

Wilton Police Commission



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**POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
12 January 2009**

CTO

Commissioner Matt Mason called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Mark Ketley, Chris Weldon, Chief Kulhawik, Captain Lombardo, Lauren Mylo of the Villager and Claire Furano

MINUTES

A motion made by Commissioner Weldon and seconded by Commissioner Mason to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2008 Special Meeting passed 3-0.

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. He attributes this to the construction project on Route 7, which forces drivers to operate their vehicles at a slower speed, allowing for increased response time, and to the Department being at full strength. Criminal mischief is also down, although, there has been an increase in burglaries and larcenies. Commissioner Weldon pointed out that the numbers are down in the majority of categories and this may be attributed to the fact that the department has been operating with a full force of officers this year. However, he did note there was an increase in larceny and burglary and the Chief attributed that rise in those two areas to the severe down turn in the economy. The Chief further indicated that statistics show crime in these areas increase as the economy worsens.

REPORT OF CHIEF EDWARD KULHAWIK

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

- Lt. Bartek received a letter praising Officer Peter Trahan, from Senior Assistant State's Attorney Mary A. SanAngelo, for his court testimony.
- Chief Kulhawik received a letter from Pete Melas, the Regional Loss Prevention Manager of TJMaxx expressing his appreciation for the work done by Detectives Kip Tarrant and Chris Isidro in solving the case.
- Chief Kulhawik acknowledged the generosity of the community during the holidays and also thanked the commission on behalf of the department. Commissioner Mason commented on the generosity of the Town citizens.
- Chief Kulhawik gave accolades to Officer Frank Razzaia, who, while off-duty spotted a vehicle whose operator was responsible for several vehicle break-ins. Arrests were made and as a result, several cases were cleared in many towns. Officer Razzaia will be receiving a commendation at the Awards Ceremony in March.
- Chief Kulhawik expressed his concern about the overtime and mentioned that he and Captain Lombardo are monitoring overtime on a daily basis and accounting for every hour. Overtime is challenging to estimate as it is dependent mostly on shift coverage, which varies due to injuries, storms, etc. In an effort to manage and save money, non-mandated training will be limited.
- Due to the decrease in value of the Crown Vic's this year, the department is having difficulty getting decent trade-in quotes. The department is awaiting bids from Morande Ford and a dealer in Berlin, CT. Other municipalities are dealing with the same issue. Six vehicles are being purchased and five will be traded in. Over the course of the construction project two vehicles, with high mileage, have been held back, in an effort to conserve funds.

OLD BUSINESS

Traffic Matters:

1) 66 Drum Hill Road:

Chief Kulhawik has met with Town Planner Bob Nerney and Town Counsel Kenneth Bernhard concerning the driveway at 66 Drum Hill Road. Ken Bernhard will be speaking with DPW Director Tom Thurkettle and then apprise First Selectman William Brennan of his findings. Chief Kulhawik suggested installing signage and said the Town would allow the homeowner to install a mirror to assist in exiting the driveway. As the Traffic Authority for the Town, Commissioner Mason asked that the Commission be informed of the outcome. He would like to know the cost of eliminating the site line issues, see what the town decides and then figure out the best course of action.

2) Skunk Lane by Hurlbutt Intersection:

Both First Selectman William Brennan and DPW Director Tom Thurkettle are in the loop. Tom Thurkettle will determine the cost to clear the siteline, as significant excavation would alleviate the obstruction of vision.

Although the two traffic issues involve poor sightlines, they do differ. The location at Drum Hill Road involves private driveway to roadway, while the Skunk Lane issue is public roadway to public roadway.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business to report.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

There were no reports from the Commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:30 p.m., the meeting adjourned to the Executive Session to discuss the FY '10 Budget Proposal. At 8:40 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session without any action by the Commission.

At 8:45 p.m., Commissioner Mason made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Ketley and it passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Furano
Recording Secretary