

WINDSOR LOCKS POLICE COMMISSION  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
January 10, 2018

**“These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.”**

<b>Commissioners present:</b>	Andrew Kulas, Ricardo Rachele, James Szepanski, Michael Perry, Dan Squires and Mike Forschino
<b>Commissioners absent:</b>	None
<b>Also Present:</b>	Chief Eric Osanitsch, Captain Cliff Smith

- 1) Call to Order – Commissioner Kulas called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance – The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.
- 3) Public Input –

Michael Bracken – 12 Tinker Drive – 1) Mr. Bracken asked about the status of his multiple FOI requests and multiple complaints; 2) he questioned the approval process of budget expenditures; 3) he asked when meetings will be recorded; 4) has concerns about Officer Overtime and safety; and 5) complained about illegally parked cars.

- 4) Correspondence – None
- 5) Approval of the minutes for the regular meeting of December 13, 2017.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 13, 2017 with one correction.

Commissioner Rachele wanted the minutes changed to say that a Sergeant made \$170,000 rather than a Patrolman as the minutes stated.

James Szepanski  
All in Favor, Motion Passed 6/0

Seconded by Dan Squires

- 6) Chief’s Comments/Department Budget Update –

Chief Osanitsch responded to Mr. Bracken’s issue of FOI requests by stating all FOIs are directed to our Town Attorney. The Town Attorney acknowledges receipt of these FOIs to Mr. Bracken within the four day requirement and then follows a process for filling these requests.

- a) Budget Transfer to Dispatch OT Line - Chief Osanitsch stated a \$20,000 Budget transfer from the Dispatcher Salary line to Overtime was approved at last night’s Board of Finance meeting.
- b) Capital vehicle request update FY 17/18 budget – Chief Osanitsch explained that he attended a Board of Finance meeting on November 28 at which time a police vehicle in the amount of \$32,000 was temporarily approved. He later discovered that at the November 29 Board of Finance meeting this vehicle was cut from the budget and no

attempt was made to relay this information to Chief Osanitsch. He also noted that the temporary approval was listed in the minutes of the November 28 meeting but the cut was not listed in the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup>. As a result, Chief Osanitsch attended last night's Board of Finance meeting to see what could be done to rectify the issue. He was told at that meeting that there was only \$9,200 left in the Capital Budget and was asked to find the balance of \$22,000 in the Windsor Locks Police Department's Operating Budget. A short discussion followed as to whether or not this was feasible.

The Chief stated he is busy with the process for the 2018/19 budget year which needs to be completed sometime in February.

## 7) New Business –

- a) Calendar 2017 Department response/call statistics – Chief Osanitsch explained that the Stat Report in their packets is computer generated. It is in a raw state and some calls may need to be reclassified. He also stated that Captain Smith is working on generating a monthly report for the Commission that outlines the Department's major crimes and quality of life issues starting with January 1 stats.

A discussion followed where Commissioner Szepanski asked if we charge for False Alarm calls to which the Chief answered No, and Commissioner Rachele questioned some of the stats such as Meal Breaks and Family Offense/Non-Violent. Commissioner Rachele asked for last year's stats for comparison.

Commissioner Rachele initiated a conversation regarding the taping of our Commission meetings. The recording secretary explained the process that was agreed upon at an earlier Commission meeting where meetings are taped and kept at the Police Department.

Commissioner Rachele inquired about the Church and Center Street crosswalk that was an issue brought up by the Board of Education. The conversation determined that they believe it is parents parking illegally that causes the issue and a cruiser will be sent to talk to those parents.

## 8) Old Business –

- a) Proposed noise ordinance – Chief Osanitsch stated the Ordinance is included in the packet. He believes that excessive noise issues could be handled on a case by case basis (same as Blight) and infractions issued if warranted. There aren't that many to justify purchasing noise meters which are expensive to maintain. This conversation will continue next month once Commissioners have had time to review the Ordinance.
- b) Officer Overtime – Chief Osanitsch again explained his position on hiring a 5<sup>th</sup> Sergeant in the Department. He said that we only have four Sergeants in our rotation and alone this requires filling two open positions per week. He added that having a Supervisor on duty at all times is required for risk management. He also explained that although salaries have increased approximately 26% over the last six years or so, the overtime budget has remained the same during the same timeframe. He stated that hiring will save money in the Overtime budget (approximately \$40,000 for the open beats).

Chief Osanitsch then added his comments regarding too many hours worked and Officer/Public safety. He explained that all our sworn Officers are working within the guidelines of the Contract. Although it may appear that higher salaries mean too many

hours, it is actually the increase in wages over the years that has increased the annual salaries for the Officers that work a lot of hours.

Chief Osanitsch added that we have two openings to fill within the department. One vacancy and Officer Hoynoski will be retiring on February 22. Commissioner Squires requested that we consider filling one of these positions with a younger Officer rather than a certified candidate.

Although normally reluctant to comment on Facebook posts, Chief Osanitsch felt it was necessary to comment on recent posts he believes are borderline ludicrous and without any fact basis. He justified each expense in our Training budget as fees or dues for the Department, many of which are state mandated. He also added that his Secretary does not sign off on anything. There is a process that has to be followed and approved only by the Chief. Everything that is paid for is budgeted and approved ahead of time by the Board of Finance. Chairman Kulas added that all expenditures are reviewed by our Finance Department and Auditors.

**9) Commissioner Comments –**

Chairman Kulas commented that all FOI complaints received directly by the Commission also go to the Town Attorney, Carl Landolina.

Commissioner Forschino stated that he believes none of what he hears and ½ of what he sees. He's new to the Commission and still learning. Chief Osanitsch responded that we understand there is a learning curve and he is available to answer any questions he may have.

**10) Adjournment –**

MOTION: To adjourn at 6:54 pm.  
James Szepanski  
All in Favor, Motion Passed 6/0

Seconded by Mike Forschino

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pfaffenbichler  
Recording Secretary