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POLICE COMMISSION

JACK TESTANI, CHAIRMAN
PHILIP DIGENNARO
ALFRED LIGGINS
ROGER MCGOVERN
DANIEL PORTANOVA
ALBERT ZAMARY

Trumbull Police Commission Meeting
Police Headquarters – Chief’s Conference Room
February 23, 2015, 2015

MINUTES

The Trumbull Police Commission meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.

Members present: Jack Testani, Chairman
Philip DiGennaro
Alfred Liggins
Daniel Portanova
Albert Zamaray

Absent: Roger McGovern

Also Present: Chief Michael Lombardo
Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes
Lieutenant Thomas Savarese
Detective Robert Coppola
Officer Blake Petty
Officer Rocco Testi
Officer Joseph Velky
Officer Gary Yocher

Approval of the January 20, 2015 Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2015 as presented.
Motion made first by Commissioner Zamaray, seconded by Commissioner Portanova. There was
no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Correspondence

None.

Chairman Testani welcomed Troop 67 and Police Explorer Jenna Race.

Chief's Report

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Calls-for-Service for the month of January and there was a 2% increase in burglaries from fiscal year 2014. Medical calls have increased by 22 calls from fiscal year 2014. There were over 1,400 traffic stops for the month of January. The report provided statistics of 911 hang up calls, drug violations, risk of injury, unwanted persons and wires down.

Chairman Testani asked why the increase on the alarms. Chief Lombardo indicated that it could be due to the high winds. Commissioner DiGennaro asked if the false alarms have decreased since the fees were initiated. Chief Lombardo reported that the alarms have decreased slightly. Deputy Chief Byrnes indicated overall the calls are at a daily lower average over the past years. Last year the calls averaged at 8 per day and currently they are at 7 per day. For the month of January 2015 the average is 6 ½ calls per day.

Chairman Testani also mentioned that in previous meetings one of the things brought up are the false alarms for town buildings and one of them being the Board of Education buildings. Has there been any improvement with the false alarms for the Board of Education. Has there been any further contact with Superintendent Cialfi regarding the false alarms at the Board of Education buildings. Chief Lombardo indicated that he has not contact Superintendent Cialfi regarding the false alarms but mentioned that there are a lot of people that work and enter the buildings at different hours and it's hard at times to control the false alarms but they are working on reducing them.

Commissioner DiGennaro asked if the false alarms the officers respond to are they homes or businesses and what are the causes of the alarms being activated. Chief Lombardo indicated that the officers respond mainly to home alarms and the cause could be all types of scenarios, weather or someone setting the alarm off accidentally.

Chief Lombardo mentioned that years ago there was an alarm notification notice that was left at the homes indicating that an officer were at their home due to a false alarm. The department would like to implement the notification form on March 1, 2015.

Chairman Testani asked if a copy can be provided via email to the commissioners. Chief Lombardo indicated that a copy will be sent to the commission.

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Arrest Summary, there were two (2) different statistics that was provided which included disorderly conduct, larceny, failure to appear and negligent homicide arrest which was from the motorcycle accident and the arrest was made in January.

Traffic Report

Complaint: Improper Turns Rte 127 @ Quality St.

Town Highway was contacted and requested to post additional Do Not Enter signs to enhance the traffic direction.

The Traffic Division is doing a great job on the DUI Enforcement Grant.

Traffic Officer Richard assisted Trumbull EMS and Monroe EMS by performing required mechanical D.O.T. inspections for ambulances.

57 total cases were assigned to the Traffic Division Officers during the month of January. These cases included: 1 motor vehicle complaint, 16 car seat installations, 3 escorts, and 21 motor vehicle citations (Includes DUI Grant).

Training Report

Chief Lombardo reported that every 3 years the officers need to complete 60 hours of recertification and the report reflected the recertification that took place in January and will continue in February, March and April. There was also ERT Training, community events, TPAUD and Security Risk Assessment on Quarry Road.

The following report showed the Police Explorers met with Sergeants Falkenstein, Weir, Officers Fedor and M. Gonzalez and reviewed the policy and procedures, assignments and scheduling for 2105. Chief Lombardo introduced Officer Fedor as he is the advisor for the Police Explorer program in Trumbull. Also present was Jenna Racz who recently was promoted to Captain. Officer Fedor explained the procedure, the explorer takes a written exam, a panel is created and they go through an oral interview. There were two explorers that were eligible they were Jenna Racz and Addiel Rodriguez. Captain Racz explained that the program is more hands on learning. The Explorers also attend Station Day in which they perform different tasks that an officer would do, as in motor vehicle stops, building searches, drug seizures, etc. and are scored against other police cadet programs, as in Fairfield and Bridgeport. Recently at the SWAT challenge the Explorers came in 4th in the state. Chairman Testani asked what grade Captain Racz is in. Captain Racz responded she is a sophomore at the University of New Haven majoring in Criminal Justice. She has been with the program since she was 14 years old. Chairman Testani thanked Captain Racz for her commitment and it shows as she has been promoted to the rank of Captain. Chairman Testani asked if Captain Racz had any questions about the procedures/role of the Police Commission. Captain Racz responded that Officer Fedor explained to her what the role is for the Police Commission. Chairman Testani thanked Captain Racz for attending the meeting and if she would like to know more of the role for the Police Commission there is a specific section in the Town Charter that describes their role.

Sick Report

Chief Lombardo mentioned beside some long term illness and sickness for the month of January otherwise it was a good month. Chief Lombardo asked if there were any questions on the sick report provided. There were none.

