

## **Old Saybrook Police Commission**

Special Meeting

January 11, 2021

### **MINUTES**

A SPECIAL meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, January 11, 2021 via ZOOM. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at <https://youtu.be/nGti7WpvqOY>

**Present:** Chairman Keeney, Vice Chairman Reid, Secretary Maselli, Commissioners Von Dassel, Quish, Shippee and Wilcox. Chief Spera and Captain DePerry was present from the Department of Police Services.

#### **I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Keeney called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **II. Public Comment**

Bruce Carlson commented.

Tim Payne commented.

Keith Margotta commented.

Dennis Tulimieri Jr. commented.

Frank Glowski commented.

Laura Gray commented.

#### **III. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning the FY 22 Budget**

Commissioner Wilcox stated that he feels a performance evaluation for the Chief should have been done before the budget process. He reviewed some goals he would like the Chief to achieve.

Secretary Maselli stated that he felt Commissioner Wilcox's goals were too low for the Chief. He stated that all Commissioner Wilcox is looking for the Chief to do is create reports from data. He stated that he personally is looking for more out of the Chief.

The Commission discussed the Chief's raise and contract.

Chairman Keeney stated that per the Chief's contract a raise is not tied to an evaluation.

The Commission discussed not holding up the budget process over raise for the Chief.

Commissioner Quish asked the Chief to look into Bruce Carlson's formula statement.

Finance Director Palladino stated that all Departments follow the same budget process. She stated she provides the salary and benefit numbers for the Police Department's budget. She stated she has gone over in detail with the Chief the formulas he uses and he is comfortable how his budget it built.

She spoke about a handful of town employees who are not Union members and how they are / if they are evaluated. She stated everyone normally gets the same raise, which is generally lower than everyone else in town.

**Commissioner Quish made a motion to approve the FY 2021-2022 Police Department Operating Budget in the amount of \$5,333,360. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to approve the FY 2021-2022 Police Department Operating Budget passed with a vote of 5 in favor (Kenney, Reid, Maselli, VonDassel and Quish) and 2 against (Shippee and Wilcox) and 0 abstaining.**

**Commissioner Quish made a motion to approve the FY 2021-2022 Marine Patrol Operating Budget in the amount of \$61,015. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to approve the FY 2021-2022 Marine Patrol budget passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against and 0 abstaining.**

The Commission then discussed the three budget enhancement proposals the Chief presented last week. The proposals were the Social Worker Program, the Public Relations enhancement and the flat budgeting all at Top Step.

Director of Youth and Family Services Heather McNeil spoke about the Social Worker Program. Chief Spera stated that he and Director McNeil have had many conversations about this program.

**Secretary Maselli made a motion to forward the recommendation to the Board of Selectman to create and implement a social worker/counsel program within Youth and Family Services and to design a program that would best suits the needs of our community. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Wilcox suggested adding that it is necessary with the Police Accountability Act.

The Commission discussed that and decided against that.

Commissioner Shippee stated she stills believe they are out of order.

**The motion to forward the recommendation to the Board of Selectman passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Kenney, Reid, Maselli, Von Dassel, Quish and Wilcox) and 1 against (Shippee) and 0 abstaining.**

The Commission discussed adding a Public Relations consultant to the budget.

**Secretary Maselli made a motion to forward the recommendation to the Board of Selectman to consider a public relations program that would include the Old Saybrook Police Department. Commissioner Quish seconded the motion.**

The Commission discussed adding a Public Relations consultant to the budget.

The motion to forward the recommendation to the Board of Selectman did not pass with a vote of 3 in favor (Reid, Quish and Von Dassel) and 4 against (Keeney, Maselli, Shippee and Wilcox) and 0 abstaining.

Secretary Maselli made a motion to increase the Police Department Operating budget to set salaries for all contracted employees at Top Step to avoid spikes in the budget. Commissioner Shippee seconded the motion.

The Commission discussed the motion.

The motion to increase the Police Department Operating budget did not pass with a vote of 0 in favor and 7 in against and 0 abstaining.

**IV. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Entering into an Executive Session for the Purposes of:**

**a. Discussion of Personnel Matters**

Commissioner Quish made a motion to enter into Executive Session inviting Attorney McHale to join. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to enter into Executive Session inviting Attorney McHale passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

The Commission entered Executive Session at 7:40PM.

The Commission exited Executive Session at 8:10PM and resumed public session.

**V. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Matters Discussed in Executive Session**

Vice Chairman Reid made a motion to have Attorney McHale draft a letter in response to a past employee's letter. Secretary Maselli seconded the motion. The motion to have Attorney McHale draft a letter in response to a past employee's letter passed with a vote of 5 in favor (Keeney, Reid, Maselli, VonDassel and Quish), 2 against (Shippee and Wilcox) and 0 abstaining.

**VI. Adjournment**

The Commission stated there will be no meeting on Wednesday but the regular January meeting will take place this month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

Commissioner Quish made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Maselli seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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