



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION

Monday, October 20, 2014 – 6:45 p.m.

Town Hall Conference Room

Present: Commissioner Frank Cipriano, Chairman
Commissioner Paul Bowler
Commissioner Fran Barton, Jr.
Commissioner Ken Heidkamp

Also Present: Chief James Viadero
Barbara Whitaker, Recording Clerk
Edith Hardwick, Reporter
Bee Intelligencer

Absent: Commissioner George Moreira

Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance

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

Selectman Barra's Comments to the Police Commission

Selectman Barra stated that over the summer there were kids going through Three Mile Hill on the motor cross bikes. Selectman Barra wanted to thank the Chief and Officer Deeley for apprehending the perpetrators.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Heidkamp MOTIONED to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2014 Meeting, SECONDED by Commissioner Bowler. Unanimous approval.

Police Department

Personnel and Labor – Commissioner Moreira

Commissioner Moreira was not present.

Building and Equipment – Commissioner Heidkamp

Commissioner Heidkamp met with the Chief, Officer Blick, Hunt Communications and NWPS in a working session to work out the incompatibility between the global software and the Hunt software. He feels that things have been put in place and the plan is that in 90 days we should be in a better place.

Everything is good in the building.

The Chairman inquired to the Chief as to the fleet and equipment sheet and why it wasn't in the packet. The Chief stated that with the ongoing issues with

the software requiring Robin's input, when she finishes that project, she will have the sheet ready for the Commission in time for their next meeting.

Rules and Regulations – Commissioner Barton

No report.

Budget Process/Overtime Budget – Commissioner Bowler

Commissioner Bowler and the Chief met briefly to discuss the budget. Commissioner Bowler explained that there have been some unavoidable events that have increased the overtime. The Department is very busy.

Commissioner Heidkamp said added that the Department is also down a headcount, with Lt. Wildman retiring. The Department may be down even more dollar wise. The Chief stated that they have been Lt. Wildman's spot with the reserve officer status and they have depleted the reserve officer account.

Chief's Report

There are two policies on liability; high profile and pursuit policy and emergency operations of police vehicles and non-biased racial profiling regulations as mandated by the State of Connecticut. The Chief explained that all police departments will keep statistics on self-initiated stops. There is nothing to negotiate and nothing in conflict with the Collective Bargaining unit. The two policies are state statutes. The statistics have to be forwarded to the Chief State's Attorney's office on a quarterly basis. Commissioner Barton MOTIONED to accept the policies and procedures set forth on traffic stops and emergency operation, SECONDED by Commissioner Heidkamp. Unanimous approval.

The Chief stated that there were notable arrests made in last part of August and first part of September. Officer Cronin and Sgt. Desmarais made multiple arrests on heroin dealing going on at Dunkin Donuts. The Department made another seizure of heroin on Thursday night. They are working in conjunction with parole, probation departments and the Naugatuck Police Department.

They had an incident on Forest Road. Officer Kalvatis and Deeley arrested a student from Teikyo Post who had become intoxicated and kicked doors of neighbors in the area and knocking on doors. The Officers responded within two minutes of receiving call.

They continue to do spot checks on people who are on probation.

The Chief said that he issued press release today concerning an incident at LedgeWood Park a woman was there walking and a man approached her and

tried to kiss her. She gave the officers a description (Marcantonio and Kalvatis, Todd Adams). He is an Albanian national and he left town.

The Chief indicated that the Department has received numerous complaints about the traffic on Yale Avenue, speeding cars, etc. and that in response the Department has given out a number of motor vehicle violations. The Chief feels that there is a need to have a parking ordinance for this area. Parking on this street makes it very narrow.

The Chief stated that he reviewed the Town's alarm ordinance and some of the things that are going on throughout the State with alarms. The Chief will work with the Connecticut Chief of Police Association as far as formulating an alarm ordinance policy. The officers are going to the same homes over and over for false alarms. Once he formulates a draft ordinance, he will bring it to the Commission.

The Chief indicated that all residents with alarms need to be re-registered so their information can be forwarded onto Northwest Public Safety so that they have the correct alarm information. There will be fines for your alarm not working correctly. The Chief said in reviewing the call reports for alarms over the past three months you can tell it's the same homes. He feels that this needs to be revisited and tightened up. When there is a burglar alarm they send two officers. It will be presented to the Board of Selectmen the ordinance. This way they can have an accurate database.

