

**MINUTES OF MEETING
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
March 15, 2021**

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A meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held on Monday, March 15, 2021 via Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The meeting was called to order at 7:18 P.M. by the Chair, Adrian Webber.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adrian Webber, Chair; Austin Cesare, Vice-Chair; Valerie Horsley; Marjorie Bonadies; Kristin Dolan; Berita Rowe-Lewis; Betty Wetmore; Mick McGarry, LC President (Ex-Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

*Note: Ms. Horsley did not vote on any of the agenda items below

The following items were addressed:

1. Order Authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget – \$150,000 Police Department (Overtime) INTERNAL TRANSFER

-- Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: Chief Sullivan explained that this transfer is to get him through the end of the Fiscal Year. He said overtime was due to coverage for several injured officers, two bad weather events, the tornado and a tropical storm, quite a few protests in the summer which required staffing, an uptick in serious crimes, numerous, serious motor vehicle accidents and many retirements in the beginning of summer.

Ms. Bonadies asked what the \$150,000 available in regular salaries was attributed to. Mr. Sullivan said mostly from retirements which occurred in June and these positions were not filled, and two officers out on permanent injury who are off the books and being paid from Workers Comp. Also, the Deputy Chief position has been unfilled for the entire year, an IT position was unfilled, one officer on administrative leave is not being paid, Hamden's Youth Center was mostly not operating due to COVID, and one Crossing Guard position which had been unfilled.

Ms. Rowe-Lewis thanked Chief Sullivan for his hard work and the amount not being higher.

A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

2. Order Authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2020-2021 Fiscal Year Budget – \$14,377 Police Department (Vehicle Replacement) INTERNAL TRANSFER

-- Moved by Mr. Cesare, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis. DISCUSSION: Mr. Sullivan explained the fleet is in dire need of new vehicles as referenced in correspondence he has been sending. Most of the vehicles have over 100,000 miles. This is a five year lease and is for five Ford Explorer Interceptor packages, one of which is a Hybrid. These five would be the beginning of replacing a very depleted fleet.

Mr. Cesare said he'll be supporting this and it is pitiful that the Town let it get this bad and that a plan needs to be put in place to address this.

Ms. Dolan said she'll be supporting this but she wants to go a step further because she understands many cars need to be replaced. She asked Mr. Jackson and Mr. Sullivan how many cars are approaching or have exceeded their life, and if Mr. Jackson can involve the Administration with the Capital Budgeting Plan, to see if this can get on that as a priority.

Mr. Sullivan said they have an 82 car fleet which includes motorcycles, prisoner van, administrative vehicles, detective vehicles and other types, not just patrol vehicles. They are only asking for patrol cars which they need the most and come July 1, they will be asking for more cars. He will let them know. This allotment would allow them to move quickly.

Mr. Jackson said regarding capitalizing police cars, it can be tricky and best practices have fluctuated. He will discuss it with Bond Counsel. A vote was taken and the item passed unanimously.

3. Order to approve a Master Equipment Lease-Purchase Agreement with Ford Motor Credit Company LLC for five new vehicles for the Police Department

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Ms. Rowe-Lewis and approved unanimously.

4. Order to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Hamden and UPSEU/COPS (Police Union) – Officer Gabriel Garcia

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Ms. Bonadies. DISCUSSION: Chief Sullivan explained that Officer Gabriel Garcia has been called to active duty with the Air and National Guard and this request is to make up the pay difference in these situations as has always been done. A vote was taken and the item passed with 1 opposed (Dolan)

5. Order to approve Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Hamden and UPSEU/COPS (Police Union) – Officer Enrique Rivera-Rodriguez

-- Moved by Ms. Wetmore, seconded by Ms. Bonadies and approved with 1 opposed (Dolan)

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta, Clerk
for Adrian Webber, Chair