

MINUTES

WATERTOWN POLICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

WATERTOWN POLICE STATION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2009, 7:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Patricia Kropp, Secretary
Judy Sprano, Chairman
Jack Walton

ABSENT: Robert LeBlanc
Mark Tedesco

OTHERS PRESENT: Herm Desena, Deputy Police Chief
John Gavallas, Police Chief

1. Convene Regular Meeting - 7:30 P.M.

Ms. Sprano, Chairman, Called the Meeting to Order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Sprano, Chairman, executed the Roll Call.

3. Public Participation

Dave LeBlanc, Middlebury Road, Watertown, CT 06795

Mr. LeBlanc reported he had not yet received a Traffic Study for Heminway Park Road from Roy Cavanaugh as he had requested at last month's meeting.

Ms. Sprano replied she thought he wanted to know if a traffic study had been done and she spoke to Mr. Cavanaugh and he said no studies have been done.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding whether a traffic study had been done, and why decisions were made without the full Police Commission's approval.

Mr. LeBlanc requested a copy of the traffic study, through F.O.I.

Ms. Sprano, Chairman, Closed Public Participation at this time.

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4. Minutes

A. Regular Meeting – December 10, 2008

MOTION: (Ms. Kropp, sec. Mr. Walton) to Approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2008.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Correspondence

Chief Gavallas reported a letter was received from the State of Connecticut regarding future changes on roadways.

6. New Business

None

7. Unfinished Business

A. Civilian Complaint Policy

Ms. Sprano explained there are no changes, but they will attach a comment to any letter that goes out from Chief Gavallas stating they have an appeal process based on the policy.

MOTION: (Ms. Kropp, sec. Mr. Walton) to approve the Civilian Complaint as written.

Discussion: None

In Favor: Ms. Kropp, Ms. Sprano, Mr. Walton

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

MOTION CARRIED (3-0-0)

B. Budget Discussion

Chief Gavallas explained the budget, which is 3.1% over last year, which is less than the actual monetary increase. It's extremely bare bones. He pointed out the highlights as follows:

- Purchase 3 Patrol Cars (leased) (fully equipped with video cameras) Payment would be \$41,000 for the 3 cars.
- Replace 3 mobile data terminals in cars.
- Replace 1 in-house computer.
- Replace 2 portable radios.
- Purchasing Training Tapes & Equipment.

Salary increases are 3.5% and the overall budget over last year is only 3.1%.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

8. Chairman's Report

Ms. Sprano reported she has received a lot of complaints regarding removal of snow from sidewalks.

Chief Gavallas replied people have to make complaints to the Police Department, and a fine will be issued if the snow is not removed within 24 hours after the completion of the storm. If that happens, the Highway Department will shovel the sidewalk, but then the property owner will have to reimburse the Town for that service. Chief Gavallas will speak to the Director of Public Works about submitting a letter to the Town Times informing residents of the snow ordinance and that fines will be levied if the snow is not removed in a timely manner.

9. Chief's Report

A. December, 2008 - Police Department Activity

Chief Gavallas gave a report regarding the December activity in the Police Department which included:

- They took delivery of the Police Dog yesterday, a black Shepard from Czechoslovakia. He's 2.5 years old.
- Dave Marinaro was appointed as the dog handler for the Department. He took the dog home and will bond with him for the next 6 to 8 weeks. Training will begin in March. The dog is already pre-certified in tracking, biting, and obedience.

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10. Adjournment

MOTION: (Ms. Kropp, sec. Mr. Walton) to Adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Regular Meeting Adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sprano, Chairman
Watertown Police Commission

Approved: _____
Lynn M. LaForme, Clerk