



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION Monday, August 15, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. Town Hall Conference Room

Present: Commissioner Ken Heidkamp, Chairman
Commissioner Fran Barton (entered at 6:56 p.m.)
Commissioner Frank Cipriano
Commissioner George Moreira

Also Present: Attorney Robert Smith
Acting Chief Fran Dabbo
Officer Al Cronin
Officer Fred Marcantonio

Excused

Absent: Commissioner Paul Bowler

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance

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

Chief's Report – Acting Chief Dabbo

The speed monitoring trailer has been ordered and will arrive soon.

The Police Explorers have formed a Committee. The Board will meet once a quarter (four times a year). The Town has generously allowed Officer Baskins to use the old senior bus. They are preparing now for the Boy Scouts of America.

The Chief was able to obtain from Torrington Police Department a dispatch issues form. Problems or issues can be sent to Northwest electronically. This has already been used one time; and there are one or two other complaints pending. He will meet with Steve Savage to ask if NW would like to respond to the issues on this form as well.

The Chief visited two dispatch centers in South Dakota. They shared insight and accountability regulations. They have a third party vendor that randomly checks the dispatching calls. The chief shared some of his observations of the dispatch centers of the two local county police departments.

The Chief said that he and Deputy Chief Covello in Waterbury are the hiring committee. If NWPS comes to them with a hiring request, they are going to deny it until the simple issues are fixed. He is going to work on mirroring the dispatch policies the same as Waterbury.

Chief Dabbo, Commissioner Heidkamp, Kevin Dawes and Steve Savage met at the Police Department to address minor problems entering the building. The angle of the camera needs to be adjusted. The Chief would like dispatch to see visitors in the lobby or standing at the door and attempt to assist them so they are not just idly waiting for someone to help them.

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The Chairman suggested that the corrective measures be listed in the second box on the form; listing the issue and what the resolve was and what the corrective action will be. The Chief will discuss this with Steve Savage to be sure that this information is included in the reply from NWPS.

The Chairman asked if this was separate from the Police Explorers. Now they are working with the Boy Scouts of America. Officer Cronin said that the two groups are piggybacking off of each other.

The First Selectman said that Officer Baskins came in to inquire about the use of the older Senior Bus. The First Selectman said that there is no issue with the bus being used. Officer Baskins is going to get the proper license required to use the bus.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman continues to meet with Chief Dabbo and Robin to ensure that they are on the same page. They speak about computer usage, neighborhood patrols, vehicles being order, etc.

The First Selectman offered that the Capital Plan was presented and approved by the Board of Finance. This plan includes much needed repairs to the Police Department.

Old Business

Buildings and Equipment Report – Commissioner Cipriano

At this time Commissioner Cipriano thanked the First Selectman to getting the information on the two cars that were ordered. In the past the cars have come in in October.

Commissioner Cipriano will try to do a walk through inspection of the building with the Chief so if there are any issues they can be brought before the Commission.

Commissioner Cipriano said that a poll was knocked down in front of Adams and Adams two weeks ago. They called for an officer to respond, and they were told that no officer would come out because this happened on private property. Officer Cronin stated that Officer Deely on his way to work the next day, he stopped and pulled over and got all the information from the people. Officer Deely advised the dispatcher that he was taking care of the call.

Commissioner Cipriano commended the officers for taking great care of the cars. He commended the officers. The car with the damaged door is back in the fleet.

Communications

The Chairman said that they had a special meeting last week to discuss a complaint. He wants to assure the officers in the room that they take the complaint seriously. He wants to understand what policies and procedures are currently in place. He asked the Chief to ask NWPS what policy book they are working from so that they can understand what is going forward.

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The Chief brought to his attention the National Que evaluation service. He thinks this will help the Department and Commission understand how to evaluate things. Over time you will be able to see how the trends are getting better or worse. They will be random samplings of calls.

Reserve Officers

The Chief indicated that there are now five reserve officers and two more are coming on board. The Chief said that he feels this is sufficient. They are moving as quickly as they can to get the other two officers on board.

Commissioner Cipriano said that there isn't much of a need for the reserve officers now that the fireworks are over and the tree work is coming to a close. The First Selectman said that Lewis Tree and Eversource have five crews a day working here in Town working every day and they may be here until the first of the year, so there is a need for the reserve officers to be in place.

Executive Session

At this time, Commissioner Barton MOTIONED to go into Executive Session for a discussion on the response letter to applicants for the Chief's posting, SECONDED by Commissioner Moreira. Unanimous approval.

The Commission came out of Executive Session.

Commissioner Cipriano MOTIONED to recommend that Acting Chief Dabbo be appointed Chief of Police to the Board of Selectmen, SECONDED by Commissioner Moreira. Unanimous approval.

Adjournment

Commissioner Cipriano MOTIONED to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:14 p.m., SECONDED by Commissioner Moreira. Unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Whitaker

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Recording Clerk