



# TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY

## POLICE COMMISSION

### MINUTES MEETING OF THE POLICE COMMISSION Monday, October 15, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. Town Hall Conference Room

**Present:** Commissioner George Moreira, Chairman  
Commissioner Fran Barton  
Commissioner Paul Bowler  
Commissioner Frank Cipriano  
Commissioner Tom King

**Also Present:** Attorney Robert Smith  
Chief Fran Dabbo  
Barbara Whitaker, Recording Clerk

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

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

#### **Approval of September 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Bowler MOTIONED to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2018 meeting, to include the language below; SECONDED by Commissioner King. Unanimous approval.

On page 1 of the September 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes under Budget & Overtime Commissioner Bowler stated:

*“At approximately 1% over budget we are doing very well and it could be much higher if overtime had not been maintained as well as it has been. One percent is a nominal amount of money to be over, when given an extremely low budget from the beginning for overtime”.*

#### **Public Comments**

At this time the Chairman moved Public Comments to the top of the agenda to accommodate a resident request.

Greg Barnes attended the meeting to discuss the “NO THRU TRUCK” sign on Tranquility Road. The sign is now a “no trucks” sign. Now the trucks are going down Spring Road. He is frustrated because he asked that Spring Road be made a no “NO THRU TRUCK” sign and not a sign that reads “NO TRUCKS”. He feels that the Public Works Director is putting signs up wherever he wants. Attorney Smith said that if there is an error on the signage it will be addressed. Mr. Barnes thanked the Commission for the stop sign that has been placed on his road and added that a sign that indicates no trucks on the road makes it impossible for oil trucks, delivery trucks, etc. to get through.

Building and Equipment – Commissioner Cipriano

Commissioner Cipriano said that the buildings soffit has been sanded and repainted. Utility Communications installed five speaker boxes. The switches in the cellar have been repaired so there are lights in the cells and the doors can be opened and closed.

Commissioner Cipriano said that the First Selectman said there will be two new cars coming in October. There was a deal made with the carwash on Straits Turnpike to clean the police vehicles.

Budget and Overtime – Commissioner Bowler

Commissioner Bowler said that he spoke with the Chief today and that he and the Chief Financial Officer have assured him that the department is looking good on overtime.

Personnel & Labor

Commissioner King thanked the Chief for the installation of the body cameras. The Chief said he has one more body camera to give to an officer tomorrow.

There was some discussion on the body cameras. Attorney Smith said that there is a statute called municipal policy violations act. The state board of labor relations handles these complaints and there is no grievance filed. It is not bound by precedent.

Rules and Regulations – Commissioner Barton

The Chief informed Commissioner Barton that the new bank security policy has been distributed to the appropriate individuals.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Commissioner Cipriano presented a list of update items distributed by the First Selectman. The Chief indicated that these items had been taken care of. There was some discussion about the lack of police presence in Town. Commissioner Bowler said that he frequently sees squad cars patrolling through Town.

Chairman's Report

The Chief gave the Chairman thank you notes that he received. The Police Department received a grant from the Thomaston Savings Bank that will be used to purchase portable radios.

Chief's Report

The Chief stated that by 2020 all computers in the Police Department (including the vehicles) will have to be on the Windows 2010 operating system and will need to be replaced. Commissioner Bowler asked the Chief to look into leasing computers so that the Department does not have to put out thousands of dollars for hardware and

software. The Chief said that he has to do the same upgrade for the radios because they were purchased in 2011. Commissioner Bowler said that a leasing policy should be considered for the radios as well.

Chief Dabbo and Dan Norton, Public Works Director went out to look at the bridge. There were some problems with getting officers on duty when the tree fell.

Chief said that the Ironman Triathlon will be held on June 2, 2019. The Chief will be discussing this with George Frantzis. There has been some discussion on using flagmen however Chief Dabbo said they cannot be in the middle of the road.

The Chief explained that the he officers have a cigarette lighter charger for the body cameras and that he has requested that all of the officers use their body cameras. Commissioner Bowler inquired as to the life expectancy of the cameras; the Chief said four years. Commissioner King asked what was being used to monitor usage. Chief said that if he gets a complaint and there is no video, he will know that the officers are not wearing the body cameras. Commissioner King stated that he was looking for analytical information on activity. The Chief is not aware of anything that captures the business intelligence on the videos on a daily or routine basis without having to go into the program to see the videos.

Commissioner King said that the Commission received a complaint a few months ago about speeding on Park Road and if anything had been done. The Chief said that there were written and verbal warnings issued. Commissioner King said that there is a bus stop issue on Park Road; Chief Dabbo said that this was handled by the Region. Commissioner King said that the concern is the speed on the road and the child has to cross the street. The Chief said that a study was done and given to the Board of Education.

### **Executive Session**

None.

### **Adjournment**

The Chairman MOTIONED to ADJOURN the meeting, SECONDED by Commissioner Bowler. Unanimous approval.

These minutes are submitted subject to approval.

Respectfully submitted,

*Barbara J. Whitaker*

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Recording Clerk