

Public Safety Commission

FIRE DEPARTMENT

January 21, 2020

MINUTES

Community Room – Middletown Police Department

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Ford called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Meghan Carta
Commissioner Darnell Ford
Commissioner Phil Pessina
Commissioner Linda Salafia

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Anthony Mangiafico

STAFF PRESENT:

Fire Chief Robert Kronenberger
Deputy Chief Al Leary

STAFF ABSENT

PUBLIC PRESENT

None present

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

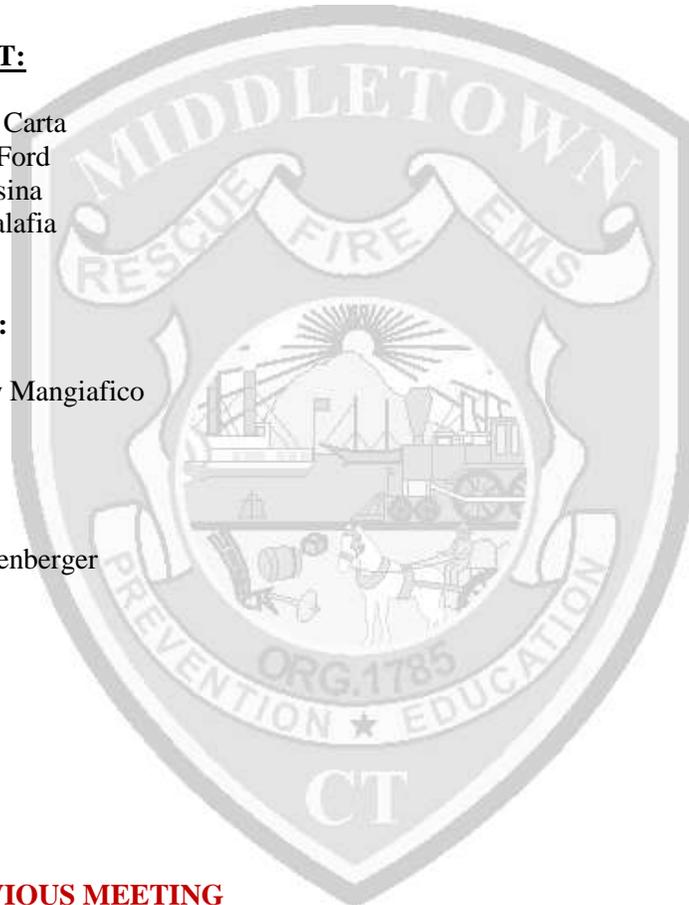
Commissioner Ford moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting held on December 16, 2019. Commissioner Pessina so moved, Commissioner Carta seconded, and all voted in favor.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

- None

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter of thanks from the Chamber of Commerce for Chief Kronenberger's participation in the Annual Holiday on Main Street by reading a holiday story to the kids



6. MONTHLY REPORT

- Monthly report given by Chief Kronenberger:
 - Call comparison:
 - Finished up a very busy year – 3.5% call volume increase for the same period as last year
 - Up 18% overall for the year – about 300 calls
 - Wesleyan University – only in session a portion of the month so that kept the call volume down, only 19 calls
 - FMO spent 4 man hours on campus
 - Alarms spent 22 man hours on campus
 - From this year's operating budget everything is still down the middle
 - Should make it through the rest of the year with what is budgeted barring there is no catastrophic incident or storm
 - Three new firefighters were sworn in last month and are doing very well on their new shifts
 - Mark Tine gave notice of retirement after twenty six years of city service between Public Works and Fire Department
 - Two conditional offers were given after the recruitment process finished – should be starting on February 3rd in the firehouse and starting at the Fire Academy the following week
 - Training:
 - Worked on EMT refreshers, chimney fire class, Arizona Vortex training, and large area search

7. OLD BUSINESS

- CNR:
 - Chief Kronenberger thanked everyone for their support of the 3 year CNR plan on all levels, Commission, Finance & Government, and Council level

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Kronenberger recognized Lt. Patrick Ehman for attending a program at the National Fire Academy in Maryland entitled Managing Fire Officer Program which is an intense program based at line officers
 - Lt. Ehman gave a short background of the program stating that it is a two year program which includes a safety class, a class on developing training programs, risk management for your municipality, etc. Year one includes two classes as well as year two and a capstone needs to be written at the end on a way to better your department and submitted upon approval of the department
 - Chief Kronenberger presented Lt. Ehman with a completion certificate and thanked him for doing a good job
- Facilities plan – Chief Kronenberger wanted to start the development of the plan with the permission of the commission
 - Staff has doubled, footprint has gotten smaller – lost ¼ of Cross Street firehouse in 1999 after dispatch was combined into the building
 - A lot of economic development is happening in the Newfield Street area which includes four schools and on a good day with traffic it could be a ten minute run to get to the high school
 - Commissioner Ford stated that he is in support of this and looks forward to a plan and hopes that the rest of the council is in favor of it as well

- Commissioner Pessina stated that he has all the confidence in Chief Kronenberger that he will put together a workable plan especially after the great job he has done with the Emergency Operations Center

9. **Other Matters Not on the Agenda:**

- A brief discussion was had about how the Fire Department & the Police Department work collaboratively on some things as presented by Police Chief McKenna
 - A letter was received regarding Fire Lt. Drew France, the Harbormaster, and Police Sgt. Bill Porter. Every year they have to put together a safety plan for the waterway and the letter was from the commander stating that it is the best safety plan that they have ever seen and kudos was given to them. It will stated that it will assist with a grant potentially for the Public Safety dock and beyond. Kudos was also given to Police Officer Tyrseck, Fire Lt. Drew France, Firefighter Tiffany Neuendorf, and Firefighter Margo Ward for their collaboration of a Car Seat Clinic held. A member of the public wrote a letter stating that they went above & beyond and spent extra time going over safety tips.

10. **Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters**

- None

11. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

- Monthly report given by Director Kronenberger:
 - Very slow, finished the year with a lot of activity for training hours
 - Down from last year but a good year

12. **Monthly Summary of Action Taken by the Telecommunications Committee**

- Chief Kronenberger has no new information to share with the Commission at this time

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Puffano

Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 24, 2020 AT MILE LANE