

6) New Business –

MOTION: To add to the Agenda the election of a new Chairman.

James Gaylord

Seconded by Kevin Brace

Motion Passed Unanimously

MOTION: To elect Michael Royston as the Chairman of the Police Commission effective immediately.

James Gaylord

Seconded by Kevin Brace

Motion Passed Unanimously

MOTION: To add to the Agenda the election of a new Vice Chairman.

Kevin Brace

Seconded by James Gaylord

Motion Passed Unanimously

MOTION: To elect Neal Cunningham as the Vice Chairman of the Police Commission effective immediately.

James Gaylord

Seconded by Kevin Brace

Motion Passed Unanimously

7) Commissioner's Comments –

Chairman Brace addressed the room with the following statement:

"It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Windsor Locks and the Men and Women of the Windsor Locks Police Department. I am deeply saddened to announce my resignation from the Windsor Locks Police Commission. With my retirement from The Connecticut Department of Correction, I am seeking other employment opportunities which require my family and I to relocate. I am extremely proud of the Men and Women of the Windsor Locks Police Department, especially those who rolled up their sleeves and worked so hard to change the Police Department from within. The residents of Windsor Locks can rest assured that their Police Department is one of the best in the State of Connecticut, and will always provide professional service every time they are summoned. I want to thank First Selectman Steven N. Wawruck for believing in my vision, supporting me, the Police Commission, and the Police Department. He is an unsung hero in the resurrection of our Police Department. I also want to thank the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for their bipartisan support over the years. I have enjoyed serving with each of my fellow Commissioners past and present. We may have not always agreed, but it's my belief that we have all done what we thought was the best for the Town. I wish you all well, and I know that you will continue to what is best for the Police Department and Windsor Locks. Chief Osanitsch, your honor and integrity are beyond reproach. You have shown the Department, Commission, and the Town how a professional Chief should manage a Police Department. I would like to thank the residents who believed in me enough to elect me, and support the much needed increases in our budget. For those who continue to attack the Department and the Commission with your self-serving agendas, the residents know better than to believe your rhetoric, which is why your propaganda gains no traction. History has, and will continue to judge you. I would especially like to thank my wife and kids who allowed me to sacrifice so many hours away from them for the good of the Department and the Town. Windsor Locks will always hold a special place in my heart."

Commissioner Gaylord also addressed the room and read a statement as well:

“I regret to announce that this will be my last Police Commission meeting as well. I’ve started a new job whose hours exclude me from further service on the Commission. I would like to thank the people of Windsor Locks for trusting me to serve as a Police Commission member for some 14 years now. It has been an honor and privilege to do so. I am confident that the people of Windsor Locks will be well served by the professional expertise of our Police Department and the Police Commission going forward. Our Police Officers have protected and served us despite suffering through the fires of adversity. They are true professionals and I commend them. Additionally, I would like to commend Chief Osanitsch for his excellent leadership which propelled the Police Commission into the 21st Century. Job well done Chief. Finally, I’d be remiss if I didn’t publicly thank and commend Kevin Brace for his vision and leadership that was key to putting the Police Department together at a very dark time in the history of the Department. The town of Windsor Locks owes you a debt of gratitude. Thank you Kevin for your selfless service and your sacrifice.”

Commissioner Cunningham added that he wanted to thank Kevin Brace for his leadership in finding the Chief and helping the Department gain a new morale and sense of duty. He also thanked James Gaylord for his multiple years of service to the Commission.

Commissioner Royston also thanked both men for their service and leadership. He thinks everyone in town has seen the changes in the Police Department, changes in attitude, changes in pride and professionalism.

Commissioner Royston spoke of the bill they had asked State Senator Kissel and State Representative Sayers to introduce that would change the law that required us to pay the legal fees for Sgt. Koistinen. The bill is now with the judiciary committee for its first review and they are looking for more people to come on board and co-sponsor the bill.

Commissioner Royston also thanked the Wellness Coalition for sponsoring the Law Enforcement Appreciation Day celebration and also thanked Thomas Kupec of The Gathering Grounds for donating Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner to the Officers that day.

Selectman Wawruck spoke on behalf of the Town and thanked both Chairman Brace and Commissioner Gaylord for their service to the Community.

Michael Bracken addressed Commissioner Royston and told him that his statement about Officers attitudes is degrading and a dishonor to those that worked for WLPD in the past. Commissioner Royston answered that he never mentioned Officers of “Past or Present” and stands by his statement.

Officer Garofalo also thanked both Chairman Brace and Commissioner Gaylord for all the time they gave volunteering on the Commission to “take the bull by the horns” and fix the Department. He added that they look forward to working with the new members and new Chairman of the Commission to continue moving forward and to get the job done.

Chief Osanitsch stated that the greatest honor is that both Chairman Brace and Commissioner Gaylord have the respect of the Officers and that is something they can be very proud of. He assured them that they will continue the mission that they started to make this Department the best it can be.

William Rousseau also thanked the men and women of the WLPD for the fine job that they do. He then asked why the majority of the new hires had to be Certified Officers and why we had to hire so many. He stated that the town has been misled about the amount of crime in Windsor Locks and the crime statistics will show that.

8) Adjournment –

MOTION: To adjourn at 8:30 pm.
Neal Cunningham
Motion Passed Unanimously

Seconded by Ricardo Rachele

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Pfaffenbichler
Recording Secretary

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