
MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

MINUTES – POLICE

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 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
Councilman Philip Pessina

MEMBER ABSENT: Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski

STAFF PRESENT: Michael Timbro – Deputy Chief of Police

STAFF ABSENT: William McKenna – Chief of Police
Captain John Lozefski – Administrative Commander

2. Approval of Minutes – July 18, 2016

Councilman Philip Pessina moved for approval of the Public Safety Commission (PSC) Minutes for July 18, 2016; Seconded by Councilman Carl Chisem. There being no discussion or objection, Motion approved.

3. Public Hearing – Matters on the Agenda Only

Eleanor Kelsey (241 Higby Road, Middletown)

Ms. Kelsey spoke about her safety in the north side of the Firing Range; that bullets go through the berm. Chairman Santangelo advised her that the Firing Range is completely enclosed by a berm; and Deputy Chief Michael Timbro assured her that bullets do not go through the berm. She disagreed, saying that she's picked up casings in the area. It was suggested to her that those casings could come from hunters. After a brief discussion, Ms. Kelsey asked if the bullets cannot go through the berm, why would a bullet trap be needed. Deputy Chief Timbro explained that the bullet trap is to address any potential environmental issues from the lead. A brief Q&A and discussion followed.

Ms. Kelsey then stated that on Saturday, August 13, 2016, at 10:30 P.M., there were gunshots coming from the Firing Range. Deputy Chief Timbro advised her that those shots did not come from the Firing Range; that perhaps it was someone else shooting. Ms. Kelsey said that if that was the case, the Police should've been protecting the neighborhood. After another discussion, Chairman Santangelo suggested that Ms. Kelsey attend a Firing Range Workshop at the Council Chambers on August 22, 2016, at approximately 7:00 P.M. She was also advised to contact Patrol Captain Sean Moriarty if she continues to have issues after calling the Police Department.

4. Correspondence

Deputy Chief Timbro advised that regarding the North End, specifically Pearl and Grand Street, and Liberty Street, Chief William McKenna wanted PSC to know that the Street Crime Unit (SCU) made two (2) raids (*one at the 100 block of Pearl Street*); that charges stemmed from Marijuana with intent to sell within 1,500 feet of a school; that the suspects were also running a tattoo parlor from their home, so the Police is investigating that with the City's Zoning and Health Departments. He added that on Liberty Street's narcotics raid, they recovered a 44-caliber revolver with no serial numbers, marijuana residue and packaging materials; and that the individual charged was a convicted felon who had a previous conviction from New York. He added that there are a couple of newspaper articles regarding these raids and that he'll E-mail the link to them.

5. Monthly Reports (Attached)

Deputy Chief Timbro asked if they wanted him to talk about this under **Item 7. New Business (c. Overtime Status since Increasing Manpower)**. Chairman Santangelo agreed.

6. Old Business

a. Firing Range – Noise

Deputy Chief Timbro reiterated that there will be a Firing Range Workshop at the Council Chambers on August 22, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. He advised that one vendor (*Troy Acoustics*) will be at the workshop; that TRS (*Total Range Solutions*) didn't get back to them. A brief Q&A and discussion followed.

b. Wharfside Commons

Deputy Chief Timbro advised that all of the evictions have been successfully executed, including the one that was holding out; that it's also why the neighborhoods in Pearl, Grand, and Liberty Streets are going through more difficulties than usual. He added that the fence is supposed to be installed at Wharfside this week or next week; that the last two (2) months have been good; that he believes they're not hiring Private Duty as of this weekend. However, if the problems start again, they will tell Wharfside in a heartbeat that hiring must resume, and he will give them the logistics of said hiring. A Q&A and discussion followed.

7. New Business

a. Cruiser Funding

Deputy Chief Timbro advised that Diana Doyle (*Finance*) recommended a \$500,000.00 bond with a 10-year payment plan, which would get them about 12 cruisers. He then went over the fleet inventory, which the PSC received with their packet, and highlighted a couple of them:

Patrol	Out of the 36 vehicles, 7 of them either need major repairs, or they're DOA and being used for parts. Out of the 29 that's left, 40% are over 100,000 miles.
Unmarked	Out of the 23 vehicles, 9 of them are over 100,000 miles; but 13 of those 23 are over 10 years old. And 8 of those 13 are 15 years old or older.

Deputy Chief Timbro then explained that if they were to get the 12 cruisers, they're looking to have 8 marked and 4 unmarked, or 7 (*marked*) and 5 (*unmarked*); that there's a plan in place to keep them for 3 to 4 years before converting them to road job cruisers.

