Public Safety Commission
FIRE DEPARTMENT
January 11, 2016
MINUTES
COMMUNITY ROOM, MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPT.
----------Minutes----------

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Santangelo called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Mary Bartolotta
Commissioner Carl Chisem
Commissioner Deborah Kleckowski
Commissioner Phil Pessina
Commissioner Robert Santangelo

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Fire Chief Robert Kronenberger

STAFF ABSENT

PUBLIC PRESENT

Firefighter Sal Cretella
Firefigher Nick Mayo
Firefighter Patrick Ehman
Firefighter James Ehmanb

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Commissioner Santangelo asked for approval of the minutes from September 10. Commissioner Kleckowski moved the motion and all voted in favor.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING**
None

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank you letter from Middletown Recreation & Community Services for participating in annual Halloween Downtown Trick or Treat & Fall Festival

6. MONTHLY REPORT

- Peer Fitness update given by Firefighter Sal Cretella, Firefighter Nick Mayo
    - Looking to recruit the new hires to join in the program
    - Within the last two years the program has gone from an idea to a program in place including a facility, equipment, trainers, funding, etc. with the overall goal is to get all the firefighters in the gym to work out
    - Newest challenge coming in May – Middletown Firefighter Combat Challenge
        - First of its kind in the state
        - Firefighters Pat Ehman & James Ehman discussed the challenge:
            - One day program that focuses on promoting the importance of physical fitness in the fire service. Partnered in teams and shadowed by certified Middletown Fire Peer Fitness trainer participants will be put through a simulated and controlled fire ground task specific fitness challenge. Extreme care will be given to ensure that all participants are closely monitored and remain safe and healthy. The challenge will provide an opportunity to see how firefighters perform under the physical stresses on a daily basis emphasizing the importance of individual physical fitness and team work skills. The challenge will be held at the Middlesex Hospital parking garage on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, May 15, 2016.
            - Middletown Fire invited the council members to join them and compete and provided sign up paperwork and contact information
                - Commissioner Santangelo commended them for taking leadership, getting the program going and for doing a great job
        - 70% of the department uses the gym and 30% use a trainer
            - Hardest part is getting the participants to get physicals as stated by Firefighter Sal Cretella
        - Commissioner Bartolotta stated that all branches of public safety should get physicals after original hire

- Monthly report given by Chief Kronenberger:
    - Finished year almost 5% - sizable spike
    - 11% for the month - second busiest month in ten years
    - 30% increase in fires this year
    - Training – busy year, brought in some major programs including CAMEO a computer based program, Technical rescue, confined space, trench, and the Marine Team trained with the US Coast Guard
- Met with the Chief of one of the Stamford Departments who is interested in the Engine, has looked at a couple of times
- Staffing – down 20% of suppression staff, 7 openings, and 5 out on workers compensation
    - Overtime money almost gone
    - Possibility of retirements coming up – maybe 3 to 4
    - Sixty is max staffing

8. OLD BUSINESS

- None at this time

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Bucket truck has been red lined and taken out of service.
- Brought to Finance & Government, put in request for CNR request but not entertained
    - Repair cost was almost $20,000 to repair and almost $90,000 to replace
- Looking for advice on which way to steer – Alarms Division does the banners, flags, and other things for downtown (Alarms Division under the General Fund), Public Works uses it for light changes
    - Needs to be addressed
    - Commissioner Santangelo recommends that it should go back to Government & Finance
    - Chief Kronenberger stated that he would like to approach the Water Department since their vehicle is not in good shape and maybe buy one vehicle as a shared asset
- Recruitment update:
    - Chief Kronenberger stated that he very pleased with this recruitement
    - Lot of time spent with the job description update – dropped EMT and requiring CPAT upon conditional offer as opposed to application and ended up with over 300 applicants, 40 Middletown residents of which 15 advanced through to the final process and eight went through to the final interview.
        - Seven conditional offers made last week and is diversified: two city residents, one African American, one female, and one vet
    - Deputy Chief position update:
        - Tailored job description as to what they do now as opposed to what was done in 2000.
        - Chief job description updated as well
            - Both included National Standards
            - Deputy Chief position: would like to see the adoption of a salary increase as currently there is only a $3000 difference between the Fire Marshal and Deputy Chief in which the Fire Marshal can get overtime and the Deputy Chief cannot so he surpasses the Fire Marshal
            - Currently on General Council meeting agenda
                - Commissioner Bartolotta asked that an email go out the Friday prior to that meeting asking if anyone has comments or concerns
                - Commissioner Kleckowski asked that when submitted to provide the two numbers (cost of what it was and what it is)

10. Monthly Summary of Action Taken by the Telecommunications Committee

- Minutes from meeting held on January 4, 2016 distributed

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

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Santangelo called to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Ruffino
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 15, 2016