

WINDSOR LOCKS POLICE COMMISSION

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Commissioners present: Chairman Kevin Brace, Neal Cunningham, James Gaylord, Edward Lanati, and Michael Royston

Commissioners absent: Ricardo Rachele

Also Present: Chief Eric Osanitsch

1) **Call to Order** – Chairman Brace called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2) **Pledge of Allegiance** – The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

3) **Public Input** –

Michael Bracken – 12 Tinker Drive – Mr. Bracken stated that there is a coyote stalking the domesticated pets and people on Tinker Drive.

William Rousseau – 407 Elmwood – Mr. Rousseau requested a response from the Chief regarding his application for a pistol permit.

Jennifer Glazier – 43 Caya Rd., West Hartford – Ms. Glazier expressed her disappointment with regard to Officer Taylor no longer working at the Police Department.

Brunilda Quinones– Motel 6, National Drive – Ms. Quinones praised Officer Taylor's work with the prostitution problems at the Motel 6. She stated that Officer Taylor would provide continuous monitoring of the prostitution at the Motel, but that has ceased since Officer Taylor left the Police Department.

MOTION: To move Correspondence to #5 on the Agenda and the Chief's report to #6.

**James Gaylord
Motion Passed Unanimously**

Seconded by Michael Royston

4) **Approval of the minutes for the meeting of March 12, 2014.**

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the March 12, 2014 meeting.

**James Gaylord
Motion Passed Unanimously**

Seconded by Michael Royston

5) **Correspondence** – 1) An email to the WLPD Chairman from a Windsor Locks resident regarding traffic problems on Southwest Avenue; and 2) An email to Chief Osanitsch from Ha Tran (Henry Dang's brother) thanking the WLPD for all their improvements to the police department so far. He asked that they continue to honor Henry by continuing the improvements and making Windsor Locks a safer place to live.

6) **Chief's Report** –

- Eight officers attended federally funded training concentrating in the area of airport, train, bus, parcel, and hotel/motel interdiction.
- The Department will begin a "child car seat installation program" in the near future. An Officer will attend the required training for this in May.
- A third Sergeant is presently attending the eight-day first line supervisor training (for FY 13/14) at POST.
- The Department will be conducting the final firearms training session (for FY 13/14) in early June.
- The WLPD received an A- grade in an FOI statewide survey that was recently reported in the Hartford Courant and Journal Inquirer.
- Three new patrol vehicles (FY 13/14 budget) have been outfitted and are now assigned to the patrol fleet.
- Through a Grant request, the Department was awarded six electronic citation printers valued at approximately \$4,800.

- The Department recently received a donation of a beautiful cherry wood podium for the training/roll call room. The podium was constructed by Mr. Leonard Brace, and all costs for the project were donated by the Brace family.
- On June 12, Officer's Barry and Lang will once again be awarded by MADD (Mothers against Drunk Driving) for their excellent work combating drunk driving.
- Officer Lang is currently raising funds through the "Police Unity Tour" in Washington D.C. The money raised goes to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund.
- At last week's Spring Fest, the New Dimensions/Wellness Coalition made a \$5,000 donation for extra patrols to target underage drinking and for the purchase of a "Hot and Pop" system for K-9 Jaxx. The Chief stated K-9 Jaxx is the best police dog he has ever seen and mostly recently apprehended two burglary suspects using the new "Hot and Pop" System.
- The Department continues to work with FedEx combating illegal substances coming through this community. During the past month, a 30 pound seizure of marijuana was made by Officer Malone and K-9 Jaxx.
- On April 17, 2014, Officer Taylor submitted a letter of resignation. The Department currently has two vacancies which we are presently scheduling interviews for to fill.
- Budget Overview - To date, the line items of the budget all look good. The excess in the salary line will be used to balance other line items that have an overage. Overtime was reduced by 25% compared to last year.

