

Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
13 MAY 2013**

CTO

Chairman Chris Weldon called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Don Sauvigne, Chief Michael Lombardo, Deputy Chief Robert Crosby, Captain John Lynch, Barbara and Robert Dubiel and State Senator Toni Boucher (arrived at 7:45).

MINUTES

Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 3-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed. The Commissioners noted that the number of MV Stops are down from the prior month and from the same period last year, which is partially accounted for by officer vacations and training. The Commissioners noted the continued increase in pistol permits, which Chief Lombardo reported was also being reported by other departments in the area.

The Activity Report was reviewed. The reported activities were generally consistent with those of last year at this time. The Commissioners noted that Domestic incidents were down from last month and from the same period last year, and DUI stops were also down from the same period last year.

The MAC Report was reviewed. Officer MacLean's time has been prioritized to the security needs of the schools and other facilities in town, which has limited her time performing selective enforcement. However, with the approval of the Town budget and funding of the forty-fourth officer, once that officer is hired and trained more resources should be available for selective enforcement duties. The availability will not be realized until May 2014 at the earliest due to the time it will take to train the two new officers. Chief Lombardo reported that the new fixed location digital speed sign will be installed

on Wolfpit Road as soon as possible. New cell batteries have been ordered for the mobile speed sign trailer, and once they are installed the trailer will be deployed on target roads. Line painting this season will commence on May 19, 2013, weather permitting, in Wilton Center.

The SRO Report was reviewed. Chief Lombardo reported that the SRO is working with the schools to schedule lockdown drills two to four times per year; previously a lockdown drill has been performed once each year, but with greater frequency there will be better training and preparation if a real emergency ever occurs.

OLD BUSINESS

In recognition of the members of the public present who wished to address the Commission, Chairman Weldon suggested that the Commission scramble the agenda to take up Old Business. Commissioner Waters made a motion to scramble the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 3-0.

A. Discussion of Traffic on Westport Road (Route 33) Near the Westport Town Line

Barbara and Robert Dubiel informed the Commission that they reside on Westport Road and have done so for twenty-two years, and that during that time they have seen the complexion of the traffic change. In addition to concerns about speed, they have experienced more tractor trailers on the road which they feel is creating an unsafe condition due to the width and turns of Westport Road. They suggested that services such as Mapquest may be directing truck traffic to use this route without realizing that it is not an appropriate through route. They did not feel that through truck traffic should be allowed on Westport Road.

They also questioned the level of speed enforcement on this stretch of road. The Commission assured them that this area is regularly subject to selective enforcement. The Commission also informed them that all fines for moving violations go to the state rather than the town, whether they occur on a state road like Westport Road or on a town road, so there is no disincentive to perform selective enforcement on a state road.

Chief Lombardo noted that because Westport Road is a state road (Route 33), any attempt to prohibit through trucks would require State DOT involvement, and the state would not even consider such a proposal without the concurrence of the town of Westport. Commissioner Weldon suggested as a first step that the Dubiels contact Westport residents on Route 33 to obtain their support and to have them express their concerns to the town of Westport. Commissioner Weldon further suggested that once the Dubiels had garnered the support of their neighbors he would be willing to set up a meeting through the Department with the neighbors, himself, Chief Lombardo and State Senator Boucher to discuss what alternatives might be available.

REPORT OF CHIEF LOMBARDO

Letters of thanks and jobs well done and other miscellaneous matters were reviewed.

- Note from Mrs. Hamill to Captain John Lynch thanking him for his assistance.
- Memo from Chief Lombardo congratulating Officer Arnault Baker on his graduation from the 2013 Fairfield County Detective Conference.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Traffic Light by 10/20 Westport Road

Chief Lombardo presented the Commission with a preliminary Traffic Investigation Report of the State DOT to the State Traffic Commission (now the Office of State Traffic Administration) with respect to the intersection at Westport Road (Route 33) at the driveway to 10/20 Westport Road and the driveway to Lambert Commons. The report contains recommendations to modify the existing conditions at the intersection, and Chief Lombardo as the representative of the Local Traffic Authority of the town of Wilton is asked to concur or not concur with the recommendations. After discussion, on motion made by Commissioner Waters and seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne, the Commission authorized Chief Lombardo to respond as follows:

1. With respect to removal of the programmed flashing operation, which currently occurs from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., the Local Traffic Authority *does not concur* with this recommendation. There is insufficient traffic at the intersection during the overnight hours to justify removal of the flashing operation, which will only result in impeding traffic flow and the potential for drivers to ignore a red light in the middle of the night.
2. With respect to the “No Turn on Red” signage, the Local Traffic Authority *does not take a position* on this recommendation. The Local Traffic Authority relies on the expertise of the State on this matter.
3. With respect to the “No Pedestrian Crossing” signage, the Local Traffic Authority *concurs* with this recommendation.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

There were no reports of the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:25 p.m., the meeting went into Executive Session to consider personnel issues. At 9:23 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

OLD BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

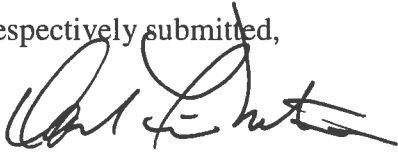
B. Consideration of Hiring of New Police Officer Recruit by the Department

Commissioner Waters made a motion to offer Wojciech Brodzinski an offer of employment as a police officer of the Department subject to the usual conditions, with a commencement date of employment determined at the discretion of the Chief upon the satisfactory completion of such conditions and the earliest available training class opening. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:24 p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Waters seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne and passed 3-0.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David F. Waters", written over the text "Respectively submitted,".

David F. Waters, Acting Recording Secretary