

Wilton Police Commission



240 Danbury Road
Wilton, Connecticut 06897
Tel: (203) 834-6260
Fax: (203) 834 6258

**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
13 FEBRUARY 2012**

CTO

Chairman Commissioner Chris Weldon called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Don Sauvigne, Chief Michael Lombardo, Deputy Chief Robert Crosby, Captain John Lynch, Sarah Taffel (arrived for the Executive Session) and Claire Furano.

MINUTES

Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2011 Regular Meeting and the January 5, 2012 Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weldon. Motion carried 2-0 with one abstention from Commissioner Sauvigne since he was not on the Commission at the time of the meetings.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed. The number of MV Stops greatly increased over the same time period in the past two years. Chief Lombardo expressed his pleasure with his staff and patrol. He is looking for consistency. It was noted that the number of EMS Assists was up slightly this January over January 2011. There were a total of 147 Domestic Violence calls for the entire year of 2011, which is up from a total of 116 calls in 2010. In January 2012 the number of Domestic Violence calls was down significantly from January 2011, with no repeat calls. The number of MVA's was down this January from the same time period last year and the number of MVA's with Injuries was consistent with last year's numbers. Chief Lombardo will check on the number of Breach of Peace Calls and report back to the Commission. It was suggested that an additional column be added to the report at year end to include the previous year totals for comparison purposes.

The MAC Report was reviewed and discussed.

Officers Phillipson and Papa are assigned to MAC functions. They have been spending a great deal of time in patrol to save on overtime. During January, February and March officers are being trained for recertification. Officer Phillipson attended the accreditation program and hit the ground running upon his return.

Commissioner Weldon suggested that once a specific problem area has been addressed and noted on the MAC report as such, it should be removed from the subsequent report. He would also like the number of stops done by officers in the specific area indicated on the report.

An average of 35 to 40 pounds of prescription drugs are being turned in to the drug collection box each month. The fee of \$100 per ton to dispose of the drugs is being covered by the Town Conservation Department. However, Wilton is combining the disposal efforts with that of surrounding police departments for efficiency purposes, so that each department is not running up to Bridgeport and so the disposal cost is shared among the departments rather than being incurred separately by each department. Even though the Departments share disposal and cost of disposal, the cost has been minimal to date. An SOP was previously created and adopted by the Commission for drug collection procedures. Also, there have been inquiries from other towns on how the program was implemented in Wilton and the department has been sharing that information when asked by other departments.

Regional Enforcement and Line Painting/Signs speaks for itself.

The Digital Radar Sign on School Road has been placed. The Commission agreed that its location is a good traffic calming device.

The first SRO Report was reviewed and it was the Commission's consensus that it was done well. The Commission suggested that going forward the report could be more generic, so as not to mention specific individuals or groups when no arrests have been made. If an arrest takes place the specific group or individual could be mentioned since it is a matter of public record. Investigations outside of school should be identified as such and listed separately so there is no implication that the reported activities occurred on school grounds or during school times and the Commission understands that there are times when the SRO is involved in investigations with school aged children that do not deal with actions on school grounds. The report is a good report and very helpful, particularly since it demonstrates the wide variety of duties and the significant efforts that are involved in the SRO position both on and off school grounds.

REPORT OF CHIEF LOMBARDO

Letters of thanks and jobs well done were reviewed.

- Congratulations from Chief Lombardo to Captain Lynch for graduating from Session 247 of the FBI NA with high grades.

- Memos from Chief Lombardo thanking Deputy Chief Crosby and Lt. Wakeman for assuming Captain Lynch's responsibilities while he attended the FBI National Academy.
- Letter of appreciation from Redding Police Chief Fuchs for assistance from Officer Anna Tornello.
- Email from Chief Lombardo to Officers Frendt, Papa and Phillipson for assistance given to a resident.
- Email conveying phone message from resident praising and thanking Sgt. Conlan and Officers Rangel and Tornello for their assistance.
- Letter thanking Edward Runge for donation to Police Fund.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Canine Program:

Chief Lombardo gave an overview of his plans for the development of a Canine Program. The Wilton PD has called for canine assistance from surrounding police departments for criminal activities as well as search and rescue of missing persons (Alzheimer patients and suicidal) on many occasions. Canine presence is meaningful and can act as a deterrent. If a dog hits on a car in a motor vehicle stop, the dog's reactions are sufficient to permit a search and an arrest can be made if illegal substances are confirmed. A dog would also be a goodwill ambassador with school children. The cost of the program would have to be self-sustaining for at least the first three years and hopefully longer. Three years of dedicated funding would have to be in place before the program can be set up. It would involve training, equipping a vehicle, purchasing a dog and feeding it, along with veterinary care. In many cases a portion of the funding of a canine program comes from donations, including the donation of such things as veterinary services. The dog would live with the officer. Five officers have expressed an interest in being the Canine Officer. An agility test is scheduled for this Thursday for these officers. An outside canine handler will be coming in to speak with these officers, as well as to assist in the evaluation of the officers' temperament as the Canine Officer. In order for the program to be a success the officer and canine must be perfectly matched. Chief Lombardo will further evaluate the potential costs of setting up and running the program and will advise the Commission of his findings.

B. Discussion on the Training Position and the Miscellaneous Assignment to the Chief of Police Position:

Sgt. Kluk has been chosen for the position of Admin Sergeant and Officer Phillipson has been selected for the Training position. The structural changes will take place on July 1st. The structural changes are not creating any greater cost for

the Department and in some cases may save the Department money. Commissioner Waters made a motion to endorse the determination of the Chief that the change could be made on an operational level and to endorse the change made by the Chief, effective July 1st. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Weldon and passed 3-0.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Weldon will be following up with Parks & Recreation concerning non-residents usage of Merwin Meadows during staffed and un-staffed hours and discuss, what, if any, involvement the Department may have in the process. If any involvement is expected, the discussions will be turned over to the Chief to discuss exactly what is expected of the Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:56 p.m., the meeting went into Executive Session to discuss ongoing Labor Issues. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session and a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Waters, seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne and passed 3-0.

Respectively submitted,



Claire Furano
Recording Secretary