



Town of Thomaston
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**THOMASTON POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2011
6:15 P.M.**

Roll Call:

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by First Selectman Mone. Present was Selectman Scheppard. Selectman Barrett, Sr. was not in attendance at this meeting due to work schedule. Also in attendance was Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, to take minutes.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Monthly Reports:

In attendance was Chief Torrence.

This month's overtime figures are down by 12 hours from this time last year.

January is shaping up to be a mild month and February and March should be quiet as well.

Accidents are up a bit.

Most of alarm calls are most likely wind related. The bills will go out mid-month.

The total for gasoline used is down for the year, probably due to Lt. Nelson retiring from the force and his car not being used. Chief Torrence is using this year-end number for his estimate of gasoline for budgeting FY 2011-2012.

Chief Torrence presented a letter from The Bridge Academy of Bridgeport. They wanted to thank the Police Department, specifically, Officer Koval, for the help they were given when their bus broke down in town recently.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to place the letter of appreciation in the officer's personnel file. Motion was seconded by Selectman Mone. With all in favor, motion carries.

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Old Business:

First Selectman Mone asked Chief Torrence if it was possible to use the small room near the Senior Center for extra room needed for the pantry. Chief Torrence said he didn't feel he could relinquish this room because he needed a place to keep the bicycles, radio equipment and some important files. These items need to be kept in a secure location. However, Chief will check into.

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There have been no further responses about the parking meter situation in town. The consensus from most business owners in town was to remove all parking meters and instead install signage. With that being said, Paul Pronovost would have to put more money into his budget, as he would be incurring the cost for the signs. Chief Torrence suggested tabling this issue until the Police Commission has a chance to go out and actually look at all the parking meters sometime in early spring (May would be a good month) when the weather breaks. This will give us additional time to come up with ideas.

A motion was made by First Selectman Mone to table and place on agenda in May. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

With reference to FY 2011/2012 budget, Chief Torrence explained that there is an increase in this year's budget request in Contracted Repair and Maintenance, which he requested a police vehicle. The police cruisers were removed from Capital Improvements and relocated to the Police Department's operating budget. To help offset this purchase, a \$5.00 an hour fee is collected from all companies that hire a police officer to perform traffic duty. There was about \$9,000 left in that account, which leaves a balance of \$13,000.

Selectman Scheppard expressed the need for Chief Torrence to create history with part-time officers over the course of a few years to see how they actually reduce overtime hours/costs.

Public Comment:

In attendance at tonight's meeting were Christine and Paul Yoos & Ray Taylor.

Paul referenced a recent article in the local newspaper about an incident that happened to him on his property. Paul asked what the status of the investigation was. Chief Torrence said he has no more information to provide at this time. The warrant has been requested from Bantam Court. There is no response yet.

Ray Taylor commented that according to the yearly activity report from the Police Department, it indicates that there were 33,112 recorded incidents/calls for the year. That equates to approximately 91 incidents per day.

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Ray Taylor said he would hope that when and if town employees decide to speak on behalf of themselves at the special Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for next Wednesday, January 12, they can do so without any repercussions.

Christine Yoos asked that if for some reason the Highway Department can't handle the removal of snow, would we have to contract out for services. First Selectman Mone said that if an emergency arises, we would have to hire out.

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 p.m. Motion was seconded by First Selectman Mone. With all in favor, motion carries.