Chairman Commissioner Chris Weldon called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Don Sauvigne, Chief Michael Lombardo, Deputy Chief Robert Crosby, Captain John Lynch, Officer Steven Rangel, First Selectman William Brennan, Sarah Taffel, William Bishop, Chris Bishop and Billy Bishop (Blue Buffalo Pet Foods), former Commissioner Mark Ketley, Alissa Smith (The Daily Wilton) and representatives from News Channel 12, The Hour and the Wilton Bulletin.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Waters made a motion to scramble the agenda to take up the first matter of new business. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 3-0.

A. Acceptance of Donation to the Police Canine Program

Chief Lombardo announced that Blue Buffalo Pet Foods had made a donation of $50,000 toward the institution of the Canine Program, and that with the donation the Canine Program could be instituted and financially sustained for at least three years, which was the threshold established by the Department and the Commission in order to move forward with the program. Chief Lombardo and the Commission expressed their gratitude to the Bishop family for their civic involvement and generosity, and also to former Commissioner Mark Ketley for his efforts in putting the Bishops in touch with the Department. First Selectman Brennan echoed the Town’s appreciation. Chief Lombardo introduced Officer Steven Rangel, who has been selected as the Canine Officer, and noted that the Canine Program will be a deterrent to crime, an investigative tool, an aid in finding missing persons, and another way to interact with the public and better serve the citizens of Wilton.
MINUTES

Commissioner Sauvigne made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Motion carried 3-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed. The number of MV Stops were reviewed with the Commissioners, and the Commissioners commended the patrol officers on their great job despite the challenges of limited available personnel. Chief Lombardo noted that a significant tool in preventing MVAs with injuries is having patrol officers on the streets so that motorists slow down and do not engage in distracted driving. The Commission acknowledged Chief Lombardo’s letter to the media regarding the ongoing Parisot investigation. The Department has done an outstanding job investigating this crime and will continue to work to bring it to a close.

The Activity Report was reviewed. Domestic complaints are consistent with last month and EMS Assists are up but are consistent with last year. MVAs are up which may be the result of warmer weather; Route 7 is always the main concern with MVAs due to the volume of vehicles on the road. “Click it or Ticket” ends on Monday; Wilton has a high percentage of drivers who wear seatbelts (94.5%) based on a visual survey by officers. The percentage of drivers wearing seatbelts has steadily increased and as younger drivers are taught to drive seatbelt use is becoming automatic. However, distracted driving is still a major concern and the Chief noted improvements in the area will be more difficult.

The MAC Report was reviewed and discussed. Chief Lombardo noted that the officers assigned to MAC were only able to perform these functions for three days last month because they were covering patrols and filling in on other assignments to avoid overtime costs, a direct result of the limited available personnel. The Department has officers trained for the Bike Patrol and it would be beneficial to have officers on bikes a couple of times a week as another way to interact with the public, particularly with kids. Commissioner Weldon noted a citizen concern with respect to line of sight at several intersections, and requested that the Department be made aware of any line of sight issues so that they can be passed on to DPW for action; with warmer weather vegetation is growing and impeding lines of sight, and this can contribute significantly to MVAs. The Commission discussed the availability and frequency of officers walking through town center; Chief Lombardo noted that the officers do so now, and when a new establishment opens in town they introduce themselves, discuss how they can assist the business owner and get contact information in case they need to be reached after hours. Ideally the Department would like to sometime in the future establish a substation in Wilton Center as a base for foot and bike patrols. The Department will perform a Nu-Metrics study of speeds on School Road within the next two weeks while schools are still in session to compare with the study of vehicle speeds performed before the digital radar sign was installed at that location. The suggested locations for the third fixed location digital radar sign will be presented to the Commission for consideration at a future meeting.
The SRO Report was reviewed and discussed. A meeting with a fundraiser for the Explorer program will be held in the near future. The SRO assisted the patrol division as well as performing SRO functions. Despite his many other duties, Detective Tarrant has done a very good job with the SRO Report. Chief Lombardo noted that the Wilton detectives have been integral to the resolution of the CVS cases as well as major bank fraud cases with impact along the East Coast.

**REPORT OF CHIEF LOMBARDO**

Letters of thanks and jobs well done and other miscellaneous matters were reviewed.

- Letter from Chief Lombardo thanking Kate Lewis for sweets that she brought to the Department.
- Email from First Selectman Bill Brennan, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, congratulating first responders for their performance during two serious fires.
- Email that was sent to Bill Brennan praising the Town’s departments, from Inge Maerowitz.
- Letter from Chief Lombardo thanking Peg Koellmer for the bust of Connecticut Fallen Heroes named “Remembrance” that was auctioned off at the Trackside Spring Fling.
- Memo from Chief Lombardo to Dispatcher Nicole Kenny for the professionalism she demonstrated during a critical call.
- Email from Donald McGran, Jr. to Chief Lombardo and Deputy Chief Crosby, thanking Officer Paul Lichtenberger, Officer John Godfrey and the Department for their prompt and professional response to an incident.
- Thank you letter to Lt. Stephen Brennan from Zions Hill Preschool Event Chairperson for the Department’s donation of a ride in a cruiser.
- Letter from Janice Heggie Margolis (Exec. Dir. Of MADD CT) notifying Sgt. Jim Dempsey that he will be receiving special recognition at the Law Enforcement Recognition Ceremony.
- Letter from Madison Police Chief Drumm thanking Lt. Steve Bartek for his participation in the Sergeant’s Oral Board.

Chief Lombardo made special note of Sergeant Dempsey’s recognition by MADD CT, in light of his over fifteen years in DUI enforcement.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

B. Consideration of Officer Request for Extension of Residency Requirement under Article 19 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
Chief Lombardo reported that Officer Dolenk has requested an extension of the residency requirement. Under Article 19 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement a member of the Department must live within 45 road miles from Town Hall, and the Chief and the Commission may, on request, increase that to 50 miles. Officer Dolenk resides approximately 46-47 miles (and in any event less than 50 miles) from Town Hall, and there has never been an issue of tardiness or a failure to timely report for duty. The Commission indicated its inclination to grant the extension upon receipt of specific details of the distance of the waiver which were not available at the meeting. Commissioner Weldon made a motion to grant a temporary extension of the residency requirement until the next Commission meeting, at which time the additional information would be available for consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Motion carried 3-0.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Weldon noted that there are currently a number of Department personnel that have significant life issues for which they could use financial help, and he requested that a brainstorming session on ideas to raise funds for the Police Fund be placed on next month’s agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

At 5:56 p.m., Commissioner Weldon opened the meeting to the public. There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:58 p.m., the meeting went into Executive Session to discuss ongoing Labor Issues. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session and a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Sauvigne seconded by Commissioner Waters and passed 3-0.

Respectively submitted,
David F. Waters, Acting Recording Secretary