

Old Saybrook Police Commission

Regular Meeting

February 26, 2024

MINUTES

A regular hybrid meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, February 26, 2024. The meeting was recorded and can be viewed in its entirety at <https://youtu.be/7aYv24RPzpl>

Present: Chairman Wilcox, Vice Chairman Shippee, Secretary Notar-Francesco, Commissioners Von Dassel, Ciliano and Prast. Commissioner Calle was present virtually. Chief Spera was present from the Department of Police Services.

I. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance (0:20)

Chairman Wilcox called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Comments from the Public (0:38)

There were no comments from the public.

III. Discussion and Possible Action on the Meeting Minutes for:

a. Regular Meeting – January 22, 2024 (0:55)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to approve the January 22, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Ciliano seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

IV. Correspondence (1:23)

Chairman Wilcox stated that the Commission received one correspondence that was also forwarded to the clerk.

V. Executive Reports (1:35)

a. FY 25 Budget Process (1:42)

Chief Spera stated that the Police Department resubmitted their budget to the Board of Selectmen with a reduction of \$80,000. Chief Spera stated that there was no additional action taken on the budget by the Board of Selectmen. He also thanked Vice Chair Shippee for attending the meeting and supporting the budget. He stated that the Board of Finance will discuss the Police Department budget on March 19th and he encouraged all Commissioners to attend.

b. FY 2024 Operating Budget (3:52)

Chief Spera stated that he has no concerns with the budget.

c. Off Budget Accounts (4:52)

Chief Spera stated that the Commission received the report in the packet.

d. Personnel Matters (8:05)

Chief Spera stated that a 10 day suspension was issued to an employee. He stated that the employee will receive a last chance agreement when they return to work.

e. Professional Development Update (8:51)

Chief Spera stated that there is no professional development update.

f. Activity Report (8:53)

Chief Spera stated that the activity report was included in the packet.

VI. Discussion Concerning the PERF Study and Commission Expectations. (10:35)

Chairman Wilcox stated that this agenda item is not a personal attack on Chief Spera but that he wanted to address the two concerns regarding the study that the Chief has raised. Chairman Wilcox stated that Chief Spera has previously stated that the Commission does not know the scope of the study and that the process was flawed and he wanted to respond to both of those sentiments.

Chairman Wilcox read a statement expressing his differing opinions on the concerns that Chief Spera has raised regarding the PERF Study, the process and the scope.

VII. Commission Workshop – The Second in Command Position. (17:20)

Chief Spera stated that his goal with having this on the agenda is to have good collaborative discussion. He stated that the Commission needs to decide on a position title, rank, benefit package and what exactly the Commission is looking for.

Chief Spera suggested different ideas, with options of promoting from within the Department or hiring from the outside. He stated that the individual would be ready to take on the Chief position should anything happen.

The Commission discussed the Second in Command position. The Chief provided various ideas of how the Commission might want to configure the hierarchy.

Secretary Notar-Francesco stated that the Commission needs to decide how to move forward as a group with this. She stated that nothing will be decided tonight but it does need to be put on the forefront.

Chief Spera stated that the Commission can form an employee search committee in which all seven Commissioners can be involved. He stated that they can work together under FOIA laws and not have it be all public meetings.

Vice Chairman Shippee asked how the Commission would find out who, internally, would be interested in a promotion.

Chief Spera stated that the Commission could speak with the Sergeants about potential opportunities.

Commissioner Prast asked what a healthy and realistic timeline would be.

Chief Spera stated that the Commission needs time to think about everything. He suggested that at the next meeting there can be more discussion and, from there, form an employee search committee.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action to Enter into Executive Session for the Purposes of Discussing Police Union Contract Negotiations. (53:12)

Chief Spera stated that there has not been a negotiation session so there is no need to enter into Executive Session for discussion.

IX. Discussion and Possible Action to Enter into Executive Session for an Employee Matter. (54:04)

Chief Spera stated that there is no employee matter to be discussed so there is no need to enter into Executive Session.

X. Comments from the Public (54:12)

There were no comments from the public.

XI. Comments from the Chief of Police (54:23)

There were no comments from the Chief of Police.

XII. Comments from Police Commissioners (54:27)

Commission Calle commented.

XIII. Adjournment (56:08)

Secretary Notar-Francesco made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ciliano seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer D'Amato
Records Clerk for the Old Saybrook Police Commission