

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Special Meeting

January 11, 2024

MINUTES

A special hybrid meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Thursday, January 11, 2024. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at <https://youtu.be/PPrVRUqc3XA>

Present: Chairman Wilcox, Secretary Notar-Francesco, Commissioners Calle, Von Dassel, Ciliano and Prast. Vice Chairman Shippee was present virtually. Chief Spera was present virtually 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. Comments from the Public (0:44)

There were no comments from the Public.

III. Discussion and Possible Action on the FY 25 Marine Patrol Budget. (1:05)

There was no discussion or action on this item. The Commission voted and passed the FY 25 Marine Patrol Budget at the January 10, 2024 meeting.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action on the FY 25 Operating Budget. (1:13)

Chief Spera spoke to the Commission about a Deputy Chief position.

Chief Spera stated that \$46,925 would have to be added to the salary line item to properly compensate a "Second in Command" position. The \$46,925 is the delta between Patrolman #25's allocated salary and a second in command salary.

Chairman Wilcox agreed that the Commission needs to plan financially for a future Captain, Lieutenant or Deputy Chief. He stated that, even though there is nobody right now to fill that position, the Commission still should plan for it.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that she agrees with adding the additional money for that leadership position.

Chief Spera suggested calling the line item "Second in Command" for now.

The Commission discussed the pay equity for the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police.

Chairman Wilcox stated that he initially supported the Chief's proposal, but then decided that he felt his suggestion wasn't the best way to approach pay equity for the Executive Assistant.

Chief Spera reviewed his proposal to the Police Commission. His proposal was to provide a stipend to the employee from the Outside Services account. The stipend would be non-pensionable and would not cost the town taxpayers any money.

Commissioner Ciliano asked what confidentiality things would bind the Executive Assistant position from being non-union.

Chief Spera explained the confidentiality within the Police Department and how the Town prefers to keep union members out of grievances and other personnel issues.

Chief Spera asked the Commission to endorse the theory as a possible solution to the pay equity request. He suggested to agenda the item to the January meeting to discuss the amount and specifics in Executive Session.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that she prefers more time to review this item.

Chief Spera reviewed his other budget enhancement positions.

Chairman Wilcox stated that he feels that he doesn't have enough information for the rest of the budget enhancements at this time.

Commissioner Calle made a motion to approve the FY 25 Operating Budget in the amount of \$5,593,526 with an additional \$46,925.00 added to Patrolman #25 making that a "Second in Command" position and to address the other budget enhancement ideas at a later date. Vice Chairman Shippee seconded the motion.

The motion was withdrawn.

Commissioner Calle made a motion to approve the budget as presented (\$5,593,526) with an additional \$46,925 added to the # 25 Patrolman for the position of Second in Command. Secretary Notar-Francesco seconded the motion.

Chief Spera advised the Commission that the final budget number will change as the salary addition will increase the FICA line item.

The motion to approve the budget as presented (\$5,593,526) with an additional \$46,925 added to the # 25 Patrolman for the position of Second in Command passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Wilcox/Notar-Francesco/Shippee/Calle/Von Dassel/Ciliano), 1 opposed (Prast) and 0 abstaining.

V. Comments from the Public (51:35)

There were no comments from the Public.

VI. Comments from the Chief of Police (51:47)

The Chief of Police had no comment.

VII. Comments from Police Commissioners (51:58)

Commissioner Calle commented.

Secretary Notar-Francesco commented.

Chairman Wilcox commented.

VIII. Adjournment (54:16)

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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