



# **TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY**

*Office of the Selectmen*

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION**  
**Monday, May 18, 2015 – 6:45 p.m.**  
**Town Hall Conference Room**

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

**Also Present:** Chief James Viadero  
Barbara Whitaker, Recording Clerk

**Call to Order with Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Selectman Barra's Comments to the Police Commission**

Selectman Barra was not present.

**Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2015 Special Meeting**

Commissioner Barton MOTIONED to approve the minutes, SECONDED by Commissioner Heidkamp.

**Police Department Committee Reports**

Personnel and Labor – Commissioner Moreira

Commissioner Moreira stated that everything has been quiet and the Chief has been doing a great job.

**Building and Equipment – Commissioner Heidkamp**

The Chief stated that there has been nothing new since they discussed the brackets last month. The gas tank fell off on one of the old cars; 2010 Crown Vic. They had to fix it and it will eat into their maintenance account by \$2,600.00. The straps rotted out, had to replace gas tank brackets. There are 63,000 miles on the car.

**Rules and Regulations – Commissioner Barton**

Nothing to report.

**Budget Process/Overtime Report**

Nothing to report.

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### **Chief's Report**

The Chief stated that the Animal Pound has been resurfaced. He added that Brass City Rescue will be leasing out the pound, they are a non-profit group. They should take tenancy by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Chief informed the Commission that it has been a slow moving process on communications. Northwest signed a contract with Waterbury to handle all of their dispatching. They will start this in July 2016. They will be leasing space in the bottom of St. Mary's hospital. He doesn't feel that there will be any negative aspects for the Middlebury Police Department. They are working with them hand in hand to make sure the Town doesn't get left out. They have a contract with us so they have to provide the services. There will be officers in the dispatch center, they are looking for people with law enforcement and dispatch background to work in the center. Waterbury is using different software than Middlebury is using.

Chief Viadero said Officer Demers returned from the Connecticut State Police Academy, he will graduate with 11 other officers on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The MPD will have a patrol canine ready by next week. The funds that were solicited by donations and by renting out the animal shelter have been covering Officer Demer's shifts. In addition to his training, Officer Demers has been handling other duties and driving two to three hours a day.

The Chief added that the Department will be over in the holiday vacation account as well as over in maintenance because the vehicles are getting older and require more maintenance. The preventive maintenance is being done.

The Chief stated that the Department is over in the reserve officer fund. They were short one officer on the shift. They are going to be over on computer account as a number of cars are up and running with the lap tops.

The Chief stated that the MPD participated in a joint investigation, local arrests were made this case was started by Officer Cronin. Five officers have completed training.

The Revolution 3 Triathlon will be on June 6 and 7. They will be putting up signs on 64 and 188 and Route 64 will be closed from 188 to the Woodbury line from the commencement to the termination. It will be a big inconvenience. Fireworks will be on Saturday night.

The fundraiser has raised \$7,000 for the Explorers.

The Chief said that he went to two day conference for CPCA. Some of the policies that are changing that are important, there are going to be many

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unfunded mandates, protective orders, who's serving them, seizing weapons and storing those weapons. Body cameras are going to become mandatory.

The Chief presented the Commission a report on racial profiling. He feels that the material is helpful for departments to look at.

Commissioner Heidkamp inquired about the texting while driving campaign. They did fourteen days in April and it was very successful. They will pick it up again in August. There was a good amount of activity. It's up to the officer's discretion on what will be done when drivers are pulled over for texting.

Chief Viadero has applied for a click it or ticket grant. They are working on a project with Naugatuck on a BAT. There are many initiatives that are being funded by the DOT in particular for texting and DUI.

Commissioner Barton asked if there was going to be a program to start the body cameras. When the bill is passed it will be a pilot program and departments throughout the state will be designated to experiment with the cameras. They will be coming out with policies over the next year or two. The Chief said he would like to pursue this.

Commissioner Barton inquired about the regionalization of local police departments. The Chief said that it complicates things so it is something that has to be explored and well throughout. He feels that because of the finances involved he doesn't know how much it is going to cost each Town. There may also be some issues with collective bargaining agreements, but it is something that is being discussed.

Commissioner Heidkamp inquired about the alarm ordinance. Chief said that he cannot finish the policy until they have the communications issues straightened out. Calls for service are up because of false alarms. The MPD is not obligated to send someone to a house because of a burglar alarm; a panic alarm is different. Therefore they have the right to charge for this service.

The Chairman thanked the Commissioners for coming in with their suits for the picture.

The Chairman said that the cars look good and they are nice and clean.

The Chairman congratulated Officer Demers for graduating from the Academy and thanked the chief for finding the funds.

The Chief said that the Governor declared Tuesday Officer Wellness Day. The Governor is recognizing the stresses that is put on the PD's that there has got to be

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some type of services provided like EAP. CCP is starting a committee that will come up with ideas on what can be done for officers to promote wellness.

They are kicking off one of the first events at the Police Academy tomorrow. There will be other programs coming down to help the officers.

Commissioner Barton said that he has some paperwork for firearms that will give a discount for rails, etc.

Chairman asked Commissioner Heidkamp if the officers have been going out to qualify. They will be doing this at the end of July. Commissioner Heidkamp spoke with Sgt. Desmarais and he will join in.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Officer Cronin is on duty that night, they are not sure if he will be able to participate in the parade with the motorcycle.

Commissioner Moreira MOTIONED to approve the policies as presented, SECONDED by Commissioner Barton.

Commissioner Heidkamp asked if there was a plan to have an award ceremony to present officers with awards for meritorious awards. This will be planned for September.

**Executive Session**

Commissioner Cipriano MOTIONED to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel related matter regarding Chief James Viadero, SECONDED by Commissioner Bowler. Chief Viadero was invited to sit in.

The Commission came out of Executive Session, no votes were taken. Commissioner Heidkamp MOTIONED to adjourn, SECONDED by Commissioner Moreira. Unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara J. Whitaker*

Barbara J. Whitaker  
Recording Clerk