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DRAFT

THOMASTON POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2010
6:00 P.M.

Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by First Selectman Mone. Present were Selectman Scheppard, Selectman Barrett, Sr., and Chief Torrence. Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, was in attendance to take the minutes.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2010 regular meeting of the Police Commission as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

Monthly Reports:

The overtime hours in September this year are lower than September last year (172 hours). Part of the overtime hours last month were for the car show.

The seven hours under "Dare/Other" are for Sgt. Robert's time in court testimony in reference to a custody case.

The radar trailer has spent a considerable amount of time out on the road last month (187.25 hours).

Foot patrol/patrol hours are up. Chief Torrence has himself contributed to some of these hours.

The detective's report was not available due to Det. Campbell being on vacation. Most of Det. Campbell's time was spent on last month's bomb threat. Chief Torrence said it looked like our department was the only one to have charges filed against the suspect, but then the federal government jumped on board with their charges as well. The suspect was extradited back to Connecticut at the federal government's expense.

Old Business:

One of our officers is out for knee surgery. The part-time officers have been taking up the slack when they can.

New Business:

The fire marshal was called on scene for a domestic case where there was gas contamination throughout the resident's home. Discussion ensued.

The DEP was consulted, but they said it is not their responsibility. A private contractor will need to be called in for clean up of same.

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Chief Torrence presented a 911 Call Response Time Distribution report showing total records reported by this PSAP (533) for a date range from April 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010. The report showed that the Thomaston Police Department dispatchers handled 97.25% of the total calls (533) in 10 seconds or less. The state standard is 90%. Chief Torrence wanted to acknowledge the dispatchers outstanding efforts.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the 911 dispatchers. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

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Chief Torrence presented a copy of a letter that was sent to First Selectman Mone from Jim Rokos, Director of Health at the Torrington Area Health District referencing the exemplary work Cheryl Waldron, our Animal Control Officer (ACO) is doing for the Town, helping citizens of other neighboring cities and towns, in addition to collaborating with TAHD on animal issues that can mean life or death.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to add this letter of appreciation from TAHD to her personnel file. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

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Chief Torrence presented a program he would like spearhead in the community. It is intended to give the local residents an opportunity to learn more about the department, police procedures, individual officers and foster better relations between police and the community they serve. It is called Citizen Police Academy and it is scheduled to begin in November, 2010. It will consist of:

- eight weeks of hands-on training open to qualified adult residents of the Town,
- will be offered at “no charge” (also, no cost to the town as well),
- class will meet on Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.,
- maximum 20 people.

This free program will provide interaction in many of the basic police department tasks as well as provide an opportunity for role play and hands on experience. In addition to classroom lecture, academy members will participate in simulated high-risk felony stops, make split second use of force decisions, observe K-9 team demonstrations and become American Heart Association CPR/defibrillator certified. Academy members will also have an opportunity to meet the Chief, meet a dispatcher and meet the Detective.

Officers have agreed to volunteer their time for this program.

Atty. Rybak has already mentioned that in order for a resident to ride along with an officer, they must first sign a “hold harmless” agreement. Chief will also consult with our insurance carrier, CIRMA, on this.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to authorize the Police Department to pursue the Citizen’s Police Academy pending the insurance approval. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

Public Comment:

None at this time.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.