

Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
12 MARCH 2012**

CTO

Chairman Commissioner Chris Weldon called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Don Sauvigne, Chief Michael Lombardo, Captain John Lynch, CFO Sandy Dennies (7:30 p.m.) Sarah Taffel (arrived for the Executive Session) and Claire Furano.

MINUTES

Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 3-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed. The number of MV Stops continues on the upward trend. Chief Lombardo and the Commissioners expressed their pleasure with staff and patrol. The Detective Report was reviewed. The 2010 year end statistics have been added to the Activity Report for comparison purposes, as the Commission requested. Domestic Violence numbers are lower this month than they were during the same time period in 2011. The number of MVA's is consistent with last year's numbers during the same time period. MVA's with Injuries have increased from 3 last February to 11 this February and may be attributed to the mild winter weather and faster traveling motorists. The mild winter, along with an increased police presence, may also be the cause of the significant increase in the number of DUI's. It was noted that the number of EMS Assists has been consistently high.

The MAC Report was reviewed and discussed. The Commissioners found the revisions to the report helpful. It was requested that where an enforcement action is the result of a specific civilian request, the officer identify the offense and the number of offenses observed in the area in question.

On average, 30 pounds of pharmaceutical products are turned into the Drug Collection Box each month. This is positive for the environment, as well as, possibly preventing drug abuse in homes. There is a proposed unfunded mandate pending at the Legislature that would require the police departments have Drug Collection Boxes. Wilton has done this voluntarily and is ahead of the curve.

Line painting and road striping is coordinated with DPW and their paving of the roads. The police department determines the town roads that will be striped, but state roads are the jurisdiction of DOT. Wilton Center is striped every spring. A priority list is maintained so that only the roads needing painting/striping are done.

The digital radar sign has been repaired at no charge. A loaner was used while repairs were done.

Commissioner Sauvigne suggested that there be stricter, more aggressive cell phone enforcement.

The School Resource Officer ("SRO") Report was done by Acting Sergeant Kip Tarrant in the absence of Sergeant Wakeman. Aside from some further slight changes, the Commission was satisfied with how the SRO Report is developing.

The SRO has informed Chief Lombardo that donations coming in for the Police Explorers are insufficient to cover the costs of their upcoming trip, which includes competitions with Police Explorer groups from across the nation. This trip is held every two years. Thus, a fund raiser will have to be done to raise the needed money so the Wilton Police Explorers are able to participate in this extraordinary summer trip and competition. Commissioner Sauvigne suggested that a public service column speaking to the benefit of the local post be published, in order to raise the necessary funds.

The Citizen Police Academy has reached 15 participants, the maximum number. There are also three individuals on the waiting list, should a spot open up. Chief Lombardo thanked Commissioner Sauvigne for his letter to the editor on the Citizen Police Academy.

REPORT OF CHIEF LOMBARDO

Letters of thanks and jobs well done were reviewed.

- Letter from New Canaan Police Chief Nadriczny thanking Chief Lombardo for assistance from Detectives Tarrant, Isidro and Officer Phillipson.
- Memo from Chief Lombardo thanking Sgt. Kluk for his participation and leadership in the Southwest Regional Emergency Response Team.
- Email thanking Officer Diane Papa for her kindness.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election of Officers was tabled and will take place during the April Commission meeting.
- B. CFO, Sandy Dennies gave an overview of the new financial accountability software system that the Town is implementing through all departments, including the Police Department. The only Department that will not be participating at the outset is the Board of Education but they have shown interest in joining at a later date. While there are oversight benefits to the new system, it will be a significant change in the way financial matters have been handled in the past and it will take time and effort to understand and become familiar with the system. It will take approximately 18 months to be up and running. Training time and overtime costs to the department were discussed and Ms. Dennies informed the Commission that each department will be responsible for the overtime or other costs incurred in training its personnel.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

It was requested that a demonstration of the NexGen System in the Dispatch Center be done during the April commission meeting.

Commissioner Weldon will be meeting with the chair of Parks & Recreation to discuss the topic of Merwin Meadows and whether a change to the Alcohol Ordinance should be considered to address the concerns that took place last summer. He will report back at the next commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At 7:57 p.m., Commissioner Weldon opened the meeting to the public.

There was a question on the red light cameras, a topic which was brought up at Speak Up Wilton. Chief Lombardo clarified that if the law is implemented any municipality having a population of 60K or more would be permitted to use the red light cameras, but those under 60K would not. Chief Lombardo expressed his dissatisfaction, explaining that he did not like the idea that if the law passes, Norwalk would be permitted to have the cameras along Route 7 and that could help to keep speeds down there, but when motorists traveled the Route 7 corridor into Wilton, there would be no cameras.

A second question on the clarification of stop signs in Wilton Center was answered by Chief Lombardo. He also answered the question that the intersection of Route 33 and Belden Hill is under state jurisdiction and therefore traffic signage at that intersection, even on Town roads, is determined by the State.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:03 p.m., the meeting went into Executive Session to discuss ongoing Labor Issues
No action was taken in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session and a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Sauvigne, seconded by Commissioner Waters and passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Claire Furano
Recording Secretary