

Suffield Police Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 12, 2013

AMENDED * July 17, 2013

The Regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on June 12, 2013 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT.

Present were Chairman Matt Joyal, Commissioners, Kenneth Pascoe, Kevin Armata, John Zavisza, Gary Paganelli and Linda Stevenson. Also present were Chief Michael Manzi and recording secretary Stacey Robbins.

* Officer Peter Osowiecki was also in attendance.

Mr. Joyal called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Staff of Allied Community Resources of Enfield thanked Chief Manzi and Captain Huntley for their presentation on Workplace violence and employee safety. Chief Manzi explained that the company has a home office in East Windsor and unsuccessfully reached out to Enfield and East Windsor Police Departments. About 120 people attended the presentation which lasted about 90 minutes.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING – May 15, 2013

Commissioner Stevenson commented on the Department Reports. She discussed requesting the addition of a year to date column and the minutes said the request was put on hold.

Mr. Zavisza made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Zavisza made a motion to accept the Department Reports with one correction. The date at the top of the page in the K-9 Report was 2012.

Chief Manzi discussed the increasing length of time needed to get the background checks processed. Originally it took about 4 weeks to get the background check processed, this

increased to 8 weeks and is currently 12-16 weeks to get the information returned from the State. That State Department is also now responsible for processing certifications for long barrel weapons as well as eligibility certificates for ammunition. The Chief anticipates that it may take up to six months to receive the background checks for pistol permits. He also discussed the jump in the number of pistol permit requests. Originally the PD received 3 requests per month on average. That increased to about 5 per week in the last year. Last week the department received 18 requests in one day.

The Chief also said he has received calls from seniors who have received calls from Alarm companies willing to put in systems since the Thrall Avenue case. He also was requested to write an article for the Observer to dispel fears and anxiety regarding the Thrall Avenue case. He did not provide an article due to the sensitive nature of the case.

Chief Manzi reported that the budget was on track as we near the end of the fiscal year.

He discussed the recent request from the Board of Finance to reduce the Town Budget by \$150,000 for next fiscal year. The First Selectman asked that the Police Department reduce their budget by \$25,000. The Chief suggested creating an unplanned events account that could be used to cover costs from snowstorms, etc. Chief Manzi noted that the Thrall case has cost over \$5,000 to date.

Chief Manzi said the Department hasn't come in over budget while he has been chief. The Department turns back money every year to the Town usually due to unplanned employee events like terminations, Workers' comp and Short term disability claims.

Chairman Joyal mentioned that the Off-Duty fund returns lots of money to the Town.

Chief Manzi said he is meeting with the First Selectman to discuss ways to cut the \$25,000 and will urge him to create the unplanned fund contingency account. The Commission offered their support and could attend the meeting if needed.

Chairman Joyal noted that the Training line is 21% over budget. Chief Manzi explained that training is key to the department and he will never deny mandatory or basic essential training. POSTC offers mandatory training for free. The training line also includes the costs of officers to replace coverage for the officer attending training. This usually results in overtime costs. On average if an officer attends training it costs the department 2.5 times the officer's salary.

Discussion was closed and the Department Reports were accepted by unanimous vote.

*** Department Reports are attached to these minutes ***

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Manzi commented on the new Police vehicle. He said that the new SUV gets 16 miles per gallon compared to the Crown Victoria which got 12 mpg which will save about \$4,000 in gas costs. Different maintenance schedules may also reduce maintenance costs.

Mr. Zavisza made a motion to accept the Chief's Report . It was seconded and passed unanimously.

*** Chief Manzi's full report is attached to these minutes ***

OLD BUSINESS

Animal Control Officer Dimauro was commended on the information put out regarding raccoons. Chairman Joyal mentioned that there are aggressive hawks in the area.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Mr. Zavisza made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel matters. Executive Session convened at 8:15 p.m. and ended at 8:58 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Mr. Zavisza moved that the meeting adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. by unanimous vote.

The next Police Commission Meeting will be Wednesday, July 17, 2013.