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**MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2018  
6:30 P.M.  
MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
(COMMUNITY ROOM)**

**1. Chairman Robert Santangelo Calls Meeting to Order**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilman Robert Santangelo, Chairman  
Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta  
Councilman Carl Chisem  
Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski  
Councilman Philip Pessina

**STAFF PRESENT:** William McKenna – Chief of Police

**STAFF ABSENT:** Michael Timbro – Deputy Chief of Police  
Capt. John Lozefski – Administrative Commander

*Councilman Philip Pessina added a “North End Video” under Item 7. New Business.*

**2. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2018**

Councilman Pessina moved for approval of the Public Safety Commission (PSC) Minutes for October 15, 2018; Seconded by Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion approved.

**3. Public Hearing – Matters on the Agenda Only**

None

**4. Correspondence**

Chief William McKenna advised that they have numerous letters of appreciation; that he’s sent the PSC a several of them throughout the month. He added that he will start listing the letters in one document and give them to the PSC on the day of the PSC Meeting, so as not to cause a longer meeting, as well as including said document to the Minutes.

**5. Monthly Reports**

Chief McKenna stated that the Replacement Overtime is down for the fourth straight month compared to last year at this time; that this particular month, they’ve down \$12,5000.00. He added that they’re currently at three (3) Light Duty and/or Workmen’s Comp vacancies, and they’re sworn at 113. Regular Overtime is up \$6,000.00 due to the (October) shooting. Private Duty Overtime will probably be in the red next month; that this always occurs before it shows the revenue for the City. A discussion followed.

Councilman Pessina asked if an arrest was ever made regarding the shooting. Chief McKenna said they had an arrest warrant for the suspect within two (2) days of the shooting; that he believes the suspect’s lawyers were turning the suspect in on day four (4).

**6. Old Business**

*a. Animal Shelter*

Chairman Santangelo advised that (*Senior*) ACO Gail Petras, Captain (*John*) Lozefski; Joe Samolis, Dr. Olson, and he met with the architect to inform the architect what they wanted for an Animal Shelter. He added that the architect only does Animal Shelters and gave a history of his background and knowledge of what's needed and not needed in an Animal Shelter. He added that they're going to form a partnership with the architect for \$750,000.00 and paying its equivalent at \$37,500.00 per year for twenty (*20*) years.

During a discussion, Chief McKenna asked if Dr. Olson's staff would be running the Animal Shelter, and Chairman Santangelo replied that (*Senior*) ACO Petras would be running it. Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta asked Chief McKenna if he was okay with that; and Chief McKenna replied that this is the first he's heard of it. After a brief discussion/Q&A regarding the logistics of this project, Councilwoman Bartolotta advised that these are questions that need to be asked up front because if they go backwards, that's how they always get in trouble. Another discussion/Q&A followed, regarding maintenance of the Animal Shelter, cities the animals would be coming from (*Middletown only*), expected groundbreaking time frame (*Spring 2019*), etc.

**7. New Business**

*a. "Drafted" 2019 PSC Meeting Calendar (With 3 Summer Months?) for Approval (Attached)*

Councilman Pessina made a Motion to approve the 2019 PSC Meeting Calendar as noted with the changes for the Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Presidents Day Holiday dates; Seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski. There being no further discussion or questions, Motion approved.

**North End Video**

Councilman Pessina stated that he reviewed a video from a North End citizen alleging a gang fight where people were throwing bottles and waving pistols; that his individual posted the video on Facebook. He added that this is very disturbing; that a lot of work has occurred to better the North End; new businesses have opened; etc., and he's looking for answers regarding the facts.

Chief McKenna stated that he was told about this earlier this morning; that he also has viewed the video, adding that it shows the video being shot from one side of the street across to the other, showing 7 or 8 police cruisers with their lights; that a female narrative is heard saying, "Look at this Dan Drew's town. Look at this, black men throwing bottles and displaying knives and guns." or something to that effect. He said that according from the people at the scene, a call came in at 4:35 (*P.M.*), and the first Officer on the scene arrived at 4:35 (*P.M.*); that there were 5 to 10 black males; that it looked as though they were posturing; that there was no reported bottles or guns. He said that one (*1*) gentleman was stopped because he was attempting to walk away from the Police Officers; that the Police Officers needed some information. Two arrests were made; one did have a knife, although it wasn't being displayed – it was tucked away in a sock.

Chief McKenna stated he's actually proud seeing that video, and even prouder knowing that the Officers – 6 to 8 Officers strong – were there within one (*1*) minute of the call, adding that he wonders how many times this person sees good things done by the Police Officers and posts those on Facebook; that if she has a problem with how the Officers handled it, she should speak to one of the Officers. However, he gives them an A+. He added that they usually have 4 to 5 Officers dedicated to the North End on any given Saturday night.

**7. New Business (cont'd)**

**North End Video**

Chief McKenna went on to say that 2 (*Officers*) were dealing with a juvenile complaint in the district, and 2 (*Officers*) were downstairs processing a drunk driver; that luckily a Sergeant was doing what he should be doing, patrolling the North End, while the Officers were inside. A brief Q&A / discussion followed.

Councilman Pessina added that the Police Department did an outstanding job on this day at retired Sergeant (*Relford "Mitch"*) Ward's funeral wake and celebration of life; that it was very well attended not only by the regular Officers, but also by the retired Officers.

**8. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters**


None

**9. Meeting Adjourned...**

Councilwoman Kleckowski made a Motion to adjourn; Seconded by Councilwoman Bartolotta. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion approved.

**Next Public Safety Commission Meeting: December 17, 2018, 6:30 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Rosa B. Perich  
Recording Secretary