Wilton Police Commission

POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
14 SEPTEMBER 2016

CTO

Chairman Don Sauvigne called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner David Waters, Commissioner Matt Mason (arrived 9:30 p.m.), Chief Robert Crosby, Captain John Lynch, Captain Thomas Conlan, Director of Human Resources Sarah Taffel (arrived 8:14 p.m.) and members of the public.

MINUTES

Commissioner Waters made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2016 regular meeting and the July 27, 2016 special meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 2-0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sauvigne and seconded by Commissioner Waters to scramble the agenda. Motion passed 2-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Speed Hump Placement on Buckingham Ridge Road

The Commission reviewed the analysis prepared by Lieutenant Cipolla. Chief Crosby explained to the members of the public present that Buckingham Ridge met six of the eight established criteria for consideration of speed humps but the two criteria that were not met included visibility, so as a matter of safety speed humps were not recommended for this location. The issue with speeding occurs predominantly during commuter hours. A discussion ensued as to possible other traffic calming alternatives, and the Commission by a vote of 2-0 agreed with Lieutenant Cipolla’s recommendation to approve the installation of 25 mph speed limit signs, and also agreed that Buckingham Ridge would be a location for future selective enforcement including use of the portable radar trailer and occasional patrols. The Commission further asked that Lieutenant Cipolla investigate with the neighbors the possibility that the neighbors could put a mirror on
Town property at the curve in the road in order to provide better visibility, particularly for pedestrians.

**DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS**

Monthly reports were reviewed and discussed. The Commissioners were pleased with the number of MV Stops in July and August, which continued to reflect consistent high exposure and monitoring on the roadways.

The Activity Reports for July and August were reviewed. The Commission noted that activity levels are consistent year over year. A significant number of fingerprinting was performed, related to the school system, and again during this period a high number of pistol permits was being processed as a result of concerns that gun rights may be limited in the future.

The MAC Reports for July and August were reviewed. Chief Crosby noted that the MAC position is currently not filled and he expressed a desire, now that the Department is approaching full strength, to fill the position on a full time basis. However, this may have implications with respect to overtime costs and the Commission encouraged the Chief to be sensitive to the balance of overtime cost against the benefits of a full time MAC officer. The Commission noted that the Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant was used for WAVE enforcement from August 3-16, 2016 and resulted in 157 infractions for cell phone use, texting and other observed distracted driving, of which 5 infractions issued were to multiple-time offenders.

The SRO Reports for July and August were reviewed. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the reports.

The Overtime Reports for July and August were reviewed. The Commission noted that the number of hours in the reporting period was acceptable, with some of the overtime cost subject to reimbursement or SEU grants. The August overtime was slightly higher as a result of deferred necessary training time, and the illness and coinciding scheduled vacation of sergeants.

The Accreditation Reports for July and August were reviewed. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the progress being made and the reporting, and Chief Crosby reported that the system to approve proofs and procedures is running smoothly.

There were no K9 Reports for July or August, because K9 Enzo has been retired and K9 Baso is still in training.

**REPORT OF CHIEF CROSBY**

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

Letters:
• Letter of thanks from Ms. Priscilla Crawford Babchak recognizing the hard work, dedication, service and selflessness of the Department’s officers; Chief Crosby’s response and thanks for cookies delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks and gratitude from Ms. Eva Puorro and family recognizing the hard work and dedication of the Department’s officers; Chief Crosby’s response
• Letter of thanks from the Damodar family recognizing Officers Canepari and Harris and Sergeant Baker for their assistance; Chief Crosby’s response and thanks for sandwiches delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks from Ms. Pamela Docters and Mr. Bért Schefers recognizing Officer Patenaude for his assistance at a motor vehicle accident; Chief Crosby’s response
• Letter of thanks from Congressman Jim Himes recognizing the service of the Department’s officers
• Letter of thanks from Wayne Dengler for flowers that were sent
• Facebook post from Dave Dzurilla expressing appreciation for the service of the Department’s officers
• Email from Jim and Marilyn Young for the assistance, comfort and security provided by the Department while the Youngs were staying in their RV at the Park & Ride while visiting family
• Letter of thanks from Greta and Vivian Acton for the welfare check on a relative; Chief Crosby’s response and thanks for contribution made to the Police Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Boychuck for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to Ms. Kelly Haddy for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to Mr. and Mrs. Dean Coriveau for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Hunter for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to the Krasnow Family Foundation for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to Mr. and Mrs. Richard King for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to Ms. Peggy Miller Furanna for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Pettit for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to Ms. Mary McArdle and Mr. Christopher Keohoe for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to Ms. Lauren Pinchbeck for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Crosby to the Bishop Family and Blue Buffalo Company, LTD for contributions to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to Mr. Michael Smollar for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to Mr. Austin Dodson and Ms. Amy Ethridge Dodson for contribution to the K9 Fund
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to Ms. Carol Johnson (Fairfield County Bank) for sandwiches delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to Mr. Michael Powers for pizzas delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to Ms. Adriana Quintero for donuts delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Kosh for food delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to Sheridan Interiors Inc. for flowers delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to the Cianna Family for cookies delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to the McBrinn Family for cookies delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to Mrs. Claire Furano and Matthew and Andrew Robilotto for cookies and chips delivered to the Department
• Letter of thanks from Chief Cosby to Fr. Reggie Norman and the Our Lady of Fatima Congregation for lunch and dinner delivered to the Department

