
MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MINUTES – POLICE

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016

7:00 P.M.

MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

(COMMUNITY ROOM)

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Robert Santangelo

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
Michael Timbro – Deputy Chief of Police
Captain John Lozefski – Administrative Commander

2. Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2016

Councilman Philip Pessina moved for approval of the Public Safety Commission (PSC) Minutes for January 11, 2016; Seconded by Councilman Carl Chisem. There being no discussion or objection, Motion passed.

3. Public Hearing – Matters on the Agenda Only

None.

4. Correspondence

Chief McKenna advised PSC of the following...

- The family of Jose Trinidad (*the 8th Grader who passed away*) dropped off a fruit basket in appreciation of the Department's participation at the wake and funeral procession.
- At the previous NEAT (North End Action Teach) Meeting, they received several compliments for Officers Ferdinando "John" Passacantando, Frank DiFonzo, Matthew Milardo, Christina Foss-Rugan; adding that they're continuously seen at the North End addressing public drinking, intoxication, and panhandling.
- A "Thank You" letter from the "Tip-A-Cop" (*CT Special Olympics*) for the Department's participation, along with ECSU, at Amici's Restaurant on March 3, 2016; that they raised \$2,500.00.
- A "Thank You" to Officer Addison St. Peter for assisting a family during the loss of a loved one, with funeral information, contact information, etc.
- A letter from South District Fire to Officer Anthony Knapp and Trish Hunt (*Scheduling Clerk*) for their participation with Adopt-A-Family, helping nine (9) families have a Christmas.
- A letter from Pat & Tom Inglis thanking the Department for the funeral escort for their brother who passed away.

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4. Correspondence (cont'd)

- A letter from the Shukis family for assistance with their funeral service.
- A "Thank You" to Officers Michael D'Aresta and (*newly sworn*) Ilona Bak for their personal assistance during a very delicate medical family crisis.

5. Monthly Reports (Attached)

Chief McKenna briefly went over the reports. He advised that the Department currently has four (*Police Officer*) vacancies; that five Officers, including one Sergeant, are on Light Duty or Workman's Compensation, reducing the effective manpower. He added that they're currently in the process of hiring for the vacancies.

Chief McKenna also explained the overtime with regards to Wharfside Commons; and the Private Duty. A brief Q&A followed.

6. Old Business

a. Firing Range – Policy and Usage

Chief McKenna advised that on March 1st, they had a meeting with the FBI and the owner of a recommended company; that they were given prices between 1.2 million and 1.5 million to pretty much guarantee the noise to go down. He went on to explain some of the details, including the environmental issues. There may be options (*price wise*) that they do the \$750,000.00 bond for the actual structure of a range, and then try to get funding through whichever city agency addresses the environmental issues to get the backdrop on the range. A Q&A and discussion followed.

b. Wharfside Commons

Chief McKenna said they're addressing the issues with their police force, creating a tip hotline, working with the community, etc.

c. Middletown High School Egress

Chief McKenna stated that he had a meeting with the Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Traffic, and the Command Staff; that the road is not wide enough for traffic. A brief discussion followed.

7. New Business

a. Revenue Generated from Private Duty

Chief McKenna explained that last August or September, they went to Finance & Government (*F&G*) to request that the Police Department seize some of the generated revenue out of that line; that the Department usually budgets, through the CNR, approximately \$450,000.00 to \$600,000.00 per year; that the City, as a whole, received \$650,000.00 last year. He added that the Department usually gets 4 to 7 vehicles per year; that they've been currently getting 2 vehicles per year; that the amount of money they spend on transmissions, springs, etc., is not making sense when they could be replenishing the fleet. He went on to say that F&G was close to approving a portion of the generated funds out of the revenue that goes directly into the General Fund. He would like to put it into a line (*Capital Improvement Line*) for the Police Department. After a more detailed discussion, Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski made a Motion to make a recommendation to F&G to create the Capital Improvement Line item for the Police Department; Seconded by Councilman Philip Pessina. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion passed.

b. Private Duty Rates

After explaining the history of the last Private Duty increased rates (2009), and everything that was factored in, Deputy Chief Michael Timbro listed the proposed new rates:

Type	From	To
Non-Profit Customers	\$ 60.00 per hour	\$ 70.00 per hour
Contractors	\$ 65.00 per hour	\$ 76.00 per hour
Cruiser	\$ 12.50 per hour	\$ 13.00 per hour

After a brief discussion, Councilman Pessina made a Motion to move this forward to F&G; Seconded by Councilman Carl Chisem. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion passed.

c. Animal Shelter

Chief McKenna stated this subject has been discussed for a couple of years; that ACO Gail Petras gave a presentation to PSC over a year ago; that he believes it could eventually bring the City revenues; that on the next day (March 22nd), the Mayor's Chief of Staff Joseph Samolis is conducting a meeting with Cromwell Town Manager Anthony Salvatore, Portland Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, and Police Staff to start the discussion on this.

8. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters

None.

9. Meeting Adjourned...

Councilman Pessina moved for Adjournment; Seconded by Councilman Carl Chisem. There being no discussion or objection, Motion passed.

Next Public Safety Commission Meeting: Monday, April 16, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosa B. Perichi
Recording Secretary