

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Special Meeting

March 29, 2021

MINUTES

A SPECIAL meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, March 29, 2021 via ZOOM. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at <https://youtu.be/oLLSczfOPG4>

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 7:00 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Spera requested the Commission observe a moment of silence in honor of Plainville Chief of Police Matthew Catania who recently passed away. Chief Catania began his career in Old Saybrook before moving on.

II. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Meeting Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – January 25, 2021

Secretary Maselli made a motion to accept the January 25, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes. Susan Quish seconded the motion. The motion to accept the January 25, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

III. Comments from the Public

Keith Margotta commented.

Tom Stevenson commented.

Robert Powitz commented.

IV. Executive Reports

a. Financial

i. FY 21 Status

Commissioner Shippee requested a breakdown of the legal line item.

ii. FY 22 Process

Chief Spera stated that Board of Finance approved the budget and that it will be moved to town vote.

b. Administrative

i. Police Operations Briefing

- **Fleet Replacement Program**

Chief Spera stated that the cars have not arrived yet. Hoping for a mid to late April arrival now.

- **COVID-19**

COVID-19 restrictions have been lessened within the department in accordance with CDC guidelines.

Almost all employees have been vaccinated.

ii. Executive Report

a. Police Accountability Legislation – Update

b. Pending Legislation

Discussion regarding a study of 911 answering points that serve under 40,000 residents.

c. Report of Discipline

Chief Spera advised the Commission regarding two reports of discipline.

d. Employee Resignation

Chief Spera advised the Commission that Patrolman Justin Hanna has resigned.

e. Presentation of Employee Turnover Report

Chief Spera presented his employee turnover report.

The Commission discussed the Chief's presentation.

iii. Correspondence

V. Discussion and Action on the Appointment of Police Commissioners to the Police Department Pension Study Committee

The Commission discussed the committee and appointment. Chairman Keeney asked Commissioners Quish and Wilcox to be on the committee. They both agreed.

VI. Discussion and Action on Conducting a Staffing and Organization Structure Study for the Department of Police Services

The Commission discussed a Staffing and Organization Structure Study for the Department.

Vice Chairman Reid made a motion to move ahead with Calea accreditation and put the staffing and organization study on hold for now. Commissioner Quish seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5 in favor (Keeney, Reid, Maselli, Von Dassel & Quish) and 2 against (Shippee & Wilcox) and 0 abstaining.

VII. Discussion and Action Concerning the Assignment of Golf Cart Registration Fees for Registration Year 2021-2022

Chief Spera advised the Commission the current golf cart fees are \$25 for the first golf cart registered to an address, \$20 for the second and \$15 for the third and \$45 for a vanity plate and requested no increase this year.

Commissioner Quish made a motion to maintain the same fees for 2021 for the golf cart registration. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to approve the 2021 golf cart fees keeping them the same as the past year passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Keeney, Reid, Maselli, Von Dassel, Quish & Wilcox and 1 against (Shippee).

VIII. Discussion and Action Concerning Commencing an Employee Investigation

Commissioner Wilcox made a motion for the Police Commission to request the Board of Selectman to fund the Police Commission to engage an attorney with expertise in constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures and that attorney should interview should any present or formers officers who are willing to be interviewed on a confidential basis to assess the legality and desirability of Chief Spear's actions in this area and to report the findings to the Police Commission. Commissioner Shippee seconded the motion.

The Commission discussed the motion.

The motion did not pass with a vote of 5 against (Keeney, Reid, Maselli, Von Dassel & Quish) and 2 in favor (Shippee & Wilcox).

IX. Discussion and Action Concerning Monetary Donations

Commissioner Wilcox presented his proposal to the Commission requesting a subcommittee regarding monetary donations.

The Commission decided to table this till the next meeting.

Secretary Maselli made a motion to table items 9, 10 & 11 for a future agenda. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

X. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Civil Lawsuits Filed Against the Town of Old Saybrook

XI. Discussion and Action Concerning Amending the Civilian Complaint Procedure

XII. Discussion and Action concerning a Possible Executive Session for the Purpose of Interviewing Candidates for the Position of Patrol Sergeant

Commissioner Quish made a motion to enter into Executive Session inviting Chief Spera and Captain DePerry to join for the purpose of Interviewing Candidates for the Position of Patrol Sergeant.

Secretary Maselli seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstaining.

The Commission entered into Executive Session at 9:34PM

Patrolman Tabor entered Executive Session at 10:00PM.

Patrolman Tabor exited Executive Session at 10:25PM.

Patrolman Micowski entered Executive Session at 10:26PM.

Patrolman Micowski exited Executive Session at 10:57PM.

The Commission exited Executive Session and resumed Public Session at 11:11PM.

XIII. Discussion and Action Concerning the Appointment of a Patrol Sergeant

Secretary Maselli made a motion to appointment Patrolman Micowski to Patrol Sergeant at a time that supports the operation of the department to be made by Chief Spera. Commissioner Quish seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor, 0 against and 0 abstaining. (Vice Chairman Reid was having difficulty and wasn't able to get back on the zoom call)

XIV. Comments from the Chief of Police

XV. Comments from Commissioners

XVI. Adjournment

Secretary Maselli made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wilcox seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer D'Amato

Records Clerk for the Old Saybrook Police Commission