The Chief said that responding to the false alarms is affecting overtime and affecting everything else that goes on in the Department. State statute says police departments are not mandated to respond to burglar alarms, with that service there may be a cost attributed to it. Other towns give a verbal warning, second time is a monetary. There will be an appeal process to the Police Commission. They are confronting a lack of correct information on the registration, particularly with the commercial properties. Two are vendors who provide this service, and it would be at no cost to the Town.

They are going to look at a tow ordinance.

Officers are first responders to medical emergencies. They are putting out some new protocols regarding Ebola and putting some kits together.

Chief Viadero attended a function at the Thomaston Opera House where he received a \$1695.00 grant for the Middlebury Police Department from the

Thomaston Savings Bank. The Chief said the Department will use this money to buy a lap top and a lockout kit.

The Chief stated that the 5k Tata Trot given by Pies and Pints had over 1,000 participants; Pies and Pints anticipated 100 to 150 participants. The Department requested a definitive number of how many participants there would be two to three days before the event. When they received the call, Pies and Pies indicated that they had in excess of 1,000 participants coming. Pies and Pints spoke with both churches, Middlebury Congregational Church and St. John's, and they too anticipated that the participation was going to be small.

The Chief met with the Clergy of both churches and assured them that the road wasn't going to be completely closed. Five officers had to be provided for this event and it went off without a hitch. St. John's said that there attendance was down and the donations were down. The officers responded in timely manner and were very professionals. The chief said that next time the race shouldn't be scheduled on a Sunday again at that timeframe. It was a very well organized event. They discovered that everyone parks on both sides of the street, and you're not supposed to. That could be part of the reason why people didn't go to church.

The Chief stated that the laptops are set up and they are working through the problems with the State. They should be operational in the next thirty days. They will have internet access and they will be able to view video cameras in the schools and Town buildings. Working through CAD interface with Northwest Public Safety, because they were losing a lot of data. They have to report statistics correctly to the State on a quarterly basis. The two vendors are Hunt and Global and they sat down to work out the problem. He has been receiving weekly updates on the progress.

The Chief said that the fundraising effort for the new canine has been overwhelming, as they have received in excess of \$11,000.00. The training class starts the first week of February 2015, and Officer Demers will be attending. They got a new dog and next week they will make a formal announcement. He is not a working dog yet. When he comes on they will retire J. J.

The ballistic shields came in on Friday. They will be used in the cars, in particular the ones that do the school security detail.

The Chief said that he has been attending a lot of meetings. He made a presentation to Chemtura discussing suspicious packages and their active shooter policy, etc. The Chief will be meeting with officials from Region 15 Board

of Education and they will be talking about school security issues and he will be going to Westover tomorrow night to do the same thing.

The Chief said that he has received a thank you letter for the officers responding in an emergency situation, and that person also sent a check for a new canine.

Commissioner Barton asked if the policies will be relayed to officers. Chief said that they have a read and sign book and each officer will have to read the policy and sign the book.

Chairman Report

The Chairman stated that over the months he has received several calls from residents and he has been stopped by several residents commending and complimenting the Chief.

The Chairman said that he would like the Commission to think about how they want to restructure the Department so they can discuss it at the next meeting. He said that a lot of Departments have their second in command that is not in the Union. He realizes that this is going to take some time. There has to be a supervisor on every shift. The possibility for liability is here, even though this is a small Town.

Commissioner Bowler said that he would like to have the Chief's opinion before they begin this process, because the Chief runs the Department and would have to be work in an environment he feels is right. He would like to hear the Chief's reasoning on how he feels it should be structured.

The Chairman asked why the sheet containing the phone numbers and fleet list wasn't contained in the report. The Chief indicated that Robin had been working on other projects, and that the fleet list would be in the next packet.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Commissioner Bowler MOTIONED that Police Commission meeting schedule remain the same, SECONDED by Commissioner Barton. Unanimous approval.

Adjournment

Commissioner Bowler MOTIONED to adjourn, SECONDED by Commissioner Heidkamp. Unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted this 22nd day of October, 2014 subject to approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Whitaker

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Recording Clerk