7. New Business (cont'd)

a. Cruiser Funding

He added that right now their road job cruisers are the oldest in the fleet; and that they also have a plan in place that will allow the vehicles to last 10 years.

Deputy Chief Timbro then asked the PSC for their endorsement so they could take it to Finance & Government, with a more detailed breakdown. Councilman Pessina moved that the PSC endorse this and move it forward to Finance & Government; Seconded by Councilwoman Bartolotta. Councilwoman Bartolotta advised that when this gets to Finance & Government, she would help the Police Department through it. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion approved.

Councilman Pessina asked if this means they won't get into this situation in the future, should this goes through. Deputy Chief Timbro explained that they're in this situation because CNR funds have been limited for the last few years; that in the past, during Chief Brymer's 8-year tenure, the Department was receiving an average of 5 to 6 vehicles per year; that it was what was needed during that time; that it was also at a time when they had less officers; and that they're doing a lot more today, i.e., school security, etc. He added that this is just for them to try to get caught up. That moving forward, they would have to look at this again in about two (2) years; also adding that 2 to 3 vehicles per year will not cut it. A brief Q&A and discussion followed.

b. Interlocal Agreement between Portland & Middletown (Re: Animal Shelter)

Chairman Santangelo stated that the agreement was pretty much standard; that, hopefully, by the end of this week or early next week, he should have a completed Building Committee for the Animal Shelter. After a more detailed Q&A and discussion, Councilwoman Bartolotta requested, for the next PSC Meeting, the total numbers with respect to the shelter, including Pieper Olson, etc. Chairman Santangelo advised that they need to look at the whole package. After another brief discussion, Councilman Chisem moved to approve that the Interlocal Agreement (*between Portland & Middletown Re: Animal Shelter*) be forwarded to the Common Council Meeting; Seconded by Councilman Pessina. There being no further discussion or objection, Motion approved.

Councilwoman Bartolotta asked if the PSC won't be seeing the numbers she's looking for, will they have the numbers for the Council Meeting. Deputy Chief Timbro asked if they want the cost of the Shelter in addition to what the Middletown Police Department pays Portland. He was told that they're looking for the numbers on everything, and that it all needed to be itemized, including how it's being paid (*via City Budget and/or Donation*).

c. Overtime Status since Increasing Manpower

Deputy Chief Timbro reported that just for the month of July, the Replacement Overtime was \$60,000.00 more than last year, due to the additional manpower in Patrol. He advised that there is currently one (1) opening for a Police Officer, and they're in the process of hiring a Lateral for same. He went on to say that they will continue to evaluate everything and make the appropriate adjustments as conditions change, i.e., weather, etc. A brief Q&A followed regarding the Light Duty Officers.

7. New Business (cont'd)

c. Overtime Status since Increasing Manpower

Councilwoman Bartolotta asked how the additional Officers are applied to certain Shifts; and then she asked for a breakdown on when they're being added. Deputy Chief Timbro advised:

Evening Shift: 2 (two) Officers and one (1) Supervisor per Shift every day

***Midnight Shift: 1 (one) Officer and one (1) Supervisor per Shift Fri., Sat., & Sun.**

***(Thursday into Friday; Friday into Saturday; and Saturday into Sunday)**

Councilwoman Bartolotta then asked if they've done anything to change scheduling, other than adding Supervisors and Officers, to help cover some of the overtime cost. She added that she didn't realize they didn't have a Lieutenant working on weekends; that they only work Monday through Friday; that she suggested - and the Captain (*Lozefski*) agreed - that they could put a Lieutenant from Tuesday to Saturday; that it would help cover one of the Supervisor's open position. At this time, Chairman Santangelo interrupted and advised Councilwoman Bartolotta that the PSC does not do Operations. Deputy Chief Timbro added that this would also involve Union issues. Councilwoman Bartolotta replied that the Union said they didn't have a problem with it; that they were part of the discussion. After further discussion, Chairman Santangelo stated that per the Charter, the PSC is advisory and does not get involved, interfere, or talk about Operations. Councilwoman Bartolotta explained that to the financial part of it, she was just looking to be proactive and helpful. Deputy Chief Timbro said they take everything into account and consideration.

8. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters

None

9. Meeting Adjourned...

Councilman Pessina moved to Adjourn; Seconded by Councilman Chisem. There being no discussion or objection, Motion approved.

The next Public Safety Commission Meeting: Monday, September 19, 2016, at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosa B. Perichi
Recording Secretary