

Town of Stillwater Police Commission Meeting

Friday July 16, 2021

Members present: John Nett, Commissioner, Chair; Jennifer Weaver, Commissioner; Ed Kinowski, Supervisor; 1st Sgt Ray Cordani, Commanding Officer.

1. 1st Sgt. Cordani presented two candidates for the positions of patrol officers. Their applications were reviewed and both candidates were interviewed by 1st Sgt Cordani and Sgt. Pecor and were referred to the Police Commission for further consideration. Both candidates will fill time slots that will enhance coverage opportunities identified during the Reform Collaborative process.
2. The Commission interviewed Samuel D. Speziale for the position of patrol officer with the Stillwater Police Department. The Commission reviewed Mr. Speziale's qualifications and background and agreed that he brings the right amount of training and experience required. He is currently serving as a Deputy with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department. His interview showed he has excellent communication skills along with a positive and professional presence. He was unanimously approved for the position of patrol officer.
3. The Commission interviewed Jared P. Gardner for the position of patrol officer with the Stillwater Police Department. Review of his qualifications and background also show he has the attributes that we are looking for as a patrol officer. Mr. Gardner is also a deputy with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department. He also displays a positive attitude and demeanor that makes him a good addition to our department. He was unanimously approved for the position of patrol officer.
4. The new hybrid police unit is at Metro Ford. There is an electrical issue and a front end issue that is being addressed. That is obviously a warranty issue and will be repaired without cost to the department. It does however leave the department without one vehicle.
5. 1st Sgt. Cordani presented a request to purchase a 2021 Dodge Charger. This additional vehicle will ensure that the department will have a sufficient fleet for any increased patrols, special details, and transports. This will also assure that they will have a backup patrol vehicle in the event that one is out of service for any reason. The cost for the outfitted vehicle will be \$39,000.00. There is one available in the western part of the state and will be ordered as soon as it is approved by the board. The Commission approved this purchase and sends this to the Town Board for their approval. Once the board approved this, it will be ordered expeditiously to avoid any backlog.

6. This latest search for two additional officers also identified salary disparities that may have an impact on future candidates and/or officer retention. Review of other municipalities show an hourly rate of \$25.00 per hour. Rates for supervisor is also more. Our rate is currently \$22.00 per hour. It is requested that the hourly rate of compensation for our officers be increased to \$25.00 and that the hourly rate for supervisors be increased by \$4.00. The Commission agreed that to retain the high caliber of officers and supervisors we have, and to attract future officers, we fully support and approve the increase and forward to the Town Board for approval.
7. The issue of disability insurance was brought up for our officers. It was requested that options that the town currently offers, such as AFLAC, be opened up to our police as an option that they could request and the premiums would be deducted through payroll deduction. This would be an option and not a requirement the officer.
8. The need for a cargo utility trailer was discussed. As plans for the new range and other building projects are underway, it is felt that the department invest in a utility trailer that will be configured to their needs and be used for transporting range materials and any other equipment that is used for special events and details. Commissioner Nett, 1st Sgt Cordani and Sgt. Pecor will investigate and make appropriate recommendations for procurement. The commission approves this plan.

Respectfully submitted:

John Nett

John Nett, Commissioner
Chair, Town of Stillwater Police Commission