



Town of Thomaston
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DRAFT

THOMASTON POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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 October 5, 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 for October (152 hrs.) were up a bit for this time last year (135 hrs.). Part-time officers came in to absorb some of this time (approx. 30 hrs.). The officer that was out due to knee injury will be back to full duty by November 8th.

The 26 hours under "Investigation" was time spent at a crime scene.

The radar trailer has had some charging issues. Once the snow starts falling, it will be pulled off the road for the season.

Accidents are up a bit, which is unusual for this time of year.

We finished the season for dam checks (13.25 hrs.). The invoice went out at the end of the month (\$15,414.80 total, which includes hourly rate and mileage).

Alarm calls were up a bit this month.

We had issues with people breaking into cars. First Selectman Mone asked Chief Torrence to check into the possibility of placing a car with cameras in a hot spot area in order to curb this activity. Chief Torrence will report back to the Commission next month.

Old Business:

Chief Torrence was asked at last month's meeting to check into the ride along portion of the Citizen Policy Academy program with the Town insurance provider. William Guerrero of USI said he looked to Naugatuck's program whereby both parties, the officer and the student passenger, are fully aware of what is expected of them in this part of the program and are asked to sign a waiver form. Mr. Guerrero has recommended that Chief Torrence use the same forms that the Naugatuck Police Department uses, which will fulfill the requirements that are set forth by our insurance carrier.

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For some time now, there have been discussions as to what should be done with the broken parking meters in the downtown business area. With many of them broken, the question is should they be repaired or should they be removed? Chief Torrence said that because of their age, it is very difficult to find replacement parts, if at all. However, the alternative, replacing with new ones, is an alternative that is very costly, one that the Department cannot afford at this time.

Chief Torrence was able to secure a few mechanisms from Torrington's old meters, but we are missing a few heads. The selectmen agreed that either the meters be repaired or removed completely. It is not appealing to drive through Town and see broken meters. However, it was agreed that it should be the shop owners to decide the fate of these meters.

Chief Torrence said that a few years ago, a study was done and the results were that 50% of the business owners wanted them, 50% did not. First Selectman stated that Selectman's Office will send out surveys to all downtown businesses asking for their input.

New Business/SRO Position:

Thomaston High School's principal has requested that the school resource officer (SRO) be replaced by January. Chief Torrence said there is a grant available that can be used to fund this position. The grant is available through 2012. First Selectman Mone said the grant must cover all expenses for a full year, not the police budget. Also, even if we applied for the grant, the process itself takes a couple of months and would put us beyond the January start date.

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Chief Torrence gave a report on crime statistics from various communities and how they compared to Thomaston's. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment:

In attendance were Christine and Paul Yoos.

Paul Yoos said “hats off” to our Police Department. He still has a parking/trespassing issue on his property. He would like more cooperation from the Police Department. First Selectman Mone suggested that upon the first incident of trespassing, a person will be escorted to their car by a police officer and asked to leave. They will be informed that upon a second incident of trespassing, they will be arrested.

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A non-resident whose name and address is unknown expressed displeasure with the manner in which a case that concerns him was handled by State’s Attorney and Thomaston Police Department.

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First Selectman Mone commented that there have been complaints coming from residents in the North Main Street section of town about an increased amount of speeders. Chief Torrence said he has asked the State about a stop sign in that area and they are not willing to install one at this time. First Selectman Mone requested the Chief to speak with the business owners in the area regarding their employees.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.