
MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 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: Michael Timbro – Deputy Chief of Police

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

2. Approval of Minutes – September 17, 2018

Councilman Philip Pessina moved for approval of the Public Safety Commission (PSC) Minutes for September 17, 2018; Seconded by Councilman Carl Chisem.

Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta asked Deputy Chief Michael Timbro for clarification to Chief William McKenna's response at the September 17, 2018 PSC Meeting on Item 5; Monthly Reports, 2nd Paragraph. Deputy Chief Timbro clarified it by stating that compared to last year's amount of Officers out on Comp or Light Duty, which ranged between five or six; this year they only have one Officer out on Light Duty, adding that it offsets the additional three SRO's. It was agreed that if the Department goes back to having five or six Officers out on Comp or Light Duty, then it will be like having eight out. Councilman Chisem asked to reaffirm that having the three extra SRO's is not going to affect the overtime. Deputy Chief Timbro replied that currently the overtime is lower than last year at this time; that should the situation change as last year with five or more Officers out on Comp, etc., it would be like having eight Officers out, affecting the overtime.

There being no further discussion or objection, Motion approved.

3. Public Hearing – Matters on the Agenda Only

None

4. Correspondence

None

5. Monthly Reports

Deputy Chief Timbro stated that the first quarter this Fiscal Year, they are within the budget; that the Replacement Overtime is down compared to last year; that the Regular Overtime is up slightly due to several large cases in September, including the homicide; but that even with that, they're still within the budget for Regular Overtime.

He added that they're swearing in three Lateral Officers (*on October 26, 2018*), putting the Department at 113 Officers; and they will be on the road much faster.

Promotional Lieutenant's Test is coming up, and then the Captain's Test will be coming up shortly after that.

Councilman Chisem asked what the timeframe would be in filling the two (2) positions. Deputy Chief Timbro stated that it will be one (1) Captain, two (2) Lieutenants, and two (2) Sergeants. He added that the Lieutenants' and Sergeants' promotions should be done by December; and that the Captain's promotion will be done sometime in the early part of 2019, adding that it hasn't been posted yet.

6. Old Business

a. Animal Shelter

Chairman Santangelo advised that he spoke to Joe Samolis; that Dr. Pieper Olson purchased the Middletown Veterinary Hospital (*150 Berlin Street*) and is planning to knock it down and build a new one; that they're planning to break ground in the spring; and hopefully, within a year and a half or so, they should have an Animal Shelter. He added that the cost to the City is \$750,000.00 and they'll be able to lease it for 20 years. After a Q&A / Discussion, it was noted that all of the logistics involved in this project need to be reviewed.

Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski made a Motion to suspend the rules to add 'Resolution for Boat Grant' under New Business'; Seconded by Councilman Pessina. There being no discussion or objection, Motion approved.

7. New Business

a. Resolution for Boat Grant

Deputy Chief Timbro advised that it's a grant from the Homeland Security for a boat; that the Department's current Boston Whaler is over 18 years old; that the Department would keep it, but it would be the back-up. He explained that with this boat grant, they could get up to \$308,000.00 for the purchase of a new boat; that they would have to put in 25% of the final purchase cost, a maximum of \$77,000.00; that they're intending to take that from the Asset Forfeiture funds; that they're looking for confirmation to accept this grant; that they won this grant and it needs to be accepted by November 30th. Councilman Pessina made a Motion to move this grant to the Common Council; Seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski. Councilwoman Bartolotta asked who applied for the grant, and Deputy Chief Timbro replied that Captain John Lozefski oversaw it and Officer Joshua Ward had a hand in it. There being no further discussion or questions, Motion approved.

8. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters

Reverend Yvonne Gallaher, Deliverance Haven Church, 639-643 Main Street, Middletown
Rev. Gallaher spoke about vandalism, where last summer someone threw rocks and broke the windows at the church on the Grand Street side at least five or six consecutive times. She didn't feel her pleas were being addressed, so they placed Plexiglass over the windows. It helped.

8. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters (cont'd)

Rev. Gallaher also said that on the Main Street side, people sit on the window sills, cause damage to the building, and nothing is ever done; that they have had numerous occasions where people urinate at the front of the building – and numerous times they have found feces – and have called the Police. Within the last two weeks, there have been numerous occasions where ambulance service have been called because someone has drunk himself into a stupor and passed out. She added that the Grand Street side of the church is now used as a bathroom.

After reporting other incidents that have occurred, **stressing the necessity for Police presence**, Deputy Chief Timbro requested her contact information and advised her that he will have Captain Wallace, the Patrol Commander, contact her and assist her.

Jennifer Mahr, 99 Old Farms East, and Chair of Westfield Residents Association

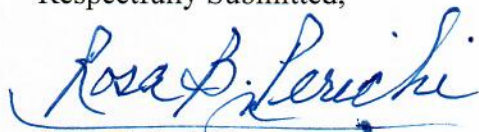
- Ms. Mahr advised the PSC about the speed of large dump trucks that come out of Meriden down Country Club Road or the other direction – going up Country Club Road to Meriden. She believes they're mostly taking asphalt to and from the Suzio Complex (*Meriden*). She added that they're traveling anywhere from 40, 50 to 55 mph; that they start from 7:15 A.M. to 7:45 A.M., right when the school buses are traveling, down Atkins Street and up to Country Club Road; that it's a disaster waiting to happen. Ms. Mahr is asking for increased attention to the situation; that it's not just one company, that there are all kinds of dump trucks driving up and down that street.
- Ms. Mahr stated that she's on the nextdoor.com website; that it's an on-line community for various neighborhoods; that one has to be invited to join, given a password; that there's a Crime and Safety portion of this website. She said that since this summer, she's been watching the reporting of car thefts or car break-ins on the Baldwin Avenue area in Meriden; in Berlin; and that on August 20th, it was Savage Hill Road in Berlin – that it's just the other side of Atkins Street; and that on October 1st it was Atkins Street and Old Farms West. She added that the M.O. seems to be the same; there have been numerous videos capturing a car drive up around 3:00 A.M., people getting out trying to open car doors. After a brief discussion, Deputy Chief Timbro advised Ms. Mahr to make sure residents report any sign of trouble, even if nothing is stolen or vandalized; that those reports will help with the investigation.

9. Meeting Adjourned...

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

Next Public Safety Commission Meeting: November 19, 2018, 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosa B. Perichi
Recording Secretary