7) **Executive Session – To discuss legal matters pertaining to Robert Koistinen.**

MOTION: To enter into Executive Session at 7:40 to discuss legal matters pertaining to Robert Koistinen. Chief Osanitsch, Attorney Kevin Deneen, and Selectman Wawruck were invited to attend.
James Gaylord **Seconded by Neal Cunningham**
Motion Passed Unanimously

MOTION: To end Executive Session at 8:30.
Neal Cunningham **Seconded by Edward Lanati**

8) **Possible Vote –**

There was no vote.

9) **Old Business –**

- a) **Ridgewood and Center Street intersection** – A request was received by a resident asking for a stop sign at the intersection of Center Street and Ridgewood Drive to slow down traffic. The Chief stated that the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices published by the Federal Highway Administration says that the use of stop signs as speed control devices is not an accepted practice. He recommended that a new speed limit of 20 MPH be posted just prior to Pesci Park both north and south bound on Center Street.

MOTION: To approve the posting of new 20 MPH signs north and south bound on Center Street.
Neal Cunningham **Seconded by James Gaylord**
Motion Passed Unanimously

- b) **Suffield and North Street intersection** – Following a traffic study, Chief Osanitsch recommends that the Police Department work with Public Works to move the stop signs and painted lines as close as possible to the intersection.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation by Chief Osanitsch to work with Public Works to move stop signs and painted lines closer to the intersection.
James Gaylord **Seconded by Neal Cunningham**
Motion Passed Unanimously

- c) **Orchard Hill Drive and South Center Street intersection** – A traffic study was performed at the intersection of Orchard Hill Drive and South Center Street. It was concluded that there is a line-of-sight issue. Chief Osanitsch recommends this intersection be altered to become a three-way stop. It is also recommended that "Stop Sign Ahead" signs be installed to warn motorists of the upcoming intersection.

MOTION: To approve the recommendation presented by Chief Osanitsch to alter the intersection to a three-way stop and to install "Stop Sign Ahead" warnings.
James Gaylord **Seconded by Michael Royston**
Motion Passed Unanimously

- d) **Parking sign issue on Spring Street in front of St. Mary's Church** – The Commission received a request from a town resident that the limited “No Parking” sign at 21 Spring Street be changed to a full “No Parking” sign due to safety and line-of-sight issues. Following a traffic study and the determination that there is a line-of-sight issue, the Chief recommended the current sign be replaced with a “No Parking” anytime sign between CVS and Chestnut Street.

MOTION: To remove the existing “No Parking except Sundays and Holidays” sign and install a new “No Parking” anytime sign.

James Gaylord

Seconded by Michael Royston

Motion Passed Unanimously

As a result of the email correspondence read earlier in the meeting, Commissioner Gaylord requested the Chief conduct a traffic study on Southwest Avenue to see if a three-way stop at Guilford and Southwest is warranted.

10) **Commissioner's Comments** –

Commissioner Cunningham would like the Commission to consider awarding Officers Lang and Barry Commendations for their work on DUI enforcement. Chief Osanitsch added that the Department will be receiving \$47,000 in Grant money next year due to the entire Department's work on this issue and that Officer Barry spends many hours as the sole Grant writer in the Department for this cause.

Chairman Brace thanked the Wellness Coalition for the “Hot and Pop” for K-9 Jaxx, and especially Sandy Jones and Youth Services Director Sarah Maffiolini for all they do.

Chief Osanitsch responded to Mr. Rousseau that we take the issue of Pistol Permits very seriously, and he can expect a written response within seven days.

Chief Osanitsch addressed Mr. Bracken's coyote issue by saying that it has been looked into. He stated that we have not received any complaints and that he did not direct Mr. Bracken to contact DEEP. He also stated that he has directed Officers to be on the lookout 24/7 on Patrol and there have been zero sightings. He added that if and when we receive complaints in the future, they will be addressed at that time.

11) **Adjournment** –

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:50 pm.

Edward Lanati

Seconded by James Gaylord

Motion Passed Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pfaffenbichler
Recording Secretary

A recording of this meeting is available on CD in the Town Clerk's Office.