POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
17 March 2009

CTO

Commission Matt Mason called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Mark Ketley, Chris Weldon, Chief Kulhawik, Captain Lombardo, Captain Crosby, Harold Cobin (The Hour) and Claire Furano.

MINUTES

A motion made by Commissioner Weldon and seconded by Commissioner Ketley to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 2009 Regular Meeting passed 3-0.

DISCUSSION OF MONTHLY REPORTS

The Commission reviewed, discussed and accepted the monthly reports. In reviewing the “Three Year Comparison – MV Stops” grid, it was pointed out that enforcement activity has increased quite a bit over the past few years. Chief Kulhawik attributes this to the increased enforcement activity, which is in part a response to the number of fatalities we’ve experienced this past year in Wilton. The Chief also pointed out that the number of MVA’s and MVA’s with injuries is low and this is also due to the increased enforcement. Commissioner Ketley noted that there were almost 700 MV stops during the month of February, a substantial increase over the same timeframe last year. There are many more vehicles traversing the roads and the officers are doing a good job.

REPORT OF CHIEF EDWARD KULHAWIK

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

A. Thank you notes were received expressing appreciation for work done by members of the police department and for participation in community events.
   - Letter from a Weston resident to Chief Kulhawik, complimenting Officer Louis Reszoly for the professional and respectful manner in which he issued a traffic citation.
• Letter of appreciation from Chief Michael Kehoe (Newtown) to Chief Kulhawik for the assistance of Lt. John Lynch during their testing process.
• Thank you note to Chief Kulhawik for his presentation and singing at the Senior Center.
• Thank you note from Chief Kulhawik for donation made to the Wilton Dive and Rescue Squad.

C. Note from town resident thanking the Police Department and Paramedics for assistance.
D. Chief Kulhawik announced that 11 out of the 12 people who took the sergeants test last week, passed. Although there are no openings right now, the list remains active for the next two years.
E. Chief Kulhawik thanked the Commissioners for their participation in the Annual Awards Ceremony held at the Wilton Library.
F. Chief Kulhawik stated that Officer Andrew Barone has resigned from the department, effective March 14, 2009.
G. Chief Kulhawik mentioned that Officers William Barrett, Gregg Phillipson and Sgt. Thomas Tunney will be honored by the American Cross, at the Heroes of Mid-Fairfield County Breakfast. He added that the family of Nick Madaras would be receiving an award for the Kick for Nick program.

Chief Kulhawik advised the commissioners that Lt. Bartek is now overseeing Extra Duty and Lt. Lynch is handling Strategic Traffic Patrol (STP). Captain Lombardo and the Lieutenants are working together to create monthly reports of new and ongoing projects identifying traffic and signage issues around town.

Next month, the commission will be discussing a proposal from Bill Brennan for a crosswalk.

OLD BUSINESS

The State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation has denied Chief Kulhawik’s request to improve sightline issues at the intersection of Route 53 (Cedar Road) and Route 106 (Chesnut Hill Road). This decision is based on budgetary constraints and the fact that the accident ratio at that intersection is low according to state guidelines. Chief Kulhawik will reach out to town resident, Charles Grodin, and apprise him of the state’s decision.

As follow-up to the February commission meeting, the commission inquired about the intersection at Skunk Lane and Hurlbutt Street and if Tom Thurkettle had contacted the property owner. Chief Kulhawik has not heard anything more from Tom Thurkettle and will follow up with him.
REPORTS OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Ketley said he would like to see more public exposure on the Annual Awards Ceremony. He would like to see members from the various town boards, state representation and television coverage to make this a major event and to educate people that the department does more than traffic enforcement.

Commissioner Weldon expressed concern about sand on the town roadways and that it is causing some traction issues. Aggressive clean-up has begun and takes place during the months of March and April.

Commissioner Ketley commented on the new unmarked car being used by STP officers for enforcement purposes. It has state-of-the art technology, including radar that has oncoming and rear speed detection. It also has an MDT which allows for efficient work and was a great buy for the traffic unit.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:00 p.m., the meeting adjourned to the Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. At 8:45 p.m., the Commission came out of Executive Session without any action by the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Furano
Recording Secretary