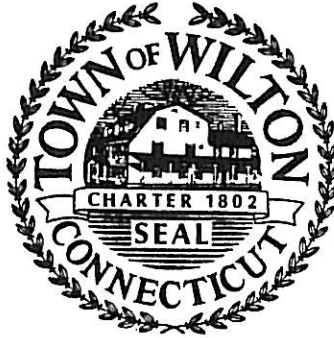


Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
14 September 2009**

CTO

Commissioner Matt Mason called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Also in attendance were Commissioners Mark Ketley and Chris Weldon (arrived at 7:13), along with Acting Chief Michael Lombardo, Captain Crosby, Kara O'Connor (*Villager*), Barbara Buckley Holdridge (Wilton Resident) and Claire Furano.

MINUTES

A motion made by Commissioner Ketley and seconded by Commissioner Mason to approve the Minutes of the July 20th, 2009, August 5th, 2009 and the September 1st, 2009 Special Meetings. So moved 2-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Acting Chief Michael Lombardo pointed out that Motor Vehicle Enforcement was down in August by 50% from August 2008. Statistics show that MV stops help to curtail crime nationwide. The STP (Strategic Traffic Patrol) has been filling in for patrol when necessary. This is cost effective. Concern was expressed about the wellbeing of the officers both physically and mentally, since the PD is operating understaffed. There is concern that this will eventually take its' toll on the officers.

Commissioner Mason observed that the number of Domestic Violence in 2009 is almost double the amount of the prior year. Acting Chief Lombardo attributes this to the downturn in the economy. Many of the calls are repeat calls to the same homes. During difficult economic times, stress increases in many cases.

It was noted that the number of DUIs are down, which in part may be attributable to staffing issues. Acting Chief Lombardo advised the Commissioners that there is a DUI Grant available which would backfill salaries by 75%.

Acting Chief Lombardo summarized the OT Report, stating that the overtime hours worked for the past two months are on target relative to past years and on budget. These numbers are being closely monitored particularly for budgetary reasons. Shift switching occurs to fill manpower voids. STP will on occasion fill in for patrol, along with the Detective Bureau Sergeant and the Training Sergeant. Bid shifts

occur every three months and the Union, thus far, understands the need and has been fully cooperative in helping to keep OT in check.

REPORT OF ACTING CHIEF LOMBARDO

The Acting Chief reported about the past month's activities with copies of the following:

Letter from Joan Poultney expressing appreciation for quick response in answer to call for assistance.

Letter of appreciation from Peter Kirby Warren thanking Officer Frank Razzaia for assistance.

Email from David and Samantha Bernstein thanking the Department (particularly Officers Arnault Baker and Eva Zimnoch) for their assistance.

Letter from Acting Chief Lombardo to Chief Fiore (Westport PD) and Chief Troxell (Weston PD) thanking them for their assistance.

Letter from Acting Chief Lombardo to Chief Larrabee (Stamford PD) thanking him for his department's assistance and commending Investigator Miriam Delgado and Lt. Timothy Shaw in solving several bank robbery cases.

Letter to Acting Chief Lombardo from Westport Deputy Chief Dale Call, thanking him for Lt. Donald Wakeman's participation in their oral board panel testing process, for the position of Detective.

Thank you letter to Jonathan Speicher, from Acting Chief Lombardo, for his donation of six cases of bottled water.

Letter from Acting Chief Lombardo to resident David Franco assuring him there would be continued police traffic enforcement in his area.

Acting Chief Lombardo said the Recruit testing for new officers will take place on October 24th and in mid-February a seat will be available to the department, at the academy. If this all falls into place, the earliest a recruit will be ready to go on the road is around the first of 2011.

Career Development and training for the officers was discussed. At this time career development training is stagnant. There are mandated training classes for recertification training which are staggered every three years. Acting Chief Lombardo emphasized that the Wilton officers are adequately trained in what they are supposed to be doing, but additional training that is desirable and important for career development is not being done. He feels an evenly trained department keeps risks and liabilities down. He would like to see more training in dealing with responding to DUIs, special needs calls, such as responding to those with autism and schizophrenia, along with domestic violence calls. Training in more specialized areas would be an asset to the department and the community. The Commission questioned if funds generated from DOT that go into the Capital Account could be used for career

development training. It was suggested that 10% of these funds be used for training. Acting Chief Michael Lombardo will check with CFO Joe Dolan.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Hurlbutt Street and Cedar Road:

Acting Chief Michael Lombardo attended the meeting held last week on the Hurlbutt Street and Cedar Road intersection, at the Wilton Library. Also in attendance were Charles Grodin, First Selectman Bill Brennan, Commissioner Chris Weldon along with representatives from the state and members of the public. As determined in the past, this is a state issue and does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Wilton Traffic Authority to make changes in this roadway. The State Representatives will review this and approach DOT representatives. Commissioner Mason asked that the state keep the Wilton Police Commission informed.

NEW BUSINESS

None to report.

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Mark Ketley reported that the orange snow fence on the right at Lilly Way, near the tennis courts that adjoins the Burt property, will be replaced with a permanent wooden fence by Parks and Rec. This will take away a host of parking spaces. If cars are parked on the right hand side, they will be half in the road and parked illegally. Acting Chief Lombardo stated that this has been a topic of discussion in the past. To alleviate some of the parking issues, it would help if all activities were coordinated between the Board of Ed and Parks & Rec. Commissioner Weldon suggested this be looked at and that more information may be needed to police the area. Acting Chief Lombardo said he would check with Lt. Lynch.

Commissioner Mason commented that the 9/11 Ceremony was very well done and complimented Acting Chief Lombardo on his speech. He expressed his concern, as did a couple of the speakers that the further away we get from 9/11 the more we may tend to forget.

Commissioner Weldon commented on the crosswalk in the center of town and asked if there would also be a stand-up sign at that location. A stand-up sign will be placed at the crosswalk by Coldwell Banker. The crosswalk by Cider Mill School will not have a stand-up sign because it could cause a hazard.

There being no further business for discussion, the floor was opened to Barbara Buckley Holdridge, a town resident and member of the Domestic Violence Task Force. Mrs. Holdridge expressed her concern about domestic violence and stated she had not seen much mention of it in any of the past minutes posted in the Town Clerk's office, although she was pleased to see it was discussed at this meeting. The Commission noted that the issue had been discussed on several occasions. Mrs. Holdridge also brought to the meeting comments and chatter that is going around town concerning the Parisot case. Acting Chief Lombardo, along with the Commissioners, assured Mrs. Holdridge that the case is diligently being worked on and since the case is ongoing there are limits to what can be reported publicly. Commissioner Mason thanked her for coming forward with her concerns for the community.

At 8:02 p.m. the meeting adjourned to Executive Session.

At 9:55 the Commission came out of Executive Session, no action having been taken.

At 9:56 Commissioner Ketley's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Weldon and approved 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Furano".

Claire Furano
Recording Secretary