



# **TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY**

## *POLICE COMMISSION*

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION**

**Monday, June 13, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Conference Room**

**Present:** Commissioner Ken Heidkamp, Chairman  
Commissioner Fran Barton  
Commissioner Frank Cipriano

**Also Present:** Attorney Robert Smith  
Acting Chief Dabbo  
Barbara Whitaker, Recording Clerk  
Marj Needham, Reporter - Voices

**Absent:** Commissioner Paul Bowler  
Commissioner George Moreira

#### **Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance**

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Presentation of Plaques**

At this time Chief Dabbo presented the officers with plaques for their service.

#### **Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2016 Meeting**

Commissioner Barton MOTIONED to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2016 meeting, SECONDED by Commissioner Cipriano. Unanimous approval.

#### **Chief's Report – Acting Chief Dabbo**

Chief Dabbo stated that Commissioner Barton has the first six pages of the policy book. Acting Chief has to get some model and part numbers for designation.

Chief Dabbo indicated that the inspection and inventory report that will be given to the Officers for inventory on their equipment and uniforms. The First Selectman has requested that wants the Chief to put up a notice that the officers should get all the

Chief Dabbo informed the Commission that the U.S. Attorney's partnership award will be presented to Officer Cronin. They will be going to New Haven to receive this award.

Chief Dabbo stated that all of the officers have received firearms and pistol training.

The Chief received a price quote from Connecticut Uniform. They are moving forward with this.

The Chief said that Sgt. Desmarais suggested changing some of the call letters to the MPD. They have to move everyone up because of retirements. They were discussing changing the supervisors to have a different designation.

On May 30, he and Chief Viadero participated in a drug awareness presentation at the Southbury Town Hall. The main topic was the heroin epidemic. It was well received. Betty Proulx asked if they would do the same presentation in Middlebury. This will be a panel discussion.

The Rev 3 Triathlon went very smoothly. There was a minor accident. This meeting will consist of parents and students. Commissioner Barton asked if there would be a program for the students at the Nonnewaug. The Acting Chief is working on this.

Acting Chief Dabbo reported that the lockdown at Westover school drill was cancelled. It will be revisited in the fall.

### **Chairman's Report – Chairman Heidkamp**

The Chairman observed a practice. The officers of the MPD have an open invitation to use range in Oxford. It was clear that there are distracted people. Several people were almost hit, but everyone did a good job. The Acting Chief spoke with George Frantzis of Quassy Amusement Park and Chief Bruno and they will do an after action review. Acting Chief proposed that they do not close Sherman Hill. They will have a review to work on making improvements.

Commissioner Cipriano discussed Christian Road being closed for the 4th of July while fireworks take place at Quassy.

He and the Chief are now dealing with a new roof, removal of underground storage tanks, mechanical, etc.

### **Old Business**

The Chairman indicated that they are moving along on uniform inspection policy and included inspection and inventory policy. The officers will be submitting their inventory lists. There will be a \$600 uniform allowance per office to include blouse, pants, tie and hat.

Commissioner Cipriano presented the Chairman with pictures of the officer's hats and uniforms from the Orange Police Department. He also presented a copy of Orange's uniform policy.

The Chairman indicated that one of the crews had an accident and that the left driver's door was slightly damaged. The car will be repaired. No one was hurt.

The Chairman will discuss signage at the end of the parking lot at the Police Department. He added that many people are trying to enter the park and they are driving in back of the MPD.

Budget Update

Waterbury Police Department will be going live on June 28<sup>th</sup>. They will keep a close eye to see if the switch effects Middlebury.

The Chairman added that overtime continues to be an issue. The special duty work continues to come it, and they will exceed the revenue on that side. Maybe some of this could be used for overage; and they will save money on natural gas.

They have no information on the impact of the budget cuts by the State. We will not know how much until September or October.

The Sergeant's exam was posted. There will be more discussion on this next month.

From the list that they have, there are four or five officers listed as part-time reserve officers. They are being used more fully in the towns where they live full-time. The officers have been working a lot and it is taking a toll. He requested permission to hire more part-time officers.

The first Selectman prefers that the speed trailer be purchased and the sign is mounted on it. They will pursue purchasing their own and they will move the trailer into the problem areas. The Acting Chief said that they are hoping to raise the public's awareness on speeding. There will be a data recording on it to identify the high speed times.

There are two older cars on the road, car five and car six.

The Chairman said that he has heard quite a number of alarm calls coming in and that in the past the Commission has discussed enforcing the alarm ordinance. The Chairman requested the Acting Chief to look into where the MPD is with this process. Commissioner Cipriano said in the past residents were given three chances. The Chairman would also like to look into whether accurate information is coming in from dispatch so the ordinance can be enforced. Commissioner Barton asked if they would enforce the present ordinance. The Chairman said they will review the ordinance at the next meeting. The Chief indicated that there are typically two officers respond to these calls. Commissioner Barton said that habitual calls should receive warning letters that they will be charged for the calls. The Acting Chief said that this is revenue that the Town should be taking in and it takes the officers away from valuable time.

Commissioner Barton asked if there were any issues to be resolved with Northwest Public Safety. The Acting Chief said that there were still ongoing issues. The Chairman said that the test will be when they take on Waterbury Police Department. The Chairman added that is concerned with what will happen when Northwest switches over.

Commissioner Barton asked if all of the officers were able to hear the calls. The Acting Chief said that dispatch does not always hear the officers. There is an issue with the portables and the radios in the cars. Sgt. Desmarais discovered that if a dispatcher is on the phone taking a complaint for some reason their ear piece is cutoff from hearing an officer calling in. The Acting Chief said that this must be fixed.

**New Business**

It has been brought to the Chairman's attention there is some confusion amongst residents on how to enter Meadowview Park. The Chairman would like Commissioner Cipriano to work with the Chief and Parks and Recreation and Public works to see if better signage is needed. There was some discussion on having a gate, but that does not work there.

**Executive Session**

Commissioner Cipriano MOTIONED to go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters, SECONDED by Commissioner Barton. Attorney Robert Smith and Acting Chief Dabbo were invited to sit in on the discussion.

The Commission came out of Executive Session. No votes were taken.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully,

*Barbara J. Whitaker*

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Recording Clerk