

Wilton Police Commission



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POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
11 January 2010

CTO

Commissioner Matt Mason called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Mark Ketley, Chris Weldon, Chief Michael Lombardo, Deputy Chief Robert Crosby, Captain John Lynch, Kara O'Connor (*Villager*) and Claire Furano.

MINUTES

A motion made by Commissioner Ketley and seconded by Commissioner Weldon to approve the Minutes of the December 15, 2009 Regular Meeting and the Special Meetings on December 21, 2009 and December 23, 2009. The motion passed 3-0.

DISUCSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

The Commission reviewed, discussed and accepted the monthly reports.

Chief Lombardo reported that in doing a 12 month comparison to last year the number of EMS, Domestic and Breach of Peace calls are up, while the number of MV Stops and Criminal Mischief calls are down. MV Stops has declined from 2008. Chief Lombardo attributes this to lack of manpower. He has met with staff to address this issue. While the issue remains a focus of the Department, there is a daily struggle to maintain police presence on Route 7 and side roads simultaneously.

Commissioner Mason inquired if the Department has noticed a change in traffic volume and speed and how it impacts staff needs. Speeds have increased through Town on Route 7, which residents have commented on in the newspaper. While the traffic flow has improved and is good, which was the hope at the onset of the project, more police presence is necessary to keep traffic moving at a safe speed.

During the construction project there was a high volume of police presence on Route 7 which now appears to have declined. The officers working the construction project were paid by outside vendors. They were working extra duty jobs. They were not on patrol.

Since the project is over, it is impossible to maintain this police presence.

Commissioner Ketley pointed out that traffic flow has greatly improved in the Sharp Hill area as well. The traffic light makes it easier to move through that intersection onto Route 7. Captain Lynch stated that the traffic lights are yet to be synchronized through a State computer program. He added there has been no update at this time on the project on Route 7 in the southern part of Wilton, although the money has been allocated. Captain Lynch will follow-up to determine if there is an update for this next phase of the project.

Commissioner Mason noted that north of the high school in the Olmstead Road area, traffic on Route 7 was down to one lane recently due to construction. Cars were backed-up, but the congestion did clear up quickly. Traveling southbound on Route 7 by the high school and the Y entrance, cars in the right lane traveling straight must shift over, while cars in the left lane enter the Y. Commissioner Mason asked if there had been any issues on Route 7 north of Olmstead where the lanes reduce to one. There have been none reported.

Since the opening of Route 7, the number of accidents has not increased, although the average speed traveled is up. Bumper to bumper traffic has subsided. Commissioner Weldon brought to the table the issue of possibly lowering the speed limit by the high school during certain hours. There is a provision in the statute to cover certain hours in a school zone.

The primary function of patrol is traffic safety. In order to fulfill this, overtime has been paid. Some community oriented programs have been sacrificed.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) remains intact. The schools have asked for the SRO to assist in working on projects with the students in the lower grades. This has not been feasible because he is at the high school five days a week. Seven hundred hours a year are spent at the high school. There are occasional visits to the middle schools and elementary schools. It would be beneficial to have the SRO at the lower grades more frequently to build a trusting relationship at an earlier age and for teaching purposes. Principals have expressed frustration in the past with not having more access to the SRO because issues start at a younger age. The SRO's function involves teaching programs. Commissioner Mason would like the SRO to attend the next Commission Meeting to give an update on his functions. Chief Lombardo will also forward an SRO Report to the Commission.

Chief Lombardo said funding for more mobile speed trailers is being looked into.

REPORT OF CHIEF MICHAEL LOMBARDO

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

- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to Realty Seven for cakes.

- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to Breitling for box of pralines.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to the Police Commission for food brought to the department over the holidays.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to the Lifrieri Family for food and Dunkin Donut gift cards.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to Caraluzzi's Market for cookie tray.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to Wilton Pizza for the lasagna and baked ziti trays.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to the Braten Family for cookie tray.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to Connecticut Coffee for food.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to Margaret Smythe for cupcakes.
- Thank you letter from Chief Lombardo to Leslie Yates for cookie tray.
- Letter of response and gratitude from Chief Lombardo to Dr. Hossein and Dr. Golnar Sadeghis for relaying a pleasant experience they had with Officer Cipolla and Officer Steven Gelineau while responding to an incident at their home.
- Note from Mrs. Czulewicz to Chief Lombardo conveying Officer Eva Zimnoch's act of kindness, along with Chief's response.
- Letters of appreciation from Chief Lombardo to Mr. and Mrs. Sachs for \$300.00 and Mr. and Mrs. Aharonovitz for \$15.00 donations to the Wilton Police Fund.

The STP Report was reviewed and discussed.

Chief Lombardo's memo to all WPD Personnel regarding 2009 Review and 2010 Goals was reviewed.

Chief Lombardo mentioned he would be speaking at the League of Women Voters on Tuesday (1/12/10) morning.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Lombardo apprized the commission that he has put in a request for a sixth car which will be funded by the capital account. The current Captain's car has high mileage. The capital account has been replenished from monies collected for cruiser usage during the Route 7 project.

In order to maintain a current fleet, normally in years past, six cars have been traded in. This year five cars will be traded in. The sixth car, which has 70K miles and would have a low trade-in value, will be used by ERT. Newer cars are being run 24/7 and experiencing more wear and tear. Two transmissions have been replaced. The fleet is being managed to save the Town as much money as possible. Commissioner Ketley expressed concern about keeping the fleet current. Commissioner Mason added the fleet is being managed in the most economical way as far as trade-ins are concerned.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

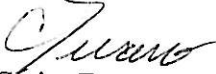
Speak Up Wilton will be held at Trackside on Saturday, January 23rd.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:40 p.m., the meeting adjourned to the Executive Session. At 10:55 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session without any action having been taken by the Commission.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Claire Furano
Recording Secretary