

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Special Meeting

February 13, 2023

MINUTES

A special hybrid meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, February 13, 2023. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at <https://youtu.be/3nUJfzxXwI4>

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

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

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

II. Discussion and Possible Action to Enter into Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing an Employee Matter. (0:39)

Commissioner Manning made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing an employee matter, inviting Chief Spera, Captain DePerry, First Selectman Fortuna and Attorney Pat McHale to join, and Larry Hayden for hybrid zoom purposes. Vice Chairman Shippee seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 6:32 PM.

Larry Hayden exited Executive Session at 6:33 PM.

Joshua Zarbo, John Walsh, David Perrotti, Ronnie Suraci and Mr. Zarbo's attorney entered into Executive Session at 6:36 PM.

Joshua Zarbo, John Walsh, David Perrotti, Ronnie Suraci and Mr. Zarbo's attorney exited Executive Session at 7:20 PM.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 7:54 PM.

The Commission resumed public session at 7:56 PM.

III. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Employee Discipline (2:26)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to terminate the employment of Joshua Nelson Zarbo effectively immediately based upon the notice of charges presented to the Police Commission by Chief Spera dated January 17, 2023 and the response to those charges as articulated by Officer Zarbo's attorney, John Walsh, this evening. Commissioner Manning seconded the motion. The motion to terminate the employment of Joshua Nelson Zarbo passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The Commission took a brief recess beginning at 7:57 PM and was back in session at 8:01 PM.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action to Enter into Executive Session to Discuss a Document Protected by the Attorney-Client Relationship (4:00)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss a document protected by the attorney-client relationship, inviting Chief Spera and Attorney Pat McHale to join. Commissioner Von Dassel seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

The Commission entered into Executive Session at 8:02 PM.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 8:12 PM and resumed public session.

V. Discussion and Possible Action on the FY 24 Police Operating Budget (4:45)

Chief Spera stated that, in light of tonight's earlier action, he would like the Commission to grant him permission to communicate with the First Selectman requesting that the Field Services Salary line item be reduced by twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

Commissioner Manning made a motion to authorize Chief Spera to reduce the Field Services Salary line item by twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000). Secretary Notar-Francesco seconded the motion. The motion to reduce the Field Services Salary line item passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

VI. Adjournment (6:46)

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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