Detective Bureau Report

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Detective Bureau report 62 cases were opened in January of which 51 have been closed. 32 open cases from previous months added to the 11 remaining open from January equal 43 open cases.

Chairman Testani thought that the 33 fingerprint cases open where a high number and asked if it that is an unusual number. Chief Lombardo responded that it is not unusual, as it ranges from pistol permits, adoptions and Board of Education.

Budget Overview

Chief Lombardo along with Deputy Chief Byrnes, Lt. Savarese, and Lt. Kirby went before the Board of Finance to discuss the Trumbull Police Departments 2015-2016 budge. Some of the topics that were discussed were the the overtime account, police vehicles and other items on the budget. Chief Lombardo has not received any feedback on the budget therefore the department will wait to see how the Town Council votes on March 3rd. Deputy Chief Byrnes offered to provide a copy of the budget proposal. Chief Lombardo along with the Police Commission discussed in detail the need of new police vehicles as it is for the safety for the officers and the residents. There was also detailed discussion of the part-time police mechanic and it has been requested for a full-time police mechanic in the 2015-2016 budget. Chairman Testani asked what the overtime budget request for the police department was. Chief Lombardo indicated that the department requested for \$725,000 and the First Selectman requested \$625,000.

Commissioner DiGennaro asked how many officers the department is down. Chief Lombardo indicated that the department is down by two (2) officers. The department runs a chance that someone could retire as there are many officers that have the years and could retiree. Chief Lombardo mentioned should there be qualified applicants on the list they need to be interviewed quickly so the applicants are not hired by other police departments.

Chairman Testani asked how it is advertised should there be an opening for police officers. Lt. Savarese indicated that he is in contact with the Personnel Department and it is advertise in the newspaper, academy website, policeapp.com.

Unfinished Business

Chief Lombardo provided an update on the police substation at the Westfield Shopping Center. There is another location that has been located as the previous one discussed in the January meeting has been taken by a retail store. Commissioner Zamarly asked if the new location was better than the one that was previously discussed. Deputy Chief Byrnes indicated it is a good location and provided a map of the location for the police substation. Deputy Chief Byrnes indicated he was not given a time frame on the new location. Chairman Testani asked would it be possible to get a commitment date from the general manager for the March meeting. Deputy Chief Byrnes will check with the manager. Chief Lombardo indicated that he would like to make sure that the new location is for a long period of time and would not like to be informed in 6 to 8 months that the substation needs to be relocated.

Chairman Testani asked Deputy Chief Byrnes to please follow-up with the general manager and provide an update of when the police department will know more information about the new substation location. Chairman Testani also asked Deputy Chief Byrnes to provide the commission on a weekly basis the status of the substation.

Chairman Testani mentioned the potential threat submitted through the FBI from ISIS towards the Mall of America and he asked what the security measures are for the Westfield Shopping Center. Chief Lombardo indicated that his staff spoke over the weekend as that is when the Police Department became aware of the threat. Chief Lombardo wishes not to go into details but the department has been in communication with the mall along with management on some of the security measures which are already in place.

Chairman Testani reminded the commission that the new March meeting date is March 18th and asked the commission if everyone was okay with the date. The commission was in agreement of new date.

Union Business

Commissioner DiGennaro made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Union business and interview of entry level candidates at 7:21 p.m. MOTION made by first by Commissioner DiGennaro and seconded by Commissioner Portanova. ALL IN FAVOR, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Testani informed the guest at meeting that the commission has entered into executive session and thanked them for attending meeting.

Entering into Executive Session: Chairman Testani, Commissioners Liggins, McGovern, Portanova, Zmary, Chief Lombardo, Deputy Chief Byrnes, Detectives Coppola, Testi, Officer Petty and Vivian Munoz.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 7:39 p.m. Motion made first by Commissioner Portanova, seconded by Commissioner Liggins. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made by Commissioner Portanova withdraw Grievance 14-07 and enter into settlement agreement with the Trumbull Police Union Local 1745, AFSCME Council 15, AFL-CIO.

The Town of Trumbull and the Trumbull Police Union agree that the Detective Bureau Sergeant position, which was posted on August 8, 2014, shall be re-posted in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement under Article 4, Section 5.

Said position shall be a permanently assigned position within the Detective Bureau, per Article 4, Section 7.

Said posting shall be announced on the Town's bulletin board no later than March 10, 2015.

The settlement agreement was signed by President Robert Coppola, Vice President, Blake Petty and Chairman Jack Testani.

MOTION made by Commissioner Portanova, seconded by Commissioner Liggins. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Executive Session for Police Candidate Interviews

A motion was made to enter into Executive Session for Police Candidate Interviews at 7:45 p.m. MOTION made by Commissioner Portanova, seconded by Commissioner DiGennaro. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Entering into Executive Session: Commissioners Testani, Liggins, DiGennaro, Portanova and Zamary. Also in Executive Session Chief Lombardo, Deputy Chief Byrnes, Lieutenant Savarese, Officer Velky, Officer Yocher and Vivian Munoz.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. MOTION made by Commissioner Liggins, seconded by Commissioner DiGennaro. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made to approve the hiring of candidate Joseph Iucci and Francisco Jimenez, contingent to their successful completion of the final medical examination with start date at the Police Academy of April 2, 2015. MOTION made by Commissioner Portanova, seconded by Commissioner DiGennaro. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made to table under New Business the discussion and consideration of filling vacant Deputy Chief Position.

MOTION made by Commissioner Portanova, seconded by Commissioner DiGennaro. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no further business to discuss, and upon motion made by Commissioner Portanova, seconded by Commissioner Liggins, the Trumbull Police Commission adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Munoz
Clerk of the Commission