

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Regular Meeting

March 27, 2023

MINUTES

A regular hybrid meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, March 27, 2023. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at https://youtu.be/zx3A98Dv_Go

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

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

Chairman Wilcox called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Comments from the Public (0:49)

Gwen Stengel Pond commented.

Frank Keeney commented.

III. Discussion and Possible Action on the Meeting Minutes for: (5:19)

a. Regular Meeting – February 27, 2023 (5:19)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to approve the February 27, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Calle seconded the motion. The motion to approve passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

IV. Executive Reports (6:19)

a. FY 23 Operating Budget (6:24)

Chief Spera stated that the financials were included in the Commission packets and posted online.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that the legal line item is currently over budget and that the request for next year's budget is for the same amount. She asked if that line item should be increased.

Chief Spera stated that he does not want to increase the budget and that he is hopeful that next year there will not be as many legal expenditures.

b. FY 24 Budget Process (9:54)

Chief Spera stated that the Board of Selectman unanimously approved the revised Police Commission budget and sent the town budget to the Board of Finance for approval.

c. Off Budget Accounts (9:35)

Chief Spera stated that the Police Insurance Exchange Off Budget account is no longer showing a negative balance as anticipated payments have been received and deposited.

d. Personnel Matters (15:52)

Chief Spera stated that Patrolman Inzitari has finished field training and is off working on his own.

Chief Spera stated that custodian Patrick Hanley is still out on an unpaid leave of absence.

Chief Spera stated that Egan, Silano and Lawrence are still in the academy.

Commissioner Manning asked how many full time Police Officers are currently on the road working.

Chief Spera stated that the Department has two open slots. The authorized force is 25 full time officers, which includes 3 in the academy, the Captain and the Chief.

e. Professional Development Update (17:46)

Chief Spera updated the Commission regarding recent Professional Development.

Patrolman Mora and Simpson recently completed an advanced impaired roadside driving enforcement course.

Patrolman Cruz completed a basic interview and interrogation class.

Sergeant Micowski and Detective First Class Williams attended a supervisor and mentoring class.

Patrolman Milardo and Captain DePerry attended a building a state accreditation assessment class, learning how to use the software for Tier 1 accreditation.

Patrolman Inzitari passed his EMR training.

Chief Spera stated that all sworn employees recently participated in a de-escalation training. The Department partnered with CIRMA to use an interactive virtual firearms simulator.

Chairman Wilcox stated that he participated in the training and that it was very eye opening.

Commissioner Calle stated that it was a great experience and described the training.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that she found it amazing and that it was helpful to get explanations after from Chief Spera, Captain DePerry, Master Sergeant DeMarco and the trainers about the scenes and what appropriate responses were.

Commissioner Manning asked for an update regarding accreditation.

Chief Spera stated that it is progressing.

f. Activity Report (27:17)

Chief Spera stated that the activity report was included in the packets.

g. Hands Only CPR Events (27:31)

Chief Spera stated that this past weekend the Police Department, Ambulance and Fire Department hosted a Hands Only CPR Event.

About 130 to 140 people participated in one of the four sessions that were held at the Old Saybrook High School.

Chief Spera stated that he was grateful for the turnout from the partnering Departments.

Chief Spera also advised the Commission that on April 6th he will be teaching the entire middle school hands only CPR, and also on April 6th he will be teaching Town Hall employees hands only CPR.

Secretary Notar-Francesco asked if Chief Spera will be doing a community event like this again.

Chief Spera stated that he will send out a survey and see how it goes. He stated that it is the first time doing community training, but that it is a very important event.

V. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the new “Public Comment and Procedure By-Law” as amended on February 27, 2023. (30:44)

Commissioner Calle made a motion to approve the “Public Comment and Procedure By-Law” as amended on February 27, 2023. Secretary Notar-Francesco seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

VI. Report of the Sub Committee to Develop a Proposed By-Law Concerning Responsibilities of Commissioners. (34:03)

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that at the last meeting the Commission voted to form an ad hoc committee to possibly craft a revised by-law Concerning Responsibilities of Commissioners using the Old Saybrook Board of Education policy called Code of Conduct as a model. Chairman Wilcox, Commissioner Maselli and Secretary Notar-Francesco will be meeting at 6:30 PM on April 6th at Town Hall to work on a draft.

VII. Discussion Concerning the Proposed Citizen Complaints By-Law. (36:45)

Chairman Wilcox stated that he expected tonight to have a full discussion concerning the proposed Citizen Complaints by-law and to refer it to the April meeting for a vote. Chairman Wilcox stated that earlier last week he met with Chief Spera to set the agenda and the Chief asked him to table the discussion for two reasons. The first reason was that Commissioner Maselli was not able to attend

tonight. The second reason is that the Chief feels that this proposed by-law would be a change in his working conditions and he requested to discuss this first in Executive Session.

Chairman Wilcox stated that the Commission can hold a Special Meeting to discuss this in Executive Session and bring it to the April 24th regular meeting for public discussion and possible action.

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to table the discussion concerning the Proposed Citizen Complaints By-Law. Commissioner Calle seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4 in favor (Wilcox/Notar-Francesco/Calle/Von Dassel), 2 opposed (Shippee/Manning) and 0 abstaining.

VIII. Correspondence (44:42)

All correspondence had already been shared with Commission members.

IX. Comment from the Public (44:53)

Linda Mahal commented.

Paul Carver commented.

X. Comments from the Chief of Police (48:21)

Chief Spera commented.

XI. Comments from Police Commissioners (52:36)

Commissioner Manning commented.

Commissioner Calle commented.

Chairman Wilcox commented.

XII. Discussion and Possible Action to Enter into Executive Session to Discuss the DRAFT Document Received from the Ad Hoc Committee to Develop an Evaluation Instrument for the Position of Chief of Police (58:05)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to Enter into Executive Session to Discuss the DRAFT Document Received from the Ad Hoc Committee to Develop an Evaluation Instrument for the Position of Chief of Police. Commissioner Calle seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The Commission entered into Executive Session 7:34 PM.

The Commission exited Executive Session and resumed Public Session at 8:06 PM.

XIII. Adjournment (58:05)

Commissioner Von Dassel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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