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DRAFT

THOMASTON POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011
6:15 P.M.

Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 p.m. by First Selectman Mone. Chief Torrence, Selectman Barrett, Sr. and Selectman Scheppard were in attendance. Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, was available to take the minutes of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2011 regular meeting as presented. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

Monthly Reports:

Chief Torrence indicated that his department has cutoff over 100 hours in overtime from last month. Most of the officers are now back from their vacations, etc. The total overtime for the year is 24 hours under from this time last year. Pretty good considering we have an officer out on worker's comp.

The 23.50 hours under Other were all due to Hurricane Irene over the weekend – FEMA will reimburse us.

We had 55 alarm calls during the month. This is a bit high, possibly due to the hurricane.

Old Business/Downtown Parking Meter Update:

Chief Torrence checked with the State re: the two-hour parking option along Main & South Main Streets (S. R. 807) and North & East Main Streets (Rt. 222). It is illegal to park 25 ft. from an intersection. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Selectman Barrett, Sr. to rescind the Board's earlier request (a prior meeting) to DOT for two-hour downtown parking instead of parking meters. Motion was seconded by Selectman Scheppard. With all in favor, motion carries.

Chief Torrence will check into other options to present to the Commission. We will revisit this issue at that point.

New Business/Hurricane Irene – Storm Report:

Det. Campbell was in attendance to give a report on Hurricane Irene which hit the state September 3rd weekend. During the storm, an EOC (Emergency Operations Center) was created in the Operations Room in the Police Department where all emergency personnel, including Fire and Ambulance, along with Highway and WPCA came together to serve as one group.

Our biggest issue during the storm was roads. We had overall 17 roads affected, with some roads washing out due to the wall of water that came down from the dam in Terryville. Most roads that were closed were reopened by midnight. There was about 3 ft. of water over Watertown Road and Tracy & Judson Streets were flooded due the overflow of water from Crystal Lake/Pond. Paul and his crew have repaired most roads as best as possible until FEMA came in.

FEMA did come in on Thursday and took a tour through town to see the damage to individual properties and businesses. Det. Campbell will draft a press release to go to the Waterbury Republican and Town Times. We received eligibility from FEMA this morning.

There were approximately 44 basement pump outs. TVAC attended to numerous calls that were stress related.

About 60% of the town was without power, however, by 3:00 a.m. it was down to 48% w/o power and down to 23% on Wednesday.

Two homes were damaged significantly due to trees down.

WPCA had a sewage backup on Sanford Avenue.

Both Black Rock Dam and Northfield Dam had hit their limits. The Army Corps of Engineers was keeping us abreast of the real time data on the dam totals. Wigwam Dam, which Waterbury owns, had erosion damage. DEEP was consulted.

The high school is designated as the emergency shelter. However, it currently does not have a generator. Therefore, the firehouse became the shelter during the storm because it has a generator. With limited facilities and space limitations (we just about fit the 17 cots we received from DEMHS), this could have been a major problem if more space was needed.

Another issue and the one of greatest concern is our radio communications system – it failed (about 98% failure rate). We had trouble toning out Ambulance and Fire. This

system was installed in the early 70's and is outdated. It has been an ongoing budget issue for years. Discussion ensued as to regionalization of communications.

We are experiencing some issues at the Chapel Street location where the communications equipment is housed. We have had problems with rodents (eating through wires) and internal heat malfunctions. Chief Torrence has requested an estimate on a new communications systems building from Coreslab Structures. The price they quoted us was \$14,145.

In addition to the above issues, the DOT had a statewide blanket order that grounded their crews during the storm which meant there was no commodities distribution to the EOC. This is a problem. Chief Torrence will have discussions with the DOT as to their responsibilities during an incident such as this.

The selectmen expressed their "cuddos" to all emergency personnel for a job well done under the circumstances.

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A letter of appreciation was received from Skip Gelati thanking Officer Koval for his assistance with an injured resident. A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to put the letter of appreciation in the officer's personnel file and post in the department as well. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.

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The Chief received a grant award letter from Thomaston Savings Bank. The grant, which is for \$3,895, is to fund the purchase of an unmanned, tamper proof radar device which collects and stores data to log the time and speed of vehicles that pass by it in order to determine when and where police officers should follow up with radar in the area. This is secondary to the radar trailer.

Public Comment:

In attendance were Christine Yoos, Julianne Ingham and Tom Mueller.

Julianne expressed her concern with roaming dogs. She feels it is necessary to have an ordinance that penalizes the owner of dogs that are consistently roaming and dogs that are unlicensed. We need to hit them where it counts – in their pocketbooks! Then maybe they will think twice. She also commented on the great job the town's dog warden is doing.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Selectman Scheppard to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectman Barrett, Sr. With all in favor, motion carries.