

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Special Meeting

January 5, 2023

MINUTES

A special hybrid meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, January 5, 2023. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at <https://youtu.be/JQ0-mADbJE>

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

Present: Chairman Paul Carver, Vice Chairman Brad Thorpe, Rick Swan, Eric Dussault, John O'Brien, Bruce Carlson, Tom Stevenson and Gerri Lewis.

Present: First Selectman Carl Fortuna (virtual), Selectman Scott Giegerich, Selectman Matt Pugliese, Town Treasurer Barbara Labriola (virtual) and Finance Director Lee Ann Palladino.

I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance (0:27)

a. Board of Selectman (0:35)

First Selectman Fortuna called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM for the Board of Selectman.

b. Board of Finance (0:42)

Chairman Carver called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM for the Board of Finance.

c. Police Commission (0:57)

Chairman Wilcox called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM for the Police Commission.

II. Pledge of Allegiance (1:09)

Chairman Wilcox led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Welcome / Opening Remarks – Police Commission Chairman Wilcox (1:26)

First Selectman Fortuna called for a moment of silence for State Representative Quentin Williams who was killed last night in a wrong way motor vehicle accident.

A moment of silence was observed.

Chairman Wilcox welcomed the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance and stated that this was done by request of Chief Spera and thinks this joint session will be very successful. He then turned the floor over to the Chief.

IV. Presentation – Police Operations and the Proposed FY24 Budget (3:32)

Chief Spera presented the 2024 Fiscal Year Budget to the Board of Selectman, the Board of Finance and the Police Commission.

V. Comments from Board and Commission Members (1:42:11)

Chairman Wilcox thanked the Chief for a very thorough presentation.

Commission Calle stated that she really enjoyed the goals the Chief presented for himself.

Eric Dussault asked if the Union has an issue with the meal breaks that he showed they are not taking.

Chief said the Union hasn't seen it yet. He said they are working through their breaks because they are dedicated employees.

VI. Public Comment (1:44:51)

Frank Keeney commented.

VII. Comments from Board and Commission Members (1:45:09)

First Selectman Fortuna asked about the accreditation process. He asked if the department has been making progress with it.

Chief Spera said they have achieved the basics but not Tier 1 yet. He stated that the Police Accountability Act requires departments to achieve CALEA accreditation or POST accreditation Tier 3 by 2025 or 2026.

Selectman Pugliese thanked Chief Spera for adding gun safety to his goals and stated that he is still willing to help out with that. He asked about developing a matrix for Officers to approach how they look at Professional Development.

Chief Spera stated that every year he sits down with his staff to speak with them one on one. He stated it's a one-on-one strategic planning to discuss overall goals.

Eric Dussault asked how marine patrol is staffed. He stated that it doesn't seem like a lot of money.

Chief Spera stated Friday night, Saturday, Sunday, holidays, some random spot times to throw people off and emergencies.

Commissioner Manning stated that she was glad to hear Chief talk about re-establishing the explorer program.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that Chief's goals are very ambitious. She said that it is a very well done budget, lean for the most part. She said that she still has questions but when she looks at the increase and step movement along with union contracts it's about at 3.14%. She stated it was a great presentation.

Chief Spera stated that it is a team effort with Jennifer D'Amato and Captain DePerry.

Selectman Giegerich stated that he has been to many of these over the years and at first, he too was skeptical, but through Chief's professional approach and demonstration he now supports the people and the work.

Vice Chairman Thorpe asked if the town was under contract for electricity rates.

First Selectman Fortuna stated that they are looking at solar projects and different options for rates.

Commissioner Calle requested a moment of silence for Athena Strand, the little girl who was murdered in Texas. She stated that she has ties to the Old Saybrook community.

A moment of silence was observed for Athena Strand.

Chief Spera stated that the next budget meeting for the Police Commission will be January 10th at 7:00pm. He stated that he asked Finance Director Palladino to be there too. There is a meeting schedule for January 13th at 7:00pm should the Commission need it.

VIII. Adjournment (2:03:52)

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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