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Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
24 JANUARY 2019**

**NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND APPROVAL AT
A FUTURE MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION**

CTO

Chairman Don Sauvigne called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Matt Mason, Chief John Lynch, Captain Robert Cipolla, Lieutenant Rob Kluk, Town counsel Christopher Hodgson, Esq., First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Director of HR, Labor Relations and Administrative Services for the Town of Wilton Sarah Taffel, Officer Steven Zawacki, union representative Sergeant Timothy Fridinger, union representative Officer Frank Razzaia and union counsel John Miller, Esq.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:06 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Waters and seconded by Commissioner Mason to go into Executive Session for purposes of a pre-disciplinary hearing of Officer Steven Zawacki, and for deliberations by the Commission following such pre-disciplinary hearing. Motion passed 3-0.

Officer Zawacki was informed that it was his right to have the pre-disciplinary hearing conducted in Open Session rather than Executive Session, and he informed the Commission that he elected to have the pre-disciplinary hearing conducted in Executive Session. The Commission invited Chief Lynch, Captain Cipolla, Lieutenant Kluk, Attorney Hodgson, First Selectwoman Vanderslice, Ms. Taffel, Officer Zawacki, Sergeant Fridinger, Officer Razzaia and Attorney Miller to participate in the Executive Session.

At 6:27 p.m. the Commission concluded the pre-disciplinary hearing portion of the Executive Session and excused Chief Lynch, Captain Cipolla, Lieutenant Kluk, First Selectwoman Vanderslice, Ms. Taffel, Officer Zawacki, Sergeant Fridinger, Officer Razzaia and Attorney Miller from further attendance at the Executive Session. The

Commission thereafter continued the Executive Session for the purpose of deliberations on the pre-disciplinary hearing of Officer Zawacki and invited Attorney Hodgson to remain to advise the Commission on procedural matters.

At 6:53 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Waters and seconded by Commissioner Mason to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed 3-0. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

**CONSIDERATION OF TAKING DISCIPLINARY ACTION ON OFFICER
STEVEN ZAWACKI**

Commissioner Waters made a motion to accept Chief Lynch's recommendation that Officer Zawacki be suspended without pay for three (3) months, commencing at the discretion of the Chief, based upon the Commission's findings that the charges Officer Zawacki violated the following Standard Operating Procedures were sustained: (1) SOP 1-1A, Code of Ethics, Integrity; (2) SOP 1-2, Standards of Conduct, Section 1 – Exercising Common Sense and Affirmatively Promoting our Values; and (3) SOP 5-6, Harassment in the Workplace, Prohibited Conduct. The Commission found that the charges Officer Zawacki violated the following Standard Operating Procedures were not sustained: (1) SOP 1-1A, Use of Town Position; and (2) SOP 1-12, Complaints/Internal Affairs, Section E-1 Officer Responsibilities and Rights. A written decision in conformity with this motion shall follow. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason and passed 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:56 p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Sauvigne seconded by Commissioner Mason and passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Waters, Acting Recording Secretary