

Wilton Police Commission



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**MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 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 7:35 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Matt Mason, Chief John Lynch, Captain Robert Cipolla, Captain Tom Conlan, Town counsel Christopher Hodgson, Esq., First Selectwoman Lynne Vanderslice, Director of HR, Labor Relations and Administrative Services for the Town of Wilton Sarah Taffel, Detective Eva Zimnoch, and various members of the public including Detective Zimnoch's personal attorney.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mason made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2019 Regular Meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne, approved 3-0.

CONSIDERATION OF STEP 2 GRIEVANCE CONCERNING DETECTIVE EVA ZIMNOCH

At Detective Zimnoch's request, the Step 2 Hearing was conducted in Open Session. At the hearing, Chief Lynch presented his decision at Step 1 and referenced documents in support of his position. Detective Zimnoch presented evidence in support of her claim that the discipline was unwarranted. Questions were posed to Chief Lynch, Captain Cipolla and Detective Zimnoch. Thereafter, the hearing was closed and the Commission deliberated in open session.

The Commission discussed the evidence and the discipline imposed by the Chief on Detective Zimnoch. The Commission noted that the Chief has broad discretion in the operation of the Department and the decision to discipline equally the two Detectives involved in the underlying situation was for just cause. Commissioner Mason made a motion to deny the Step 2 grievance appeal by Office Zimnoch, which was seconded by Commissioner Waters and passed 3-0. A written decision in conformity with this motion shall follow.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

The monthly reports were all reviewed and considered.

A. Activity Report

The Commission reviewed the monthly figures, noted that MV stops are still high notwithstanding staffing issues. The Commission also noted that Domestics were down and are hopeful that is a trend.

B. Detective Bureau

There was nothing unusual in the DB Report.

C. MAC Report

The Commission discussed the crime prevention measures taken during the past month, as well as the ongoing traffic studies.

D. School Resource Officer

The retirement of School Resource Officer Diane MacLean after 19 years, effective October 1, 2019, was acknowledged. SRO MacLean did an outstanding job for many years and in many ways was the face of the Department.

E. Overtime Report

The Chief and his staff continue to work hard to manage overtime. It was noted that an SEU grant significantly reduced the impact of overtime this past month.

G. K-9 Report.

There was nothing unusual to report.

REPORT OF CHIEF

The Chief noted several complimentary letter submitted by residents and other Police Departments.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Building Committee Report.

Commissioner Waters gave an update on the Building Committee. An RFQP has been issued for the proposed new Police Station. Commissioner Waters reported that they are working towards an October 21, 2019 recommendation to the BOS of the design team, with the goal of a presentation to the BOS in mid- January 2019 with design and potential cost estimates. All of this is working towards the May 5, 2019 Town Meeting.

Chairman Sauvigne made a motion to reaffirm the Statement of Requirements for the Police Department dated September 2019, which was seconded by Commissioner Mason and passed 3-0.

B. Recruit Update.

In October, the Commission will be interviewing four candidates as it is looking to fill two of the four vacancies (we only have two spots at the next Police Academy session).

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission discussed the fact that Wilton Constables do not have arrest powers.

Chairman Sauvigne made a motion to approve the recommendation of Lt. Hartman for the installation of a white fog line on the western shoulder of the road from Old Mill Road south for approx.2 miles, and the installation of five OM3R signs within the same stretch of roadway. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters and passed 3-0.

Chairman Sauvigne made a motion to approve the recommendation of Lt. Hartman for the installation of a W7-6 “Hill Blocks View” sign to the west of 67 Dudley Road. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters and passed 3-0.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

None.

Commissioner Mason noted that the changes to the Cobbs Mill Road intersection appear to be helping, but it will take some time for people to become accustomed to them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:15 pm, The Commission went into executive session to update legal matters and personnel matters. At approximately 9:20 p.m., Chief Lynch and Captains Conlan and Cippola were invited into executive session.

At 9:34 pm, the Commission came out of executive session.

OPEN SESSION.

No action was taken on any matters discussed in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 pm, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Waters, approved 3 -0.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Mason, Acting Secretary