

OLD SAYBROOK POLICE COMMISSION
Special Meeting
September 22, 2011 MINUTES

A Special meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, June 27, 2011 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall. PRESENT: Chairman Burnham, Vice Chairman Conklin, Secretary Winkler, Commissioners Metsack, and Sparaco,. Chief Spera and Lieutenant Roche were also present.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Burnham called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Executive Session

1. Interview and Discuss Candidates for the Position of Patrolman

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Conklin to enter into Executive Session, inviting Chief Spera and Lieutenant Roche, for the purpose of interviewing and discussing candidates for the position of Patrolman. Commissioner Winkler seconded the motion. Motion Passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Laura McDonnell entered Executive Session at 7:23 PM.

Ms. Laura McDonnell left Executive Session at 7:46 PM.

Ms. Brianna Santello entered Executive Session at 7:48 PM.

Ms. Brianna Santello left Executive Session at 8:09 PM.

Mr. Oscar DeLima entered Executive Session at 8:11 PM.

Mr. Oscar DeLima left Executive Session at 8:31 PM.

Executive Session concluded at 8:51 PM.

III. Discussion and Action pertaining to the position of Patrolman.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Conklin to: 1) Hire Mr. Oscar DeLima as a Patrolman pending successful results of a medical examination; 2) To have Oscar DeLima begin employment on a date to be determined by the Chief of Police, 3) To place Ms. Brianna Santello on a hire list for the position of Patrolman for eighteen (18) months; and 4) To authorize the Chief of Police to hire Ms. Santello should a vacancy arise in the next eighteen months as long as she is able to successfully pass an additional agility exam, background investigation, and medical examination. Commissioners Winkler and Metsack seconded the motion. Motion Passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Discussion and Action - Police Commission By- Law Addition – Old Saybrook Police Fund

Commissioners discussed the proposed By-Law addition that was tabled last meeting. After some discussion **A motion was made by Commissioner Sparaco to accepted the proposed By-Law Addition. Commissioners Metsack and Winkler seconded the motion. Motion Passed by unanimous vote.**

V. Discussion and Action - Police Commission By- Law-Revision– Executive Committee

Commissioners discussed the proposed By-Law addition that was inspired by Commissioner Metsack. While no detailed language was discussed, the intent of the By-Law revision will be to limit the powers of the Executive Committee. At Commissioner Metsack's request, further discussion will take at next meeting. **A motion was made by Commissioner Conklin to table the discussion until the next meeting. Commissioner Sparaco seconded the motion. Motion Passed by unanimous vote.**

VI. Activity Report

The Commission viewed and discussed the Department's Activity Report. There was much discussion about the Department's response to the Hurricane. The Chief praised Department personnel along with all municipal and public safety personnel who assisted during the storm. He stated that the effort to assist the community was unified and coordinated. Chairman Burnham thanked the Chief for his foresight and leadership during the storm and with Department Operations. She stated that the Chief's Vision was clearly recognizable during the response and recovery efforts. Commissioners agreed and praised the Department.

VII. Comments and Reports from the Chief of Police

The Chief spoke about current operations and praised the employees for their dedication and commitment to not only routine tasks, but the unique services required during the First Daughter visit and Storm Irene.

He spoke about FEMA personnel being present at the police facility. He stated that they will be there until the beginning of October and are meeting with and providing assistance to those in need in Middlesex County.

There was some discussion about the progress of the building committee. The Chief stated that he is disappointed with the process and is hopeful that all involved can place aside political agendas and personal issues to ensure a facility is constructed that is fiscally responsible and will allow for safe, efficient, and effective law enforcement functions. Commissioners stated that they have similar concerns. Vice Chairman Conklin stated that delaying the project will not decrease costs. He stated that the first Committee of which he was Chairman of has done much of the work that the new committee is working on, including determining that the cost of renovation is more than new construction.

VII. Comments and/or Concerns from Commissioners

There was much continued discussion regarding the expenditure of funds from the "Legal" line item in the police budget by the First Selectman. The Chairman reviewed the letter that she sent to Attorney Cronin at the Commission's request. She stated that the matter has been referred and that the Commission should expect a response and formal written opinion in the coming weeks. Commissioners stated that this issue is important and a legal opinion is needed as soon as possible.

Commissioner Metsack brought up the importance of implementing a less than lethal force program, including tasers. The Chief spoke about past efforts and agreed that the topic should be explored in detail. The Chief suggested that the topic be explored internally and that a report be provided to the Commission over the next several months.

X. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Vice Chairman Conklin to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Metsack. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael A. Spera, Chief of Police

Approved October 24, 2011