Colchester Police Commission

Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 27, 2020

7:30 PM – Town Hall

Room 1

1. Call to Order - Special Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM with Commissioners Vaillancourt, Cameron, Farlekas, Stavola, Resident Trooper Sgt. Mike Rondinone, Ofc Tim Edwards and Board of Education & Board of Finance Member Andrea Migliaccio in attendance.
2. Additions to the Agenda – None.
3. Citizen Comments – None.
4. Correspondence – None.
5. Approve Minutes – Commissioner Farlekas made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting October 28, 2019 minutes, Commissioner Cameron seconded. Commissioner Farlekas made a motion to approve the Special Meeting January 7, 2020 minutes, Commissioner Cameron seconded.
6. Budget – Sgt. Rondinone that he will be working with Ofc Edwards and Asst. Keeney on the budget and will be analyzing what appropriations/shortfalls need to be addressed.
7. Appropriations and Transfers – None.
8. Resident Trooper Report (Sgt. Rondinone) – Sgt. Rondinone discussed the Colchester Officers monthly statistics summary report from December 2019. He also provided a copy of same to Commissioner Stavola previously. Sgt. Rondinone reported that the Town of Colchester Calls for Service, which includes all types of incidents i.e. disturbances, citizen assists, traffic accidents, traffic stops, patrol checks etc., have been between 700-900 calls since he has been assigned to his position in April 2019. Commissioner Vaillancourt asked Sgt. Rondinone about calls for service on the overnight (12:00 am – 7:00 am) shift. Sgt. Rondinone stated that those calls for service would be additional numbers of calls for service. Currently State Troopers at Troop K patrol the Town during those hours. Sgt. Rondinone informed the Police Commission he will provide statistical calls for service by the Troopers during those hours for them at a later date. Commissioner Stavola requested information about Criminal investigations and Arrests made in the Town of Colchester. Sgt. Rondinone explained where criminal investigations are located within the statistics he provided and he would try to get a more details for the Police Commission in the future about the types of crimes and Arrests made by Colchester Officers.
9. Local Traffic Authority – None.
10. Old Business – None.
11. Officer Brown OFC – Sgt. Rondinone reported that Off. Brown had submitted an application for promotion to Officer First Class (OFC) which had been pending for some time during the previous First Selectman’s term. He stated that he supported Off. Brown’s application dated 7/1/19 for promotion to Officer First Class based on his assistance with several community relations type events i.e. “Coffee with a Cop” and his assistance with obtaining new computers in the Office for the Officers. Commissioner Vaillancourt approved the application.
12. PD Improvements/Location – Commissioner Vaillancourt mentioned that First Selectman Bylone had done a walk-through of the Police Department and sent her an email about her findings. Sgt. Rondinone said he is pleased that the First Selectman is trying to address needs within the Police Department.
13. Officer Recognition Program – Sgt. Rondinone wants to recognize and give awards to Colchester Police Officers who have done deserving things in his presence or with investigations etc. Commissioner Stavola mentioned there would have to be a criteria for awards. Ofc. Edwards mentioned that he knows that has been done in the past and may be located on the Rules and Regulations on the Town website. Sgt. Rondinone mentioned he would look into this further and talk about it more at the next meeting.
14. Citizen Comments – None.
15. Goals – Discussion – Commissioner Vaillancourt mentioned she would like them too look at whether there is adequate Police coverage for the Town of Colchester with current staffing levels. She wants the Town of Colchester to have a Youth, Scholarship and Neighborhood Watch Program(s). Sgt. Rondinone mentioned Officers who are eligible to retire like Ofc. Edwards and Officers who are close to retirement eligibility and the Town may want to be pro-active about hiring new Officers so there isn’t a severe shortage in the near future. He also agreed that he would like to have his Officers involved in helping with a Youth program or starting a Neighborhood watch program. Commissioner Stavola mentioned that he feels that the Town of Colchester needs more Officers period. He mentioned Towns like East Hampton, Portland, etc., who have their own Police Department as examples in comparison. Ofc. Edwards mentioned that there is a lot of value with a midnight shift coverage for this Town. Commissioner Farlekas asked what the status is regarding getting keys to all of the Town schools. Sgt. Rondinone mentioned that he has some keys but, doesn’t have all of the keys yet. He has four sets of keys but needs twelve so all of his Officers will have their own set. He has had to make some of the keys himself. There was extensive discussion regarding this issue. Andrea Migliaccio mentioned she is on the Board of Ed and doesn’t know what the issue with the keys is but, she recommended Sgt. Rondinone request a meeting with the First Selectman Bylone, Superintendent Jeff Burt and the Fire Chief Cox to get this issue resolved as quick as possible. Commissioner Stavola mentioned retention of Officers needs to be addressed by comparison to nearby towns. Sgt. Rondinone agreed and thinks Officers may leave for other Towns who pay more or reach top pay in a shorter time frame. Establishing a rank structure was also mentioned by Commissioners Stavola and Vaillancourt.
16. Chairman/Commissioner Comments - Coffee with a Cop was mentioned and is scheduled at Herman’s Diner for Thursday 01/30 2020 from 7 AM – 10:30 AM. She mentioned a Budget Survey which has questions regarding the Police Department so she recommended those present do the survey and let other persons know about it.
17. Adjourn - Commissioner Farlekas made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Cameron seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 2055 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

James Keeney