



Town of Thomaston
First Selectman's Office
Town Hall
158 Main Street
P.O. Box 136
Thomaston, Connecticut 06787
Phone: 860-283-4421 Fax: 860-283-1378

DRAFT

**THOMASTON POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010
6:00 P.M.**

Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 6:03p.m. by First Selectman Mone. Present were Selectman Scheppard and Chief Torrence. Selectman Barrett, Sr. was delayed due to work schedule – he arrived at 6:43 p.m. 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 November 2, 2010 regular meeting of the Police Commission as presented. Motion was seconded by First Selectman Mone. With all in favor, motion carries 2-0.

Monthly Reports:

The overtime hours for November (108 hrs.) were a combination of time off and sick time. The 16 hours under Investigation were for Sgt. Campbell's time spent on the recent sexual assault case. Under Special Events, the 12 hours were due to the Light Up the Town event. If you look at the year-to-date overtime totals (2,032 hrs.), we are 119 hours under from last year's totals.

Accidents were up for the month, with no real reason for the increase. We experienced good weather all month.

The radar trailer was out for a total of 42.50 hours. Now that winter is upon us, we will need to store for the season at the town garage.

Alarms were up again this month. We did experience a lot wind storms this month, which may be one of the reasons for increased alarm activity. The bills for alarm calls will go out next month (mid-January).

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As part of the Click It or Ticket Program (CIOT), initiated by the State of Connecticut a few years ago, Thomaston participates by performing a wave of seatbelt checks on a quarterly basis and then submits this information in a summary report to the State. In the summary report dated November 22, there were five seatbelt citations issued. Out of 200 drivers observed, 180 drivers or 90% were belted. In addition to the safety aspect of these checks, the Town is also looked upon more favorably when it comes time to applying for and receiving any grants that are available.

Selectman Scheppard wanted to know if the Police Department was going to schedule any holiday checkpoints. Chief Torrence said no, not that this time.

Old Business/Parking Meters:

At last month's meeting, the question came up as to what should be done with the broken parking meters throughout town. Should they be repaired and replaced or should they be removed all together. The First Selectman's Office was going to conduct a survey of the downtown business owners.

Approximately 25-30 survey letters were sent out to the downtown business owners who have parking meters in front of their establishments. The consensus from the responses received (7 in total so far) was that "meters don't make sense, replace with signage instead". Only one said, "repair and replace".

If we do decide to remove the poles, where would we hang our flags? A lot of the poles have an attachment/holder for the flags. According to the DOT and CL&P, we are not permitted to hang flags from telephone poles.

This commission will take up this issue again in January.

New Business/2011 Schedule of Meetings:

The 2011 DAS (Department of Administrative Services) calendar, which the town follows, was presented for review. The following meeting dates were chosen for the 2011 calendar year (the first Tuesday of each month):

Tuesday, January 4
Tuesday, February 1
Tuesday, March 1
Tuesday, April 5
Tuesday, May 3
Tuesday, June 7

Tuesday, July 5
Tuesday, August 2
Tuesday, September 6
Tuesday, October 4
Tuesday, November 1
Tuesday, December 6

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All meetings will begin at 6:15 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the annual meeting schedule of the Police Commission for 2011 as presented, with all meetings to begin at 6:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by First Selectman Mone. With all in favor, motion carries 2-0.

New Business/Hiring of Part-Time Officers:

Discussion ensued as to the hiring of additional part-time officers. It would be a nominal cost to hire part-time officers and opposed to full-time (approximately \$1,700 - \$2,000 per officer). If additional pistols are needed for these officers, there will be a small additional cost.

Chief Torrence said this is a way to handle the overtime deficiencies in the department and then some. We are looking for officers that are already certified. This would be the best we can do under the circumstances.

The department currently has three part-time officers on staff.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to have Chief Torrence proceed with the advertising and hiring process for additional part-time officers, pending First Selectman's discussion and agreement with police union regarding overtime and consultation with BOF with reference to funding. Motion was seconded by First Selectman Mone. With all in favor, motion carries 2-0.

Public Comment:

In attendance were Christine and Paul Yoos, Ray Taylor of 449 High Street Extension, Tammy Ross of 78 River Street, Tony Durso, Diane LaBonte, Alec Johnson, reporter for the Waterbury Republican and Robby Piazzarelli, reporter for the Town Times.

Ray Taylor expressed his concerns with regard to the safety and protection of the residents of this Town, referencing the incident that recently took place involving one of our high school students outside the school. He presented a petition of 100 names, asking the selectmen to hold a public hearing for the following purpose:

To discuss and work on a plan of action with regard to the safety and protection of the residents of the Town of Thomaston.

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This petition will be forwarded onto the Town Clerk to confirm the names and then onto the town attorney to review.

Ray spoke of hiring one to three full-time officers instead of part-time. Tammy Ross, a resident of town, also expressed her concerns and said safety is vital to the residents of Thomaston.

Chief Torrence said about 10 years ago, we began with an SRO (School Resource Officer) in the school. We just can't afford that luxury now.

Chief Torrence said we are considerably better off than all other communities when it comes to the solve rate of crimes. We are in good standing.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.