Donations to the Wilton Police Fund:

• $50.00 – Greta and Vivian Acton

Donations (Other – all to K9 Fund):

• $100.00 – Ms. Kelly Haddy
• $200.00 – Mr. and Mrs. Dean Corriveau
• $200.00 – Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Hunter
• $1,000.00 – Krasnow Family Foundation
• $100.00 – Mr. and Mrs. Richard King
• $25.00 – Ms. Peggy Miller Furanna
• $25.00 – Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Boychuck
• $50.00 – Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Pettit
• $150.00 – Ms. Mary McArdle and Mr. Christopher Kehoe
• $2,000.00 – Ms. Lauren R. Pinchbeck
• $10,000.00 – Blue Buffalo Company
• $4,000.00 – Mr. and Mrs. William Bishop and Family
• $224.00 – Mr. Michael Smollar
• $40.00 – Mr. Austin Dodson and Ms. Amy Ethridge

Miscellaneous:
Chief Crosby noted that the Citizen’s Police Academy will commence on September 15, 2016 for eight weeks and has a full class of 15 participants and a waiting list. Chief Crosby also specifically noted the generous donation by Blue Buffalo and the Bishop family for the K9 program. The Commission suggested that when K9 Baso completes his training a more formal recognition of donors could occur on the date K9 Baso is introduced into service.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Dispatch

Captain Conlan reported that the process developed with the Fire Department to enhance the communications between the two departments is working well.

NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

B. Stop Line Placement on Chicken Street and Branch Brook Road

At the request of a resident who reported that motorists failed to stop at posted stop signs at the intersection of Chicken Street and Branch Brook Road, and following an investigation by Lieutenant Cipolla, the Commission approved the installation of painted stop lines in two locations at this intersection by a vote of 2-0.

C. Pedestrian Crossing Signage at Old Ridgefield Road and Hubbard Road

At the request of a resident who reported that there is a pedestrian crossing warning sign visible for westbound traffic at this location but that similar signage for eastbound traffic does not exist, and following an investigation by Lieutenant Cipolla, the Commission approved the installation of pedestrian crossing signage at this location by a vote of 2-0.

D. Line of Sight at 162 Hurlbutt Street

The Department received a complaint from a resident that a neighbor’s fence obstructed the sightlines from his driveway and Lieutenant Cipolla conducted an investigation, but the fence in question has been removed by the neighbor and the Commission therefore took no action on this request.

E. Request for Stop Signs, Speed Humps and No-Through Truck Signage at High Ridge Road

Lieutenant Cipolla will perform an investigation of this resident request and upon completion of his investigation he will provide recommendations to the Commission.
F. Complaint of Speeding at Olmstead Hill Road and English Drive

Road milling and paving is scheduled at this location, and following completion of that activity Lieutenant Cipolla will perform an investigation of this resident request and upon completion of his investigation he will provide recommendations to the Commission.

G. Line of Sight Issues at Grumman Hill Road and Dogwood Lane

Lieutenant Cipolla will perform an investigation of this resident request and upon completion of his investigation he will provide recommendations to the Commission.

H. Sergeant Rangel Release from New Sergeant Probation Effective 7/20/16

Chief Crosby informed the Commission that Sergeant Steven Rangel has completed the minimum probationary period as a new sergeant of the Department as of July 20, 2016, and recommended that the Commission remove him from new-sergeant probationary status as of that date. Commissioner Waters made a motion to remove Sergeant Rangel from new-sergeant probationary status effective July 20, 2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 2-0.

I. Officer Harris Release from New Hire Probation Effective 9/27/16

Chief Crosby informed the Commission that Officer Brandon Harris will complete the minimum probationary period as a new-hire officer of the Department on September 27, 2016, and recommended that the Commission remove him from new-hire probationary status as of that date. Commissioner Waters made a motion to remove Officer Harris from new-hire probationary status effective September 27, 2016 provided no intervening negative issues arise. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 2-0.

J. Officer Harris Release from New Hire Probation Effective 9/27/16

Chief Crosby informed the Commission that Officer Steven Zawacki will complete the minimum probationary period as a new-hire officer of the Department on September 27, 2016, and recommended that the Commission remove him from new-hire probationary status as of that date. Commissioner Waters made a motion to remove Officer Zawacki from new-hire probationary status effective September 27, 2016 provided no intervening negative issues arise. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sauvigne. Motion carried 2-0.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

There were no reports of the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
At 8:14 p.m., the meeting went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The Commission invited Sarah Taffel, Director of Human Resources of the Town of Wilton, to participate in the Executive Session. At 11:08 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 11:08 p.m., a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Waters seconded by Commissioner Mason and passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

David F. Waters, Acting Recording Secretary