A special meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, January 13, 2020 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Present: Chairman Von Dassel, Vice Chairman Reid, Secretary Maselli, Commissioners Quish, Keeney, Shippee and Cortese-Costa. Chief Spera and Lieutenant DePerry were present from the Department of Police Services.

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Von Dassel called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Public Comment

There were no comments from the Public.

III. Discussion and Possible Action Concerning the Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets for FY 21.

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 21 Police Department Operating Budget as presented in the amount of $5,238,272. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Police Department Operating FY 21 budget in the amount of $5,238,272 passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 1 against.

The Commission also decided to have the Chief include a letter asking the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectman to adjust the budget accordingly once contract negotiations are finalized should percent numbers change from what the budget book projected.

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 21 Marine Patrol Operating Budget as presented in the amount of $59,723. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to approve the Marine Patrol FY 21 Budget in the amount of $59,723 passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against and 1 abstaining.

IV. Discussion and Possible Action on Sending a Communication to the First Selectman Requesting that the Police Commission Participate in the Police Union Negotiations.

Chief Spear stated that it is time to start negotiating the Police Union contract. There has been a lot of conversation and research regarding employee retention and as stated in multiple exit interviews reasons for leaving was benefits, lack of vacation time and salary differences between towns. He stated that this is the best way for the Commission to get involved. Sit across from the Police Officers themselves and hear it directly from them.
Commissioner Keeney made a motion to send First Selectman written correspondence requesting that members of the Police Commission be permitted to actively participate with the First Selectman in contract negotiations with the Police Union for a new agreement to succeed the collective bargaining agreement that expires on June 30, 2020. Vice Chairman Reid seconded the motion. The motion to send the First Selectman written correspondence passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 abstain and 0 against.

V. Public Comment

Detective First Class Perrotti stated that it’s great that the Commission voted to come to contract negotiations and stated that maybe everyone can meet later in the afternoon so that more people can attend. He stated that he looks forward to working with everyone.

Chief Spera thanked the Commission for supporting the budgets. He stated that a lot of time and effort goes into putting the budget together.

VI. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

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