

Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
19 NOVEMBER 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 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Matt Mason, Chief John Lynch, Captain Thomas Conlan, Captain Robert Cipolla, Town counsel Christopher Hodgson, Esq., Director of HR, Labor Relations and Administrative Services for the Town of Wilton Sarah Taffel, union representative Officer Frank Razzaia, union counsel John Miller, Esq. and Heather Borden Herve (Good Morning Wilton).

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

STEP 2 GRIEVANCE HEARING CONCERNING MR. STEVEN ZAWACKI

Mr. Miller, on behalf of Mr. Zawacki, stated that they had no new information to provide but requested reconsideration of the decision to terminate Mr. Zawacki's employment by the Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:02 p.m. a motion was made by Commissioner Sauvigne and seconded by Commissioner Waters to go into Executive Session for purposes of deliberation on the Step 2 Grievance Hearing concerning Mr. Steven Zawacki. Motion passed 3-0. The Commission invited Mr. Hodgson to participate in the Executive Session; the remainder of the meeting attendees were excused from, and did not participate in, the Executive Session.

At 7:06 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 STEP 2 GRIEVANCE CONCERNING MR. STEVEN ZAWACKI

Commissioner Mason made a motion to deny the Step 2 grievance appeal by Mr. Zawacki, with a written decision in conformity with this motion to follow. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters and passed 3-0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Sauvigne made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2019 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Motion carried 3-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed.

The Activity Report for October was reviewed. The Commissioners noted that activities reported are consistent with prior years.

The Commissioners noted favorably that the number of MV Stops for October had increased slightly despite staffing limitations.

The Detective Bureau report for October did not present any issues.

The MAC Report for October was reviewed. There were no issues, and the activities of the Department were satisfactory. The Commissioners noted the work with the Norwalk River Valley Trail to enhance safety on the trail, and the extensive community policing initiatives that occurred during the reporting period.

The SRO Report for October was reviewed and the Commissioners noted no issues. Chief Lynch reported that three capable candidates were considered for the open SRO position and he has selected Officer Elise Ackerman to fill that position. She will begin SRO duties in the Spring following training, and Officer Ross will continue in the other SRO position and cover all schools in the interim.

The Overtime Report for October was reviewed. The Commissioners noted that the overtime hours were below those of the prior year, but were advised that due to staffing shortages, vacation time and medical leaves the overtime hours are likely to increase in future months.

REPORT OF CHIEF LYNCH

Chief Lynch reviewed with the Commission the letters of thanks and the donations that had been received. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the officers of the Department which generated positive interactions with the public.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Building Committee

Commissioner Waters reported that the Building Committee is proceeding with building design plans for alternative solutions to the Department's needs, with a goal to present these options to the Board of Selectmen in January for consideration. The intention remains to present a proposed plan to the Town Meeting in May.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed 2020 Meeting Schedule

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed schedule of regular meetings of the Commission for 2020 and agreed to check calendars so that it could be finalized at the December Commission meeting.

B. Scribner Hill Road Signage Request

The Commissioners, acting as the Local Traffic Authority, reviewed the analysis performed by Lieutenant Hartman of a citizen's request for signage at the northern entrance to Scribner Hill Road off of Route 7. The Commissioners agreed that the recommended "yield" signage on the northern section of Scribner Hill Road heading westbound from Route 7 where it joins the main portion of Scribner Hill Road was appropriate given the lack of clarity as to who has the right of way in the area. Commissioner Sauvigne made a motion that the Commission adopt the analysis performed by Lieutenant Hartman with respect to signage. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters and carried 3-0.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Mason reported that in conversations with residents it was apparent that the public assumes that tickets are a revenue source for the Town, which with very limited exceptions is not the case. Chief Lynch noted that most stops result in warnings, not tickets.

Commissioner Sauvigne noted that the Citizen's Police Academy had concluded successfully with fourteen attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Heather Borden Herve of Good Morning Wilton commented that she and Lieutenant Hartman had created an ongoing program live on Facebook entitled “Traffic with Lieutenant Hartman and Heather” in which they focus on an area where traffic and driving issues exist.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:37 p.m. the meeting went into Executive Session to discuss pending legal matters and personnel matters. The Commissioners invited Chief Lynch, Captain Conlan and Captain Cipolla to participate in the Executive Session. At 8:20 p.m. the Commission came out of Executive Session. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:21 p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Sauvigne seconded by Commissioner Waters and passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
David F. Waters, Acting Recording Secretary