

Wilton Police Commission



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POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
9 November 2009

CTO

Commissioner Matt Mason called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Mark Ketley, Chris Weldon (7:35 p.m.), Chief Michael Lombardo, Deputy Chief Robert Crosby, Gail Lavielle (Transportation Department), Kara O'Connor (*Villager*), Christian Camerota (*Patch*) and Claire Furano.

MINUTES

A motion made by Commissioner Ketley and seconded by Commissioner Mason to approve the Minutes of the October 13, 2009 Special Meeting passed 2-0.

AGENDA

The agenda was scrambled to discuss Item 5A OLD BUSINESS: "Traffic Matters: Intersection at Hurlbutt Street and Cedar Road".

This topic was discussed at great length. Since Hurlbutt Street is a State road, the Commission has limited jurisdiction. As the traffic authority, the Commission has made recommendations to the State, who then acted upon these recommendations and conducted studies. The DOT concluded the suggestions made would either be too costly (changing the site line) or create a more dangerous situation. The state determined that the 35mph speed limit is appropriate. In 2005, a previous study was conducted on this intersection which resulted in the same conclusion.

The Wilton Police Department has increased enforcement in the area as much as possible with the manpower available. The new speed trailer has been placed in the area, as well. From a historical standpoint, the intersection has been visited by State DOT engineers and they have responded to our request to cutback the growth so as to improve the sightline, as much as possible. Lt. Lynch has remained on top of this and the State has been responsive.

It was suggested by one resident that rumble strips be added to the roadway, but the suggestion was impractical as they create a noise nuisance to residents. They had been used in the past, at other locations in town. The residents complained and requested they be removed within a few days of installation.

Historically, there have been 4 accidents on Cedar Road within a five year period. Three of those accidents involved vehicles being rear ended while stopped at the stop sign, by vehicles approaching the stop sign.

Commissioner Mason suggested making a recommendation to DOT to consider installing a sign "INTERSECTION AHEAD". This recommendation will be drafted by Chief Lombardo.

DISUCSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

The Commission reviewed, discussed and accepted the monthly reports.

Chief Lombardo noted that motor vehicle stops are down 18% compared to October 2008. This is attributed to the fact that we are down two officers. EMS calls are at 990, up 10% over the same time period last year.

Commissioner Mason noted that DUI arrests are down to 50 year-to-date vs. 102 for the entire 2008 year. This may be attributed to manpower issues or may be because people are aware of the Department's enforcement activities.

Commissioner Mason pointed out domestic incidents are up, averaging twice as many as this time last year. This past weekend there were three domestic calls, two of which resulted in arrests.

Chief Lombardo gave an update on the Route 7 project. He commended Lt. Lynch for his efforts on the expansion project. He has been a great source in working with Tilcon and State DOT to ensure that traffic flows with as little disruption as possible. The Chief informed the Commission that the traffic lights have been synchronized and the goal is to have the roadway open by Thanksgiving.

REPORT OF CHIEF MICHAEL LOMBARDO

The Chief reported about the past month's activities as follows:

- Email to Chief Lombardo from Julie Petit expressing pleasure with the manner in which WPD personnel assisted after a burglary (Sgt. Tunney, Det. Trahan, Officer Smaldone), along with Chief Lombardo's response.
- Letter of thanks from the Senior Planning Committee for WPD participation in the Senior Community Day on September 20, 2009.

- Letter to Chief Lombardo from Sharon Bradley (Nursing Home Care) expressing gratitude for Lt. Bartek's leadership and participation, also with the help of Officer Zimnoch, during the influenza clinic on October 12, 2009.

The STP report was reviewed and Commissioner Mason expressed that he appreciates the report.

Chief Lombardo reported that Acting Detective Trahan made a traffic stop which resulted in a narcotics arrest confiscating \$1300. As a result, the State turned over \$935.00 of that money to the WPD for asset forfeiture.

OLD BUSINESS

After reviewing and discussing the School Road Crosswalk and School Zone proposal, Commissioner Ketley motioned to designate School Road as a "School Zone", reducing the speed limit to 20 mph, installing crosswalks as shown in the proposal and repainting the existing crosswalk with the reinstallation of a pedestrian sign. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weldon. So moved 3-0.

Commissioner Ketley inquired about the request for asset forfeiture funds from the October meeting. Chief Lombardo will be meeting with the other Chiefs of Police on Friday and will report back at the next commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The intersection of Wilridge Road & Old Town Road was discussed. Part of this intersection is in Ridgefield. Officer Gregg Phillipson is addressing this with the Ridgefield PD. We will have more information at the next commission meeting.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

There were no reports from the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:47 p.m., the meeting adjourned to the Executive Session. At 10:45p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session without any action having been taken by the Commission.

At this time, the Regular Meeting reconvened. Commissioner Weldon motioned to accept the recommendation of the Chief to promote Lt. John Lynch to the rank of Captain and Acting Detective Peter Trahan to the rank of Detective. It was seconded by Commissioner Ketley and passed 3-0.

At 10:55 p.m., Commissioner Ketley's motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Commissioner Weldon and passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Claire Furano,
Recording Secretary