

Old Saybrook Police Commission
Regular Meeting
July 25, 2022
MINUTES

A regular hybrid meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, July 25, 2022. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at <https://youtu.be/bPs-q3FLXbk>

Present: Chairman Wilcox, Vice Chairman Shippee, Secretary Notar-Francesco, Commissioners Calle, Manning, Maselli and Von Dassel. Chief Spera was present virtually and Captain DePerry was present in person from the Department of Police Services.

I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance (0:22)

Chairman Wilcox called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Comments from the Public (0:45)

Karina Julius commented.

III. Discussion and Possible Action to on the Meeting Minutes for: (2:58)

a. June 27, 2022 Regular Meeting

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to approve the June 27, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Von Dassel seconded the motion. The motion to approve the June 27, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes passed with a vote of 7 in favor (Wilcox/Shippee/Notar-Francesco/Manning/Calle/Maselli/Von Dassel), 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

IV. Executive Reports (3:20)

a. FY 23 Operating Budget (3:27)

Current fiscal year 2023 Operating Budget is only 25 days in.

Normally the fuel line item is 90% expended, but as of right now there is no contractual agreement. The First Selectman is watching the market and will enter the Town into contract when the time is right.

The fiscal year 2022 summary will hopefully be ready in August.

b. Off Budget Accounts (4:40)

The off budget accounts were provided to the Commission for review.

c. Personnel Matters (5:23)

i. Report on Status of Members

At the last meeting Patrolman Nyenhuis requested to stay on part time. After that meeting she decided that she wanted more hours, but a different schedule. Due to that she has resigned and moved on to another agency.

Patrolman Schulz has completed the return to work requirements detailed in his last chance agreement and is currently back on patrol. Canine Chase is not with him right now as he needs to be recertified. The Chief is working to schedule the training and that should take place next month.

Patrolman Simpson has completed field training and is now on patrol. Chief Spera thanked Patrolman White, who was Simpson's FTO Officer. Next, Patrolman White will be working with Patrolman O'Connell.

Master Sergeant van der Horst has finished the required training he needed to take. He is eager to start taking private duty jobs.

Patrolman Tourjee and Patrolman Mora have completed a basic interview and interrogation class.

Pat Hanley is still out of work. The Department misses him very much and cannot wait to see him return back to work.

Chairman Wilcox had previously asked the Chief to address how many positions are filled.

Chief advised the Commission that 23 of 25 are currently filled. However, two current employees have applied to different agencies.

He stated that a new national survey just recently came out stating that 93% of all police departments across the country are 93% staffed.

The Department is currently in a hiring process. There could possibly be a Special Meeting early next month to approve a new hire depending on how the process turns out.

d. Fleet Update (9:54)

Three vehicles (Chief's SUV and 2 Ford Fusions) have been sold in accordance with the authorized method from the Police Commission.

A total of \$37,200.00 has been taken in from the three sales. The initial promise was to return \$45,000 from the 11 trades.

Chairman Wilcox thanked the Chief for having his car since 2012 especially when his contract states that he has the right to a new vehicle every year.

e. Professional Development Update (5:23)

This agenda item was discussed under item 4C.

V. Discussion and Possible Action of the Creation of a Working Group for the Purposes of Developing an Instrument and Process for Evaluation the Position of Chief of Police. (13:45)

Chairman Wilcox advised the Commission that he was pleased to report after meeting with First Selectman Fortuna he will allow the Commission to engage the firm Berchem Moses to work on amending the bylaws.

Commissioner Calle made a motion to create a working group for the purposes of developing an instrument and process for evaluation of the position of Chief of Police. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion.

The Commission is trying to create a bi-partisan 3 person working group. Chairman Wilcox asked Commissioners Von Dassel and Maselli to decide which one would like to participate along with himself and Secretary Notar-Francesco.

The motion to create a working group for the purposes of developing an instrument and process for evaluation the position of Chief of Police passed with a vote of 7 in favor (Wilcox/Shippee/Notar-Francesco/Manning/Calle/ Maselli/Von Dassel), 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

VI. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Funding for a Consultant to the Commission on Police Services. (19:18)

Chairman Wilcox stated that the Police Department has a budget over \$5 million dollars and it is worth spending 10 percent to get outside eyes and ears to look at things. He feels that \$50,000 is an outside number and he hopes there can be a description found of what they need and bid it out.

The Commission discussed funding for a consultant.

Commissioner Manning asked if Chairman Wilcox approached the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance as discussed last month.

The Chairman stated that he has met with First Selectman Fortuna and Mr. Fortuna directed him to the Fiscal Year 23-24 budget.

Commissioner Maselli stated that he was unclear what the consultant would be for.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that the Commission needs some guidance. She stated that the Chief is wonderful but that she would like some outside perspective. She stated that it's not a lot of ask to tax payers to fund this for the Commission.

Commission Manning agreed with Secretary Notar-Francesco.

Commissioner Von Dassel stated that he disagrees with asking tax payers to pay more.

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to request the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance to work with the Commission to fund a budget for the Commission up to \$50,000 for consultants on Police Services. Commissioner Calle seconded the motion.

The Commission discussed the motion.

The motion to request the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance to work with the Commission to fund a budget for the Commission up to \$50,000 for consultants on Police Services passed with a

vote of 5 in favor (Wilcox/Shippee/ Notar-Francesco/Manning/Calle) and 2 opposed (Maselli/Von Dassel).

VII. Correspondence (42:14)

Chairman Wilcox stated that he sent correspondence he received to the clerk. There was no other correspondence.

VIII. Comments from the Public. (42:29)

Eleanor LaPlace commented.

The Commission took a brief recess at 7:44 PM.

The Commission started back in session at 7:50 PM.

IX. Commission Workshop – Emergency Communications Division. (50:05)

The Emergency Communications Division presented their workshop to the Commission giving an overview of their job and responsibilities.

X. Comments from the Chief of Police (1:54:48)

The Chief thanked the Dispatchers for the presentation, stating they did a great job.

The Chief asked the Commission to keep the retreat on the agenda.

The Police Department hosted their first summer picnic this past Friday. It was a business appreciation theme with about 75-100 business owners attending.

Lot of business networking and positive interactions happened at the picnic.

The bike patrol is out in full force and will attend August meeting to present to the Commission.

Chairman Wilcox requested a monthly activity report be added back to the Commission packet. They are working on those and should have them by the next meeting.

He is looking to have the School Resource Officers attend the September meeting to present to the Commission.

The Chief brought up a possible workshop with the State's Attorney to review arrests and how cases can be dismissed/nolled/erased etc.

XI. Comments from Police Commissioners (2:02:04)

Commissioner Manning commented.

Vice Chairman Shippee commented.

Commissioner Calle commented.

Commissioner Von Dassel commented.

Chairman Wilcox commented.

XII. Adjournment (2:04:46)

Commissioner Manning made a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Secretary Notar-Francesco. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 7 in favor (Wilcox/Shippee/Notar-Francesco/Manning/Calle/ Maselli/Von Dassel), 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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