



Incorporated 1787

**Board of Police Commissioners
Tuesday, October 6, 2015
Meeting Minutes
7:00 PM Town Hall Commission Room**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

**Commissioners Present: Bill Brady Chairman, Beth Gralnick Vice Chairman,
Jess DiPasquale, Susan Moch**

Commissioners Absent: Woody Bliss, Jeff Eglash, Peter Ottomano

Others Present: Chief Troxell, Todd Bucaro - Manager Of Cobbs Mill

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Consideration / Approval September 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Gralnick motioned to approve September 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Commissioner Moch, all in favor.

- 3. Chief's Report**

a) Sick Time & Other Retirement Benefits/Union Agreement

McGinnis, Ferullo and Filsinger Payouts – The Chief stated he sat with Rick Darling and went over all of the Police Departments overtime payouts and re-imbursements, our calculations are correct. Based on a benefit with the Police Union and the Town unused sick time and unused vacation time, the following Officers were paid from our salary line. On 8/6/2014 – Officer McGinnis was paid out \$43,979. On 8/2015 Detective Filsinger was paid out \$42,460 and on 10/2015 Sgt. Ferullo was paid out \$43,867. We are not the ones who monitor the salary line that is something Rick Darling monitors. Rick never gave the Chief an indication that we were going to have a problem with that. Our re-imbursements equal \$65,711. The reason why it looks like we are over budget is because of the payouts to the Officers. They took the money out of our salary line. Commissioner Gralnick stated

in a course of a fiscal year if an Officer retires according to the Union Contract he or she is entitled to X number of dollars for vacation, sick leave, etc. according to the Union contract that money is paid to the employee as they leave in a lump sum and deducted from our salary line which would put us in budget overage. Essentially the way the Town book keeps when they do payouts it comes out of our budget but it is not something we can budget for because we don't know if anyone is leaving and we don't know what that payout is going to be. Commissioner Brady said there should have been an out and in. The perception is that we are over budget. The Chief recommends that that we sit down with Rick Darling, Tom Landry and the 1st Selectman, Gayle Weinstein and a member from the Board of Finance. The Chief said because of Detective Filsinger and Sergeant Ferullo retirements the total payout for this year's 2016-2017 budget will have \$86,327.82 taken out of it. Commissioner Brady would like the Chief to set up a meeting.

Todd Bucaro stated that the business at Cobbs Mill Inn has increased we need to put up cross walks and stop signs up. Commissioner DiPasquale said we should look at stop signs by the country store and the hill. The Chief said we could put up temporary stop signs and study it. Commissioner DiPasquale made a motion to have the town put two temporary stop signs, one by the crosswalk that goes to the parking lot adjacent to the country store and another one below the hill before someone goes up the hill. The purpose of this would be to study the use of putting permanent stop signs in those areas. Commissioner DiPasquale amended his motion to two temporary stop signs to be determined by the Town Engineer for the purposes of controlling traffic both ways, with the amendment, Commissioner Brady 2nd the motion, all in favor. Todd Bucaro thanked the Commissioners for acting on this.

- b) **Road Safety Updates / Signage Godfrey Road West – Commissioner Brady stated on White Birch Road the people on the street and across the street are concerned with the visibility from the street coming up to an intersection there is a tree about 50 feet from the street. It is hanging over like a canopy when you are coming west from Westport you really can't see that there are kids waiting for the bus until you pass that tree. It has not been a problem in the past but you have about fifteen kids waiting there for the bus. Commissioner Brady would like the Chief to look into this with the Town Engineer to find out if the tree is on Town property.**
- c) **Sergeant Exam Schedules – 5 Officers have elected to take the test. The Sergeant's oral examination is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2015 and the written examination is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2015. The top three candidates will be interviewed at our January 5, 2015 Commission Meeting.**
- d) **New Hire - Johnny Marsili swearing in October 9, 2015 (1:30 PM)**

- e) **Current Monthly Reports/OT/Budget – The Chief said they have been doing a lot of training and re-certification training. Commissioner Brady asked if that incurred overtime. The Chief said yes. Commissioner Brady would like an e-mail sent to the Commissioners that we have additional overtime for the training and copy the 1st Selectman, Gayle Weinstein.**
- f) **Grant Updates – None at this time.**
- g) **Additional Business for Commission Consideration – Commissioner Ottomano is not here tonight but he sent an e-mail regarding home invasion. What is the process we use for evaluating when to request state assistance. The Chief stated that we call the State Attorney Suzanne Vieux with all the information we have on the case and it is the State Attorney’s office that determines if they should call the Major Squad Unit. Any time you have a major crime incident we call the State Attorney’s Office.**

4. Sub-Committee Reports

- a) **Public Facilities Update – Residents are welcome to come and take a tour of the Weston Police Facility.**
- b) **SRO/MOU Update – Commissioner Gralnick stated that the SRO assignment is scheduled for next year’s budget as it stands now after a meeting that took place. Commissioner DiPasquale said that the issue is that we now have all Board approvals and we are being delayed again due to politics and broken promises since we were assured the position would move forward with supplemental funding once we received Board of Education and Police Commission approvals. This was at the Board of Finance meeting when at least 15-20 people voiced their positive opinion on this matter. Commissioner DiPasquale said that we have all spent a great deal of time getting this SRO approved and we have agreement on the MOU by the Board of Education and the Board of Police Commission. We just need to get it signed. Commissioner DiPasquale said that we cannot be held up by the fact that now we are being asked to get approval from the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance only if the School Superintendent makes budget cuts to security measures at the Schools and if we reduce the Mile of Safety hours. And, now there is a request to have the MOU reviewed by the Board of Selectman. This type of hold-up is not in the spirit of getting the SRO position accomplished and was not part of our earlier discussions. Exactly what was said is that you get this position approved and then come back for a supplemental appropriation. That is not the case being told to us now by the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance. Now there is another hurdle in front of us said Commissioner DiPasquale. Commissioner DiPasquale said that I don’t think we should passively lay back and say, put this SRO position in the budget, get it approved or not and wait another year. I think we should proceed with what was told to us and that is that you will get this position funded when you get it approved by all Boards. Commissioner DiPasquale said that it is**

nonsense not to move ahead. We did what we were supposed to do and School budget cuts were not a contingency for funding the SRO and the Police Commission does not control this activity anyway. We should begin the process now said Commissioner DiPasquale. We should put the position in as an assignment as soon as we can coordinate this with the Chief. To wait and do nothing now would be wrong. We could still put another officer in the budget for next year but not hold up the assignment now. I will be on the front line on this if needed. This is wrong and for us to say ok to this hold up when we do have the decision making authority on this one per State Statue would be negligent. That is like saying if you cut back on your books and audio visual supplies we'll add another Officer. All communities are getting more dangerous today and we know we are not immune from this in Weston. If anything happens, even the slightest incident, I don't want to say we should of or could have had this position in the Schools. Every town has an SRO now and they are working out fine. I do not want to be part of a board that is blamed if something happens in our Schools and we could have done something about it. To believe something can't happen here is putting your head in the sand. It is the right thing to do now. This position is needed.

5. Additional Business for Commission Consideration – None at this time.

Commissioner Moch made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:47 PM, Commissioer Gralnick 2nd, all in favor.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Gunshor
Police Commission Recording Secretary
Approved 11-4-15

