

Old Saybrook Police Commission
Regular Meeting
November 27, 2023
MINUTES

A regular hybrid meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, November 27, 2023. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at https://youtu.be/6ClbX_czV0

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

I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance (0:21)

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

II. Adjournment to the Annual Town Meeting (0:46)

The Police Commission recessed to the Annual Town Meeting at 6:30 PM.

Following the Annual Town Meeting

The Police Commission resumed session at 7:12 PM.

III. Comments from the Public (1:20)

There were no comments from the public.

IV. Expression of Gratitude for Departing Police Commissioners (1:28)

Chairman Wilcox thanked both Commissioner Maselli and Manning for their work on the Police Commission.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that she learned a lot from Commissioner Maselli. She stated that she appreciated his efforts and his work on the by-laws.

Commissioner Von Dassel stated it was a pleasure working with both members.

Chief Spera thanked Commissioner Manning for her service. He stated that he valued her time and dedication to the Police Commission. He also thanked Commission Maselli stating that Commissioner Maselli was one of the original "SRO Dads" who led the charge of keeping the cops in the schools. He thanked both Commissioners on behalf of the Police Department.

V. Welcome New Police Commissioners (4:09)

Chairman Wilcox welcomed both new Commission members.

Secretary Notar-Francesco restated this welcome.

Commissioner Ciliano stated that he looks forward to working with everyone.

Commissioner Prast stated that it's nice that the members can all come together and work collaboratively.

VI. Election of Officers (5:50)

Commissioner Ciliano nominated Chairman Wilcox for Chair. Secretary Notar-Francesco seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

Chairman Wilcox nominated Vice Chairman Shippee for Vice Chair. Commissioner Calle seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

Commissioner Ciliano nominated Secretary Notar-Francesco for Secretary. Vice Chairman Shippee seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action on the Meeting Minutes for:

a. Regular Meeting – September 18, 2023 (8:17)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2023. Vice Chairman Shippee seconded the motion.

Chairman Wilcox stated that on page 2 under the "2024 Executive Goals of the Chief of Police – Update," #1 has "competition" and it should be "completion."

The motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2023 with the above change passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

b. Special Meeting – October 18, 2023 (9:43)

Vice Chairman Shippee made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2023. Secretary Notar-Francesco seconded the motion. The motion to accept the Special Meeting Minutes for October 18, 2023 passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstaining (Von Dassel).

c. Special Meeting – October 30, 2023 (11:43)

Chairman Wilcox made a motion to add Special Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2023 to the agenda. Commissioner Ciliano seconded the motion. The motion to add Special Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2023 to the agenda passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to accept the Special Meeting Minutes for October 30, 2023. Commissioner Calle seconded the motion. The motion to accept the Special Meeting Minutes for October 30, 2023 passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstaining (Von Dassel).

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action on the Regular Meeting Schedule for 2024. (12:22)

Commissioner Calle made a motion to accept the Regular Meeting Schedule for 2024 as follows. The 2024 Regular Meeting dates will be held Jan 22, Feb 26, March 25, April 22, May 20, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 25 and December 16 all starting at 6:30PM. Commissioner Prast seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

IX. Executive Reports

a. Briefing on Noteworthy Operational Matters (19:42)

Chief Spera updated the Commission on Operational Matters.

Chief Spera advised the Commission that SRO Gabianelli has given her two-week notice. She has taken a job with a financial institution doing corporate security. She will be staying on as a per-diem patrolman.

Patrolman Tanner is able to help out 2-3 days a week at the high school and patrol will cover the remaining shifts.

Chief Spera stated that Patrolman Cruz has left the Department for the Middletown Police Department. Chief Spera described Patrolman Cruz as regrettable turnover. Chief Spera stated that Patrolman Cruz is still deciding if he wants to fill out an exit interview.

Chief Spera advised the Commission that after the budget meeting he will start rotating sergeants to attend Police Commission meetings. Chief Spera feels that it will be a great professional development experience.

Chief Spera stated that Captain DePerry formally retired at the end of October. Chief Spera has decided to keep him on as a per-diem employee.

Chief Spera stated that he is pleased to report on November 9th the Department was awarded Tier 2 Accreditation. He stated that this is two years ahead of state regulation. Chief Spera stated that one of his Executive Goals for next year is to achieve Tier 3 accreditation.

Chief Spera stated that six CT Law Enforcement agencies have achieved Tier 2 as of November 9th. Twenty-six have achieved national accreditation, so that means 125 agencies have not achieved what Old Saybrook has done. Chief Spera thanked Patrolman Milardo and Dispatcher Gosselin for their hard work.

Chief Spera stated that he is putting together his Executive Goals for next year which he will present during the budget season. He stated that there will not be as many goals as this year. He asked if any Commissioners had any thoughts or ideas for goals to please reach out to him.

Chief Spera advised the Commission that there was a FOIA hearing with New Haven Register regarding the Tyler Schulz internal affairs investigation. The hearing determined that the report needed to be handed out to the New Haven Register with specific names and addresses redacted.

Chief Spera passed around a thank you note from Mrs. Healey's Pre-K classroom.

X. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning a New “Responsibilities of Commissioners” By-Law. (37:39)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to adopt the recommended by-law. Commissioner Calle seconded the motion.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that there was total collaboration on this by-law. She thanked the Chief for his help on this, and Joe Maselli on helping move this along on many different aspects.

The motion to adopt the by-law passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 1 abstaining (Prast).

XI. Correspondence (41:37)

There was no correspondence.

XII. Comments from the Public (41:49)

There were no comments from the public.

XIII. Discussion and Possible Action to Enter into Executive Session for the Purpose of Interviewing Candidates for the Position of Patrolman to Fill Existing Vacancies. (42:08)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the position of patrolman to fill existing vacancies inviting Chief Spera to join. Commissioner Ciliano seconded the motion. The motion to enter into Executive Session passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The Commission entered into Executive Session at 7:53 PM.

Kevin Leach entered into Executive Session at 8:10 PM.

Kevin Leach exited Executive Session at 8:21 PM.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 8:33 PM and resumed public session.

XIV. Discussion and Possible Action to Appoint Individual(s) to the Position of Patrolman. (42:52)

Commissioner Calle made a motion to extend an offer of employment to Officer Kevin Leach upon successfully completing the remainder of the hiring process and at a date that supports the operation of the Department to be determined by the Chief of Police. Commissioner Von Dassel seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

XV. Comments from the Chief of Police (43:37)

Chief Spera commented.

XVI. Comments from Police Commissioners (47:00)

Commissioner Prast commented.

Commissioner Von Dassel commented.

Vice Chairman Shippee commented.

Commissioner Ciliano commented.

Secretary Notar-Francesco commented.

Commissioner Calle commented.

XVII. Adjournment (52:25)

Commissioner Calle made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Shippee seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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