

Old Saybrook Police Commission
Special Meeting
January 10, 2023
MINUTES

A special hybrid meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at <https://youtu.be/NkCReFZhP6I>

Present: Chairman Wilcox, Secretary Notar-Francesco, Commissioners Calle (virtually), Maselli, Manning and Von Dassel. Chief Spera and Captain DePerry were present from the Department of Police Services. Finance Director Palladino was virtual. Absent: Vice Chairman Shippee.

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

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 (0:40)

There were no comments from the public.

III. Discussion and Possible Action on the FY 24 Marine Patrol Budget. (1:05)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to approve the Marine Patrol Budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$63,991. Commissioner Maselli seconded the motion.

Commissioner Manning asked if raising the hourly rate for civilian boat handlers would help encourage more applicants.

Chief Spera stated that it's not necessarily the pay but the schedule that is hard. The schedule is summer weekends.

The motion to approve the Marine Patrol Budget in the amount of \$63,991 passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action on the FY 24 Operating Budget. (3:30)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to approve the Operating Budget for the Department of Police Services for fiscal year 2023-2024 in the amount of \$5,399,743. Commissioner Maselli seconded the motion.

Commissioner Manning asked what academy the two recruits are currently attending.

Chief Spera stated they are attending the Meriden academy.

Commissioner Manning asked how many officers the Department currently has.

Chief Spera stated 24 currently with 1 open position.

Commissioner Manning asked Finance Director Palladino if she anticipates any difficulties on line items such as gas, electric, car repairs, etc.

Finance Director Palladino stated that, yes, she has spoken with the First Selectman on the issue and that they have increased line items in a couple different budgets, like Public Works, but their current position is to hold tight and monitor the situation.

Secretary Notar-Francesco thanked the Chief for answering her questions on the phone yesterday. She asked if he would publicly share how he got to the 75% replacement rate this year.

Chief Spera stated that in previous years the patrolman replacement rate has been budgeted at 80%. The Department currently has a younger staff which means he now has to fill less vacation days. He also has placed people in special assignment roles, such as Detective Tabor and Patrolman Milardo, who are both available to work patrol when needed. These efficiencies have allowed him to go from an 80% replacement rate to a 75% replacement rate for patrol.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that she is very impressed with the modest increase. She stated that it gives the town what they need in terms of police services but at a modest increase.

Chief Spera thanked Secretary Notar-Francesco stating it was a team effort.

Chairman Wilcox stated he is confident that the Chief will continue to bring the Department in on budget as he has done in the past.

Chief Spera stated that it is always his goal but if there are any budget concerns he will bring them up during the monthly commission meetings for everyone to discuss.

The motion to approve the Operating Budget for the Department of Police Services in the amount of \$5,399,743 passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

V. Discussion and Possible Action to Accept the Recommendation of the Chief of Police to Approve a Leave of Absence.(14:48)

Chief Spera stated that he provided a communication to the commission about dispatcher Caitlin Murray requesting a leave of absence.

Per the contract Chief Spera reviewed it and made a recommendation to the Commission to approve the leave of absence.

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to approve the leave of absence until February 1, 2023 request by Caitlin Murray. Commissioner Calle seconded the motion. The motion to approve the leave of absence passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

VI. Comments from the Public (16:03)

There were no comments from the public.

VII. Comments from the Chief of Police (16:18)

Chief Spera commented.

VIII. Comments from Police Commissioners (16:48)

Commissioner Calle commented.

Secretary Notar-Francesco commented.

IX. Adjournment (19:40)

Commissioner Manning made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Notar-Francesco seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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