselli made a motion to add the election of a new Chairman to the agenda. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to elect a new Chairman passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The election will take place under section 4.

III. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Meeting Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – February 25, 2020

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to approve the February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Quish seconded the motion. The motion to approve the February 25, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes passed with a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstaining (Commissioner Cortese-Costa).

IV. Executive Reports

a. Financial

1. FY 20 Budget Status

Chief Spera stated that budget status reports were included in the Commission packets and that he would entertain any questions regarding them.

He stated that he expects the budget to end in the year in the black.

Currently the Department is preparing for their end of the year ordering and he will report that to the Commission and update them in June.

Commissioner Shippee asked if the iPads the Department ordered for COVID-19 is a Police Department asset after the disaster is over.

Chief stated that iPads are a town asset but will remain housed at the Police Department.

2. FY 21 Budget Process / Status

Chief Spera stated that the budget has been passed with no changes to the Police Department except for the \$40,000 reduction in health care in which the Town negotiated better rates than originally expected.

b. Administrative

1. Police Operations Briefing

-COVID-19 Response & Recovery

2. Executive Report

Chief Spera advised that Detective First Class Perrotti is back to full duty.

Patrolman Zarbo and Sergeant Ciccone are both currently working transitional duty.

Sergeant Ciccone will hopefully be back to work June 1st and when that happens the Sergeant schedule will revert back to normal.

Patrolman Milardo, Dispatcher Paradis and ACO Muckle are currently out on FMLA leave.

Patrolman Trainee Austin Harris graduated from the police academy. He finished up his classes virtually. He didn't get to take emergency driving so he will have to go back to the academy to finish that up at some point. He's currently working with LT McDonald and Sergeant DeMarco.

Chief Spera thanked LT DePerry stating that he has been working many extra hours supporting him and really helping the Chief out during all this.

Chief Spera advised that Commission that the last time they were supposed to meet was to hear the four pending grievances. The Union chose to skip the last two steps and go right to the labor board which the Town agreed to.

He stated that there has been no on the record meetings regarding the Police Contract.

He reviewed his Executive Goals that he outlined for himself in the beginning of the year and went through them one by one with the Commission.

Many have been achieved including developing a Chief's Clergy Council, the Records Division Merger, enhance community outreach etc.

He stated that the weapon replacement proposal one he would like to present to the Commission tonight. The Department will be keep the same weapon just trading them in for a newer model. The cost is \$337 per weapon and the Department is getting \$140 back per weapon traded in. The new weapon will cost around \$197. No new uniforms, holsters, or ammunition will be required.

He stated that 40 weapons will need to be replaced and the cost should be around \$8,000.00.

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to authorize the Department to spend up to \$8,000 out of the FY 19-20 Budget to purchase new weapons. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to authorize the purchase of new weapons passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

Chief Spera then discussed a proposal for a new records management system as the current system will no longer be supported by the creator. He stated that it is an ongoing project and will come out of the Capital no recurring budget. He stated that he is working on a payment plan with the company.

He stated that he has found a consultant in regarding for policy overview. It will be an 18-20 month journey getting the policies up to par.

Today was the Masks for all Businesses give out. Currently 154 Businesses showed up and received 3,740 masks.

He stated regarding the Patrol Sergeant Process the Union is not working with the Town.

Chief Spera thanked the support staff (dispatcher, clerical staff and animal control) and per diem police officers stating that they are the ones who delivered the Easter Baskets and flowers to residents. He sent an email out to everyone in the Department and the support staff and the per diem police officers stepped up and made this a success.

3. Correspondence

The correspondence was scanned and emailed around to the Commission.

Secretary Maselli stated that it was nice to get the correspondence this way as it really gave them the opportunity to read the notes instead of being rushed to pass it to the next person.

Vice Chairman Reid thanked Chairman Von Dassel for all he has done and stated that he is glad that he is not leaving the Commission.

Commissioner Quish nominated Commissioner Keeney for Chairman of the Police Commission. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cortese-Costa asked if the Commission needs to accept Chairman Von Dassel's resignation

Vice Chairman Reid made a motion to accept Carl Von Dassel's resignation as Chairman from the Police Commission. Commissioner Cortese-Costa seconded the motion. The motion to accept Carl's resignation as Chairman passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The Commission closed the nominations for Chairman with Commissioner Keeney being the only one nominated. The Commission voted unanimously to close nominations.

The motion to elect Frank Keeney as Chairman of the Police Commission passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

V. Comments from the Chief of Police

Chief Spera thanked Commission Von Dassel for his support over the past couple years and stated he is pleased he is staying on the Commission. He welcomed Chairman Keeney to the position and stated he looks forward to working with him.

His final comment he stated was in regards to a Facebook Group that Commissioner Shippee moderates. While it is her first amendment right for freedom of speech he feels it crosses a line. He stated that he would ask her to give some pause to being a current Commissioner and being a moderator on a board that speaks ill will to police officer and members of their families routinely.

He stated that while it is legally correct it's not morally.

VI. Comments from Commissioners

Vice Chairman Reid stated that he has observed the way OSPD has been handling themselves and he can't imagine how much stress they are under and what an amazing job they have all done.

Commissioner Shippee stated that the Facebook page was started after things she and some other people were saying were being censored on an Old Saybrook page. She stated that JT Dunn was deleting hers and others comments and stated that if they were not happy with it they should start their own page. She stated that she is not changing anything on the Facebook page.

Chairman Keeney requested that since Commissioner Shippee is a moderator on that Facebook page he would just ask that she make sure everything is fair and balanced.

Secretary Maselli stated that he doesn't mind the Union filing grievances he just wished they would be more willing to discuss options.

Next Police Commission meeting will be June 22. Most likely virtual again.

Chairman Keeney and Chief will get together to pick a date for the July meeting

VII. Adjournment

Commissioner Quish made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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