

Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
18 December 2008**

CTO

Commissioner Matt Mason called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. In attendance were Commissioner Mark Ketley, Chief Kulhawik, Captain Crosby, Lt. Stephen Bartek and Claire Furano. Commissioner Chris Weldon joined the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

MINUTES

A motion made by Commissioner Mason and seconded by Commissioner Ketley to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2008 Special Meeting passed 2-0.

Chief Kulhawik made a motion to juggle the agenda in order that *Traffic Matters* under **Old and New Business** would precede the *Monthly Reports*. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mason.

Lt. Bartek presented the following on traffic issues to the Commission.

- A) Olmstead Hill - based on the survey which ran from October 25th through November 1st, the statistics show there is a high volume of traffic on Olmstead Hill, traveling the average speed of 29 mph. Increased traffic is attributed to the Route 7 construction and due to the high volume, there is the perception that vehicles are traveling faster than they actually are. As a remedy, Lt. Bartek is overseeing selective enforcement on a shift-by-shift basis with focus on commercial vehicles. The area will continue to be monitored and Chief Kulhawik will review the statistics to determine if there is a basis for a no thru truck traffic designation.

The Chief reported that there are three officers assigned to STP and going forward each will "take ownership" of an area in town to enforce public safety on the roadways.

B) Skunk Lane by Hurlbutt Intersection – There is a sightline issue at Skunk Lane. An old stone wall at the northwest corner of the property creates a sightline obstruction. A remedy would be to excavate and set the wall further back on the property. Bill Brennan and Tom Thurkettle are aware of this issue. After reviewing photos and a lengthy discussion, the Commission, as the Traffic Authority for the Town of Wilton, made a motion to recommend to the First Selectman and Tom Thurkettle, Director of DPW, that necessary measures be taken to improve the sightline at the intersection at Skunk Lane and Hurlbutt Street as soon as feasible for public safety. This motion was made by Commissioner Matt Mason and seconded by Commissioner Mark Ketley based on the report of Lt. Bartek. Chief Kulhawik will follow-up with written communication to the First Selectman.

66 Drum Hill Road – Property owner was involved in an MVA while exiting driveway. Lt. Bartek agrees that a dangerous site line exists. Excavation appears to be the solution to remedy this obstruction. Chief Kulhawik also suggested reducing the speed limit to 25 mph and will order that traffic data be collected to verify that the reduction is warranted. The Commission directed the Chief to communicate with the First Selectman, Bob Nerney at Planning and Zoning Department and Tom Turkettle of Public Works about this situation.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

The Commission reviewed, discussed and accepted the monthly reports, with Chief Kulhawik noting that MVA's and MVA's with injuries are down noticeably from the previous year.

REPORT OF CHIEF EDWARD KULHAWIK

The Chief reported about the past month's activities as follows:

A) Several thank you notes were received from various people expressing appreciation for the work done by members of the police department and for their participation in community events.

- Email from Mrs. Barrett expressing gratitude to the officers who assisted Mr. Barrett in time of need.
- Email reiterating a call from Mr. Halpin of Lamort Burns praising responding officers.
- Letter from Susan Bauerfeld thanking responding officers.
- Letter of appreciation from Mr. Gerald Krawitz thanking officers for saving his life.

- B) Letter from Connecticut Police Chiefs Association announcing Chief Kulhawik has been nominated as a Vice President of the organization.
- C) Chief Kulhawik advised that the First Selectman would be meeting with the Union leaders to give a briefing on the economic climate of the town and the forecasted loss of revenue.
- D) Chief Kulhawik spoke about the successful completion of the Citizens Police Academy Session 2 and made mention of the plaque and gifts that were given to the Department by the CPA members.
- E) Chief Kulhawik mentioned that the Highway Safety Grant for \$33,000 DUI Enforcement will be on a yearly basis as opposed to Holiday basis.
- F) With the next budget cycle in mind, Chief Kulhawik said the only Overtime paid out for training would be for mandated training. There is no money in the budget for vehicle replacement. Capital will be reduced as the Route 7 project nears completion in Wilton.

Commissioner Weldon moved to repeal the previous 2009 Commission Meeting Calendar and accept the revised 2009 Commission Meeting Calendar. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ketley and passed 3-0.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

There were no reports from the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:45 p.m., the meeting adjourned to the Executive Session to discuss FY '09 Budget Draft. At 9:45 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session without any action by the Commission.

At 9:50 p.m., Commissioner Mason made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Weldon and it passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Furano
Recording Secretary