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Wilton Police Commission



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POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

January 10, 2018

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

CTO

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. In attendance were Commissioners Sauvigne, Waters, and Mason, Chief Lynch, and Captains Conlan and Cipolla. First Selectwomen Vanderslice attended for part of the meeting, specifically the discussion of the PD budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present at the meeting, and no public comment was received.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mason made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017, meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Waters and approved 3-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

The monthly reports were all reviewed and considered, including the monthly Activity, Detective Bureau, MAC/SEU, SRO, Overtime, Accreditation, and K-9 Reports. The Commission noted that in 2017 crime is down in virtually all categories, something that can be attributed at least in part to full staffing.

The Commission noted a decline in the number of motor vehicle stops in the prior month, which was due to a variety of factors including the terrible weather in December. Chief Lynch and his staff are aware of the recent decline in MV stops, and the significant decline year over year, and they will evaluate the situation and consider whether steps need to be taken to increase

the number of stops. Commissioner Sauvigne observed that tickets tend to be in the range of 15-17% of stops, as most of the stops result in warnings or other contacts. The Commission and the Chief have favored a high number of stops while not stressing or mandating a high number or percentage of tickets; rather, contacts promote awareness and safe driving.

The Year in Review summarized 15 separate non-enforcement community-policing activities such as Tip-a Cop, the Special Olympics Torch Run, etc. It was a very successful year from a community policing perspective.

A review of the Overtime Report led to a discussion of staffing. The PD is presently down three officers, with two in the Academy and one opening. The officers in the Academy should be on the street on their own in July.

Sgt. Rangel continues to work on Accreditation and a report will be provided to the Commission at its next meeting.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF.

The Chief did not note any issues of concern and referenced the many letters from the community.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission shuffled its agenda to discuss the budget with First Selectwomen Vanderslice.

After significant discussion, it was agreed that while the PD is authorized to have 45 officers, going forward the Department will be managed to 44 sworn officers. At times there may be 45 officers in anticipation of a forthcoming retirement, and at times there may be less than 44 officers due to retirements or other departures. Given that it takes close to a full year before a new officer can work on his or her own – the process includes interviews, background checks, time at the Academy and mandatory field training -- the goal of the Commission and the Chief is to manage to 44 officers.

In reviewing the budget, planned capital expenses were also reviewed in detail.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Waters provided a brief Building Committee report.

There was also discussion of dispatch issues, which appears to be primarily a run card problem, which the PD and FD are working on to solve.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission reviewed the situation with the Sugar Hollow Bridge. The Commission concurs with the recommendations of the State and the Town DPW regarding future actions to address the bridge concerns.

The Commission also discussed the request for input regarding the new POCD. Commissioner Sauvigne will prepare a draft response, which the entire Commission will review and address in a special meeting.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present at the meeting, and no public comment was received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:47 pm, the Commission went into executive session to receive an update on union negotiations.

At 9:55 pm, the Commission came out of executive session, no action having been taken.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 pm, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioners Waters, passed 3 -0.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Mason, Acting Secretary

