

Wilton Police Commission



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**DRAFT
POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
9 APRIL 2012**

CTO

Commissioner David Waters called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner Don Sauvigne, Commissioner Chris Weldon (arrived 7:24 p.m.), Chief Michael Lombardo, Deputy Chief Bob Crosby (arrived 7:37 p.m.), Alissa Smith (The Daily Wilton) and Claire Furano.

MINUTES

Commissioner Waters waived the reading of the minutes of the March 12, 2012 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Sauvigne made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2012 meeting and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Motion carried 2-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed. Patrol continues to do a good job on MV Stops. Thus far in 2012, the number of stops is consistently higher than the previous two years. The Chief and Commissioners are very pleased with the numbers. Chief Lombardo pointed out that there is a difference between the number of stops and the number of tickets issued. MV Stops translated to tickets is very low and the Commissioners want to monitor this and look to the Chief whether any policy change should be implemented at a later date. It is at the officer's discretion to ticket. The goal is to gain compliance through education and enforcement.

The number of Domestic Violence incidents in March is up over January and February in 2012 but lower than the number in March of last year. Although there was a significant number of MVAs, there are no recorded MVAs with Injuries during the month of March. This has been double checked for accuracy and confirmed.

The MAC Report was reviewed. Line painting will start in early May. The roads in the Center will be done first, within the completion of the curbing being done by DPW. This

will be followed by the other roads as needed which are on a priority list maintained by Police Department. Chief Lombardo noted that due to the warm winter and lack of snow it may not be necessary to do this work on some roads. The need will be evaluated on a case by case basis so that the cost of line painting is not incurred unnecessarily. The Commissioners expressed their satisfaction with the change in the MAC Report to specifically identify where a citizen complaint had been received, the number of violations of the type complained of which were observed by officers at that location.

The SRO Report was reviewed. Commissioner Sauvigne asked about the fund raising letter that would be going out to the community to raise money for the Explorer's upcoming trip. Commissioner Sauvigne suggested that joint signatures of the SRO, along with the Commissioners' signatures, on the fund raising letter may be beneficial. He also expressed that he would be pleased to assist the explorers in any way. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation with the detail and level of reporting in the SRO Report.

REPORT OF CHIEF LOMBARDO

Letters of thanks and jobs well done were reviewed.

- Letter from Children's Day School of Wilton thanking the Department for supporting their annual auction.
- Letter from Gloria Gray thanking Officer Eva Zimnoch for her assistance.
- Complimentary email from Mr. Hudspeth to Chief Lombardo about his column on underage drinking and adults' responsibility.
- Email from Chief Lombardo notifying Officers Steven Gelineau and Edward Dolenk that Mark Ketley appreciated the assistance and response he received to his call about a stray dog.
- Email from Shawn O'Rourke to Chief Lombardo thanking the officers who responded to his call about a car crashing through a stone wall on Westport Road. (Officers Hartman, Sell, Nosal and Rangel, along with Sgt. Dempsey.)
- Email from Deputy Chief Amatrufo to Chief Lombardo and Deputy Chief Crosby, letting them know that the officers who responded to an incident did an admirable job of CPR and use of the AED for a cardiac arrest patient. (Officers Warner, Calorossi and Sgt. Kluk)
- Officer Eva Zimnoch ranked first in qualification testing for the Southwest Regional Emergency Response Team and she was appointed to the team by the Chief. The Commissioners expressed their support for this decision and congratulated Officer Zimnoch on her good work. The Commissioners also specifically acknowledged the life saving efforts of members of the Department as the initial responders at the cardiac arrest incident referred to in the letters of thanks.
- Memo from Chief Lombardo to Officer Gregg Phillipson for his efforts in researching the possibility of acquiring a government surplus vehicle for the Town of Wilton.
- Memo from Chief Lombardo to Officer Robert Cipolla thanking him for assuming the position of Acting Sergeant during the three month absence of a sergeant and praising him for his capability.
- Thank you note to the Department from Officer Joe Calorossi for well wishes sent during his recovery.
- Email exchange between Kondo Masafumi (Consulate General of Japan) and Chief Lombardo.

Chief Lombardo notified the Commissioners that through the efforts of the Department and Officer Phillipson in particular, the Department has acquired, at no cost, a government surplus vehicle in good working order.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers

Commissioner Weldon made a motion to nominate Commissioner Don Sauvigne as Vice Chairman of the Police Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner David Waters. The motion carried with a 2-0 vote and one abstention from Commissioner Sauvigne. Commissioner Weldon mentioned that this is a one year term and the positions would rotate. He also stated that he appreciates the efforts of both gentlemen and they all work well together as a team.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration and approval of asset forfeiture funds for the purchase of a license plate reader.

Chief Lombardo requested that the Commissioners consider the use of asset forfeiture funds to purchase a license plate reader. The cost of one unit is just under \$20K, and the actual cost depends on the capabilities that are installed in the unit. The Chief would like to use between \$16K and \$18K of asset forfeiture funds and up to \$5K from another undesignated gift fund account to make the purchase.

Redding, Norwalk, Fairfield, Westport, Stamford and Bridgeport all have license plate readers with data servers in Stamford and Bridgeport. License plate readers enhance officers' ability to identify stolen vehicles, suspended registrations, wanted people and are used only for investigation of criminal activity. Chief Lombardo noted that a reader in Wilton could be tied into the servers in other locations, further enhancing enforcement efforts both in Wilton and in the surrounding municipalities.

Questions as to the status of the constitutionality of the device were discussed. The Commission would not want to incur the expense of a reader only to find that its use is curtailed. The Chief advised that the use of license plate readers is widespread and a reader obtains information that is in plain sight, just on an enhanced and more efficient basis. The Commission believes that if a constitutional challenge were successful it would be of limited scope and that a legislative solution would still permit the use of readers, and the usefulness of the reader is significant to the Department's efforts.

The commissioners asked if there was any other more pressing equipment needed by the Department that has not been included in the budget for which a portion of the

asset forfeiture funds might be required. Chief Lombardo and Deputy Chief Crosby, having previously discussed this, responded that there was not.

Training is free if the unit is purchased. Approximately a half dozen people would be trained and they would train the others. Most if not all of the training could occur while officers are on their regular patrol duty. There is a one year guarantee on the unit.

Commissioner Sauvigne moved to approve the Chief's request for the use of asset forfeiture funds up to \$15K and the balance of \$5.4K and change, from the gift fund to equal \$20K for the purchase of a license plate reader. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters.

In discussion of the motion, the Commissioners discussed the two sources of funding for the license plate reader and concluded that the undesignated gift fund account should be used in its entirety and closed out, with the remaining funds applied from the asset forfeiture account. Commissioner Weldon moved to amend the previous motion to close out the gift fund account which has an approximate balance of \$5.4K and change, and use up to \$14.6K of asset forfeiture funds for the purchase of a license plate reader, for a total of up to \$20K. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. The motion carried 3-0.

B. Demonstration of the Nexgen System was given by Deputy Chief Crosby prior to the Executive Session.

C. Discussion on Future Canine Program

Chief Lombardo informed the Commission that there are three viable candidates who passed the preliminary screening. They will be interviewed by the Chief and two canine handlers before the end of April. The Canine Program will only be commenced when there are commitments for its funding by private donations for the first several years because of the significant dedication of time and expense that starting the Canine Program will require. The Canine Program will be discussed as Old Business at the next meeting.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

There were no reports of the Commissioners.

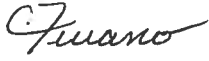
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Immediately following the Nexgen demonstration the Commission went into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Furano".

Claire Furano
Recording Secretary