

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Special Meeting

February 25, 2020

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Present: Chairman Von Dassel, Vice Chairman Reid, Secretary Maselli, Commissioners Quish, Keeney, and Shippee. 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. Public Comment

Keith Margotta stated that he wanted to thank whoever was involved in the solving of the cold case that aired on Channel 3. He stated that he appreciated the Police Department doing that and that it brings closure to people who have had none.

Commissioner Shippee stated that Chairman Von Dassel dropped a letter off to her. She stated that nobody from the Commission signed the letter. She stated that the Commissioners should think about it during the meeting, review it and if they want to sign it after that's fine.

III. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Meeting Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – January 27, 2020

Secretary Maselli made a motion to approve the January 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Quish seconded the motion. The motion to approve the January 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes passed with a vote of 5 in favor, 1 (Commissioner Shippee) opposed and 0 abstaining.

Chairman Von Dassel advised the Commission that he would like to move agenda item V. (Commission Workshop-Freedom of Information) before IV. (Executive Reports) There was no opposition from the Commission.

IV. Executive Reports

a. Financial

1. FY 19-20 Budget Process

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

Commissioner Keeney asked if the budget was in good shape and if the Chief had any concerns.

Chief Spera stated that he has a small concern with the support services line item but not overly concerned as the field services will end in the black.

2. FY 20-21 Budget Process

Chief Spera stated that the 20-21 Budget is still with the First Selectman. He stated that the Board of Selectman has not yet voted to send the version to the Board of Finance. He stated that the Board of Selectman are evaluating insurance premium decreases/increases and will change the budget as needed. He stated that he has been given no indication that the First Selectman will change anything else from what the Police Commission approved.

Commissioner Keeney asked if the Commission will know of any changes before the March 3rd town meeting in which the Board of Selectman presents the budget to the Board of Finance.

Chief Spera stated that if he is told ahead of time he will let the Commission know.

b. Administrative

1. Personnel Report

Chief Spera stated there are currently two employee vacancies for Patrolman. He stated that the Sergeant process has been posted and is active. He stated that an employee is still out of work on a work related injury but he is hoping he will return in April. He is hosting a Dispatcher meeting tomorrow in which they will be getting measured for new uniforms since the Department gained five new dispatchers over the past year.

2. Chief's Clergy Council

Chief Spera stated he held the first meeting and seven to eight members attended and that it was a great meeting. He stated that a couple of the tenured pastors stated that it was the first time the clergy of Old Saybrook have gotten together. The Council will be meeting quarterly moving forward. He stated that they will be looking into collaborating regarding security in the very near future.

3. Police Facility Matters

Chief Spera advised the Commission that the building suffered a lighting strike last year which resulted in a substantial number of items damaged. He stated that the claim will be over \$40,000. He is working with the insurance company to ensure everything is fixed. He stated that an additional claim the department had to recently make was in regards to the tire shredder that a town plow truck hit and destroyed. He stated that he is working with the insurance company on replacing the shredder with a different device.

4. Correspondence

There were no correspondence to pass around.

V. Commission Workshop – Freedom of Information

Tom Hennick from the Freedom of Information Commission presented his overview of the Freedom of Information Commission, their rules and regulations to the Police Commission.

VI. Police Contract Negotiations – Report

Commissioner Quish updated the Commission stating that she and Commissioner Keeney attended the first Police Contract Negotiation Meeting and there they set three more meeting dates and some ground rules.

VII. Comments from the Public

Keith Margotta stood up and presented information to the Police Commission and stated that he and his wife would like to make a \$500.00 donation to the OSPD Diaper Drive. He handed over the check to Chief Spera. Chief Spera shook his hand and thanked him for his donation.

Eleanor LaPlace stated that she feels that the Chief of Police and the Old Saybrook Police Department need to be evaluated.

A member of the audience stated that Clinton is going to be CALEA accredited and the Old Saybrook should strive to do the same.

Chairman Von Dassel stated that CALEA accreditation is high on the Police Commission's agenda.

VIII. Comments from the Chief of Police

Chief Spera handed out the census flyer from the government stating it's safe and smart to partake in.

He stated that the annual diaper drive has started. He will be asking the Commission for their donations at the March meeting.

Next month's Commission workshop series will be regarding the hiring process.

Alarm.org published list of cities of safest cities in Connecticut in which Old Saybrook was ranked 3rd.

He stated that he is doing a lot of research of CALEA accreditation. The department will be doing a lot of re-writing of the rules and regulations. He is hoping to put the department on path quickly. CALEA offers professionalism within the organization and provides checks and balances.

Chief Spera stated that last month he made a complaint against Commissioner Shippee and the Commission met with legal representation in Executive Session and he was wondering what became of that.

Chairman Von Dassel stated that a letter was sent and he will send a letter to add for the official record.

IX. Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Keeney stated that he hopes everyone was able to watch Channel 3's fugitive files that featured the cold case from the Old Saybrook Police Department. He stated that it was a great story that led to the case being solved and the man being apprehended.

Commissioner Keeney stated that he can't let the letter go without commenting on it. He stated that the Commission spent a lot of time in Public and Executive Session and that he is surprised that the letter isn't part of the public record and that the Chief hasn't seen it. He stated that it should be part of the meeting minutes.

Secretary Maselli asked if the letter reflects what was discussed and voted on.

Commissioner Keeney asked who wrote the letter.

Chairman Von Dassel stated he and Attorney McHale sat down and drafted a letter.

Commissioner Shippee asked each Commissioner to sign the letter.

The Commission declined stating it was something that was voted on.

X. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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