



TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION Monday, July 13, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. Via Video Conference

Present: George Moreira, Chairman
Commissioner Fran Barton
Commissioner Paul Bowler
Commissioner Frank Cipriano
Commissioner Tom King (arrived 6:12pm)

Also Present: Chief Fran Dabbo
Attorney Robert Smith
Amy Von Culin, Recording Clerk
Marjorie Needham, Bee Intelligencer
Linda Zukauskas, Voices News
Vanessa Despres, Resident
Sylvie Preston, Resident

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Chairman Moreira leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of June 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Barton MOTIONED to approve the minutes, SECONDED by Commissioner Bowler. Unanimous approval.

Chairman Moreira requested to change the agenda and move Public Comment to the beginning of the meeting as there were individuals waiting in the lobby to speak. All commissioners were in favor of moving Public Comment.

Public Comment

Vanessa Despres introduced herself as a resident of Middlebury and wanted to recommend the Commission recognize Sgt. Slaiby and Officer Markiewicz for their heroic efforts in locating the individuals that were shooting near her home. Ms. Despres read a posting she wrote on Facebook and reiterated to the commission the actions of the officers. Commissioner Cipriano asked if they were shooting on private property and if she called the police. She was unsure who owned the property and she did contact the police for assistance.

Commissioner Barton informed Ms. Despres recognition for the officers was already approved and in process.

Ms. Sylvie Preston, a 35-year resident of Middlebury, wanted to address the commission concerning signage placed on Shaddock Road from Larkin State Bridle Trail and onto Bioski. The current location of signage prevents horses from approaching the trail safely. The horse must go into the center of the road in order to enter or exit. Additionally, there is no space for walking on the side of the road. The space between the guardrail and road is narrow. It ends at a private driveway.

Ms. Preston has requested the commission consider moving both signs (Larkin sign and yellow crossing sign) so horses can walk on the grass shoulder area. Chief Dabbo would like to schedule a walk through with Ms. Preston and DPW Director Dan Norton so the three of them can walk the area and determine best areas to relocate signage.

Ms. Preston also mentioned placing a notice of crossing sign further down the road so vehicle drivers are made aware of the upcoming crossing. Commissioner Bowler expressed painting a crosswalk would be the ideal resolution.

Committee Reports

Building & Equipment-Commissioner Cipriano commented on the cleanliness of the vehicles and wanted to commend the officers for taking great care of them. He also wanted to thank First Selectman St. John for his efforts in purchasing new vehicles for the department.

Budget and Overtime

Commissioner Bowler noted the budget is in very good shape to end the fiscal year.

Personnel & Labor

Commissioner King congratulated the officers recognized for their service to the residents of Middlebury.

Chief Dabbo informed the Commission of his inquiry to conduct the Sergeants test through Jetmore at a cost of \$4500. Chief Dabbo is requesting the Commission consider offering an oral examination in the place of the Jetmore testing. Attorney Smith stated he would have to discuss with the police union.

Rules & Regulations

Commissioner Barton reported Chief Dabbo is working on a new policy for “Use of Force” as per new state guidelines. Attorney Smith will need to review the policy.

Old Business-None

New Business-None

Chairman's Report-None

Chief's Report

The delivery of the new cruiser is on hold until the radios arrive.

We are meeting with Nexgen and Northwest CT Public Safety to determine and resolve issues that have been ongoing. We are finding there are several modules that were never set up in the department and we are currently working on getting those modules set up for use.

The website is continually being updated and we are hoping to make it more user friendly.

Executive Session

Commissioner Bowler MOTIONED to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing legal matters, SECONDED by Commissioner Cipriano. Unanimous Approval.

Attorney Robert Smith was requested to attend Executive Session.

The Commission exited executive session at 6:51pm with no votes taken.

Adjournment

Commissioner Bowler MOTIONED to ADJOURN the meeting at 6:52pm, SECONDED by Commissioner Barton. Unanimous approval

Next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2020, 6:00pm.

These minutes are submitted this 23rd day of July, 2020 subject to approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Von Culin, Recording Clerk