

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Special Meeting

January 7, 2019

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, January 7, 2019 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

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

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairman Glowski called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Discussion, and Possible Action Concerning the Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets for FY 2020.

Chief Spera presented his staffing enhancement proposal to the Police Commission.

The Police Commission discussed the presentation.

Vice Chairman Glowski stated that he feels there is tremendous value in proposal number 2 which is the full time dispatcher and having per diem dispatchers on the side. He stated that there is more dedication with a full time person. He also stated that to work such few dispatcher with that many overtime shifts will burn them out. He stated that the good time to implement this was probably a couple of years ago when the midnight shift went to 3 but that the Police Commission can fix this now. He stated that it's important to know when someone dials 911 someone will answer. He also added that July 1st is his recommendation to have this start.

Commissioner Reid stated he agrees and to hire the second midnight dispatcher and get that going as soon as possible.

Commissioner Keeney agreed and stated that he would like to see the second midnight dispatcher being July 1st and he added that he is more than willing to sit in front of the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance to help defend the Police Commission's decision.

Secretary Shippee asked what the mandate means.

Chief Spera stated that the recommendation can be used with any party in litigation within the town.

Secretary Shippee asked where the budget can be cut if that's what the Police Commission is told to do.

Chief Spera stated that he is not in any position to cut as the Police Department is not inflating the budget.

The Police Commission discussed budgeting to actuals instead of full year steps for some of the Police Officers.

Town Finance Director Lee Ann Palladino stated that the Town assumes full employment across the board, it's a projection and it's more accurate. Looking at a number that is averaged might not make sense to anyone should they start looking at bargaining contracts etc. The Town is looking for consistency across the board with all department's budgets.

Vice Chairman Glowski made a motion to approve the Department of Police Services Operating Budget in the amount of \$5,183,429 and move it to the Board of Selectman. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion. The motion to approve the budget passed with a vote of 5 in favor, 1 opposed (Commissioner Cooper) and 1 abstaining (Secretary Shippee)

Chief Spera thanked everyone involved stating that the budget takes a lot of time, effort and commitment.

III. Public Comment

Dispatcher Paradis stated that the Dispatchers work very hard for this town. He stated that he has been a member of this community since he was 4 years old, he has friends, family and many loved ones that live here. He stated that his enhancement will keep everyone safe. He stated that the Police Department needs the Commission to support this and stand by their decision.

Dispatcher Shake stated that as the most senior dispatcher sitting in the room he is ecstatic that this conversation is taking place. He wanted to thank the Commission for their consideration. He stated that the Dispatcher perform a lot of functions. He stated that they dispatch Emergency Medical Responders, Police and Fire. He stated that the whole scripted program that Dispatcher follows is to minimize liability and now hiring a second dispatcher on midnights reduces the liability even more. He stated that what this town delivers is far and above what he has seen out there and that the citizens of Old Saybrook are very lucky.

IV. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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