

Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
13 JANUARY 2020**

**NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND APPROVAL AT
A FUTURE MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION**

CTO

Chairman Don Sauvigne called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Matt Mason, Chief John Lynch, Captain Thomas Conlan and Captain Robert Cipolla.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

MINUTES

Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2019 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason. Motion carried 3-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed.

The Activity Report for December was reviewed. The Commissioners noted that activities reported are consistent with prior years, and noted that over the just completed twelve month period the number of burglaries was down and the number of criminal mischief cases was up.

The Commissioners noted the number of MV Stops for December and encouraged the Department to consider greater activity when staffing is available because of the positive impact it has on distracted driving and speeding.

The Detective Bureau report for December did not present any issues.

The MAC Report for December was reviewed. There were no issues, and the activities of the Department were satisfactory. The Commissioners reviewed the analysis of selective enforcement on Route 33 and concluded that selective enforcement is a powerful tool to reduce accidents when deployed at problem locations. The Commissioners noted the positive work the Department was doing educating religious institutions in light of the threats and incidents occurring nationwide.

The SRO Report for December was reviewed and the Commissioners noted no issues.

The Overtime Report for December was reviewed. The Commissioners noted that the overtime hours were increasing but acknowledged that was to be expected giving the staffing shortage.

The K-9 Report for December was reviewed and the Commissioners noted no issues.

REPORT OF CHIEF LYNCH

Chief Lynch reviewed with the Commission the letters of thanks and the donations that had been received. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the officers of the Department which generated positive interactions with the public.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Building Committee

Commissioner Waters reported that the Building Committee has obtained from the project architects a set of preliminary plans, which have been sent to the cost estimators to obtain numbers for budgeting purposes. The plans are in line with the direction of the Board of Selectmen to limit the project to a cost not to exceed \$14 million, but the numbers are not yet firm and there are certain compromises in the program that should be reconsidered if possible. The intention remains to present a proposed plan to the Town Meeting in May.

B. Recruitment Update

Captain Conlan reported that information packages have been made available to potential recruits. Currently the next available POST academy is in June unless there is a satellite academy held. The Commission agreed tentatively that interviews would be held in March.

C. Dispatch Recruitment Update

Chief Lynch reported that interviews for the open Dispatch position had been held and that a candidate had been selected. They are proceeding with background checks and remaining documentation and hope to formally hire the individual in early March.

D. Budget Update

Chief Lynch reported that the Department would be meeting with First Selectwoman Vanderslice and with Chief Financial Officer Kelly-Lenz to review the proposed budget, which is similar to last year's budget.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy re Participation in Meetings by Phone

The Commissioners reviewed the policy on participation in meetings by phone that was adopted by the Board of Selectmen. A motion to adopt that policy as a policy of the Commission was made by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Waters, and passed 3-0.

B. Lover's Lane Road Study

The Commissioners, acting as the Local Traffic Authority, reviewed the analysis performed by Lieutenant Hartman of a citizen's request for signage at Lover's Lane near Merwin Lane. The Commissioners agreed that the recommended intersection warning signage for southbound traffic was appropriate given the lack of visibility of the intersection. Commissioner Waters made a motion that the Commission adopt the analysis performed by Lieutenant Hartman with respect to signage. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne and carried 3-0.

C. NRVt Crosswalk

The Commissioners were informed that CTDOT is requiring that a four-way pedestrian signalized crossing be installed at the Horseshoe Road/Wolfpit Road/Range Road intersection. The Commission noted that the only relevant pedestrian crossing is across Horseshoe Road, because the other three crossings do not appear to have any pedestrian demand and therefore crossing signals and pavement markings for those three locations will likely not increase safety but will markedly increase the cost to the NRVt. The Commission asked that this be further reviewed and raised again at the next Commission meeting.

D. Annual Reviews

The Commission reviewed the annual Department reviews of information as to the use of force, bias profiling, and pursuit with respect to activities in 2019. The Commissioners noted that all activities appeared to be appropriate and well documented, and thanked the Department for providing the information.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Mason noted that all three Commissioners may, due to term limits or other circumstances, leave the Commission within a short period of time of each other, and expressed concern that an orderly transition be provided. The Commissioners agreed to give this consideration.

Commissioner Waters asked about the steps necessary to reach the next level of accreditation and the efforts needed to maintain the current accreditation. Chief Lynch noted that the Department would continue to undergo the reviews necessary to maintain the current accreditation, and agreed that the Department would assess what the benefits of achieving a higher accreditation level would be and whether adequate resources would be available if the Department elected to proceed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:07 p.m. the meeting went into Executive Session to discuss pending legal matters and personnel matters. The Commissioners invited Chief Lynch, Captain Conlan and Captain Cipolla to participate in the Executive Session. At 8:22 p.m. the Commission came out of Executive Session. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:23 p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Sauvigne seconded by Commissioner Waters and passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Waters, Acting Recording Secretary