

Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
12 APRIL 2021**

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

CTO

Commissioner Don Sauvigne called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. In attendance electronically were Commissioner Adrienne Reedy, Chief John Lynch, Captain Thomas Conlan and Captain Robert Cipolla.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Captain Conlan reported that no public comment had been received.

**DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No action required in Executive Session

Commissioner Sauvigne made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2021 Executive Session Regular Meeting and the March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Reedy seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Activity Reports

Immediate discussion with Capt. Cipolla reporting on the increase in Domestic Violence calls in 2021 compared to last year. Although it's an under reported crime, there is some sense that calls are being made and people in need are reaching out. Awareness and education is important in our community. The goal is for people to feel comfortable enough to reach out. There's no clear reason why the increase in number of calls but our

officers are being trained in this area and continued support of the advocacy programs is key.

Note that there was an increase in motor vehicle stops due to the result of having more officers staffed in the community. Still look forward to becoming fully staffed in the near future. In the meantime, there is a correlation between traffic stops, less accidents and crime with more visibility of officers in the community and on the side streets enforcing speed limit etc.

The **Detective Bureau Report** for March did not present any issues.

Gun permits appear to be down a little in March

MAC Report

Officers have reached out to the Wilton Asian business community because of the national increase in the hate crimes against Asians across the country. It was mentioned how proactive our Wilton Police are in being community minded.

Trails signs are progressing

Increase in selective enforcement with new officers. They seem to be doing well, no complaints from the community, which is good.

SRO Report

Officers are busy. With the investigations Commissioner Sauvigne wanted to know if there was a correlation between bullying, JV abuse, domestic abuse and the stress of the Covid. Cipolla feels that the pandemic simply provides more time for our youth to be on social media but does not see the stress of Covid being the cause for the behavior the SRO's are investigating.

Overtime Report

Excellent! Looking at the trends, Covid etc. we are doing great. Two months we will be where we want to be with staffing.

K-9 Report status quo

REPORT OF CHIEF LYNCH

There was an increase in car thefts/burglaries. An on-duty officer witnessed three cars pulled over to the side of the road on Belden Hill with young teens that looked suspicious at 5:30 a.m. As the officer approached, the teens jumped in the cars and sped away. Two of the cars were pulled up on the scanner as being reported stolen from Ridgefield Road. The other vehicle was involved in a larceny at a gas station. Community has been alerted and reminded to lock their cars and keep personal belongings safe. It's a safe community, police are doing a great job but we all need to take personal responsibility.

Donations & Thank you letters

People are feeling some sense of normalcy. Many people have been vaccinated.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Covid update given by Capt. Conlan. Approx. 150-200 vaccinations were given at the various clinics. Two to three weeks left to do in our town. Looking to vaccinate people who are homebound by getting them to WEPCO. Now mostly 2nd dosages are being administered and the State will finish up the rest of population. Also working out rules coming out of Covid ie. Where people can travel as well as working rules,

Mike Wrinn continues to work with the State on restrictions for outdoor dining etc. Dept. of Health, Wilton Police, CERT, Home Nursing Services, all commended for doing a great job with handling the efficiency of the dispensing the vaccine.

Status on Town Meeting and Budget

Wilton Police Budget was approved, Town Selectman budget approved by Board of Finance, as well as Board of Education. Town meeting will be held indoors, David Waters may be the moderator. Details to follow.

B. New Hire Update – Elizabeth Myles is in 3rd week of FTO and seems to be doing well. She did very well in the Police Academy graduated #2 in her class. The two NYPD hires finished three-week training sessions with Spector Training. Now they will start FTO for 12 weeks to ensure they are fully trained in CT State policies and procedures. The officers will need emergency training, medical training, responder, DUI, and firearms trainings, but overall they are doing well

Nair has been deployed although he is currently in the states until deployed out of the country.

C. Budget – All is good moving forward now to the annual Town meeting. Million dollars given back from BOE was a pleasant surprise that impacted the mill rate going down.

Radio Communication Project update – Capt. Conlan reported that they hired New England Radio Consultant Paul Zito, who has extensive knowledge and designing Police communications network. Zito will meet with various groups to assess needs. The plan is to present findings for the August meeting for the town to vote on the project, which is a bonded project and will require a town vote. Hope to bring to November vote. Reiterating this is a town wide Radio Communication system, which is separate from the building project.

NEW BUSINESS

Drum Hill Road Project – Commission Sauvigne made a motion to accept the traffic study for the recommendation for improving the signage on Drum Hill Road property. Commissioner Reedy seconded. Thanks to Dave Hartman. Commissioner Sauvigne recommended to Capt. Cipolla that they step up the SEU in that area.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioners Sauvigne and Reedy reviewed the Annual Report and were impressed with the report. With the amount of calls served, WPD should be commended once again for the awesome response to over 14,000 calls for service. Discussion in details was discussed on use of force. With the national view on police and use of force, Wilton continues to do a job well done. The amount of training goes a long way. The importance of building community involvement and trust is crucial. It's important for the community to know our officers are human do their best to provide safety for our town. Wilton Police Dept. understands the importance of being accountable and strives to do it's best in making sure all are well trained in every possible way. Commissioner Sauvigne wants to make sure an Awards Ceremony is planned when Covid is over. Both Commissioners, Sauvigne and Reedy are well pleased with the efforts made by our Wilton Police in keeping our community safe also grateful for the Annual Report that shows in depth, how well WPD is doing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:10 p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Sauvigne seconded by Commissioner Reedy and passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Adrienne Reedy, Acting Recording Secretary