

1 WESTTOWN-EAST GOSHEN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
3 March 22, 2016  
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7 In attendance were Chair Charles Proctor, Vice-Chair Mike Di Domenico, Chief of Police Brenda  
8 Bernot, Business Manager Kathy Brill, Westtown Township Manager Rob Pingar, and East  
9 Goshen Township Manager Rick Smith. Also present were East Goshen resident Dave Molnar and  
10 East Goshen Township Supervisor Janet Emanuel. Commissioner Jim Benoit and Thornbury  
11 Township Manager Judy Lizza were not in attendance.  
12

13 **Call to Order**

14 Mr. Proctor called the March 22, 2016 Westtown-East Goshen Police Commission Meeting to order  
15 and led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
16

17 **Moment of Silence**

18 Mr. Proctor asked for a moment of silence for our first responders, our police, our firemen, our  
19 ambulance people as well as our troops at home and overseas.  
20

21 **Set Dates for Monthly Commission Meetings**

22 Mr. Proctor led a discussion with the Commission members on the best day and time for monthly  
23 meetings in 2016 that fits everyone's schedule. Mr. Di Domenico noted the issue is when he and  
24 Mr. Proctor are both available. Mr. Proctor asked Ms. Brill if she still would like to hold the  
25 meetings toward the end of the month. Ms. Brill responded it doesn't matter now because we are a  
26 month behind, so in April we'll be doing February's meeting so I will be ready. There was an  
27 extensive and serious conversation between Mr. Proctor and Mr. Di Domenico regarding the day  
28 and time of the meetings moving forward because Mr. Proctor is not available in the mornings and  
29 Mr. Di Domenico is not available in the afternoons. Mr. Pingar suggested the issue be addressed at a  
30 separate meeting, which should include having the two Township Board of Supervisors being  
31 present. Mr. Proctor tabled the issue and continued the meeting.  
32

33 **Approval of Minutes**

34 Mr. Proctor called for a motion to approve the minutes for January 21, 2016.  
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36 **Mr. Di Domenico motioned to approve the minutes of January 21, 2016. Mr. Proctor**  
37 **seconded the motion.**

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39 **There was no public comment or questions. All were in favor. The motion was**  
40 **unanimously approved.**  
41

42 **Chairman's Report**

43 Mr. Proctor noted to Chief Bernot that at the last East Goshen Board of Supervisors meeting a  
44 resident from Cornwallis Drive addressed an issue regarding speeding, she also sent a letter to the  
45 Township. Chief Bernot stated she was aware of the request, which has been sent to TSU who is  
46 looking into the issue. She added that the resident was also concerned about the issue of golf carts  
47 being used in the area, which is also being addressed.  
48  
49

52  
53 Review of Approved Bills

54 Mr. Proctor stated that he believes all bills have been reviewed and paid. Mr. Smith noted this was  
55 correct. There were no questions or comments.  
56

57 Township Roundtable

58 Thornbury Township: No one present from Thornbury Township.

59 Westtown Township: Mr. Di Domenico stated there was one issue regarding a police matter that he  
60 would address in Executive Session. Regarding a Police Conference recently held at the Desmond  
61 Hotel, Mr. Di Domenico noted that there were many interesting and good topics discussed. He  
62 noted the panel of five police officers stated that they did not use PPUs. Mr. Pingar added the  
63 officers stated an option to PPUs was to use a combination of mileage and population. Mr. Pingar  
64 had nothing else to add to Township Roundtable.

65 East Goshen Township: Mr. Smith asked if the crosswalks at the park were being addressed. Chief  
66 Bernot responded that it was on the list for TSU. Mr. Proctor added that he found the many signs in  
67 the area to be distracting. Chief Bernot replied that PennDot does the signage. Mr. Pingar noted  
68 that signs can be a concern and while PennDot is usually good, it may be worthwhile to have them  
69 come out and look at the signage currently being used.  
70

71 Chief Bernot – Complimentary Letters and Complaints/Issues

72 Chief Bernot reported there is still a backlog on complimentary letters and they will be sent out in  
73 the future when time permits. Regarding complaints, Chief Bernot updated a complaint from the  
74 last meeting regarding off duty conduct by an officer using social media. She noted the Internal  
75 Affairs investigation adjudicated the complaint as sustained. The officer was given a written  
76 reprimand with advisement that any future violations would constitute progressive discipline. She  
77 added there is an officer who has five Internal Affairs investigations pending. Approximately two  
78 weeks ago he was placed on suspension with pay pending resolution of all investigations. She  
79 suggested this can be discussed further in detail in Executive Session. Regarding complimentary  
80 remarks, Ms. Brill noted that Mrs. Stokes came in ten minutes before today's meeting regarding her  
81 house fire. She had nothing but great and fantastic things to say about the Police Department. She  
82 was so impressed by a call she received by Sergeant Leahy who offered monetary assistance from  
83 the Police Association to help her until her insurance benefits take effect.  
84

85 Old Business

86 Accreditation

87 Chief Bernot stated the mock assessment was conducted in February and the formal assessment was  
88 conducted on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. She thanked and shared her appreciation to the Townships for  
89 sending representation and lending support to the Department during the formal assessment. Chief  
90 Bernot informed the Commission that the formal assessment representatives indicated they would  
91 make a recommendation to the PA Chiefs on March 30<sup>th</sup> to vote to approve our accreditation. She  
92 added that she and Ms. Lee would be attending the PLEAC conference to address any questions or  
93 concerns presented at the conference. Mr. Di Domenico stated he was very impressed with the  
94 accreditation tour and thanked Chief Bernot, all the officers and everyone involved in the  
95 professionalism of the presentation. Chief Bernot added that accolades also needed to go the public  
96 taxpayers who have provided the dollars needed to maintain our building and allow us to have the  
97 tools needed to apply for accreditation.  
98

101  
102 **Part-Time Officer Update**

103 Due to a change in our long standing policy, Chief Bernot explained that the Department is now  
104 accepting anyone with Act 120 certification. She explained that prior to this change an applicant  
105 was also required to have experience and be currently employed as a PA police officer. The result  
106 of this change in policy has allowed the Department to expand their advertisement of the position,  
107 resulting to date, in having received 49 applicants, with the expectation of receiving up to an  
108 additional 5 to 10 more. The first phase of the selection process is planned for April 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>.  
109 Chief Bernot noted that with such a large number of applicants to process, she and Ms. Lee are  
110 looking into utilizing the Government Service Center (which would be free to use) to conduct the  
111 first phase of interviews. The Department is looking to fill six to ten positions with the first new  
112 officer on the street, after phases two and three are completed, to be in the late summer or early  
113 fall of 2016.

114  
115 **Part-Time Administrative Position Update**

116 Ms. Brill reported to the Commission that Lisa Banta from Downingtown, PA started last  
117 Wednesday. She added that Ms. Banta, after approximately five days of training, is learning very  
118 quickly. Ms. Brill noted that Ms. Banta will be working 20 to 25 hours a week and has a strong  
119 background in QuickBooks, Excel, Word and Power Point. Ms. Banta was introduced to the  
120 Commission by Ms. Brill. Ms. Banta expressed her pleasure working for Westtown-East Goshen  
121 Police Department and was welcomed and wished much success by the Commission. Chief Bernot  
122 informed the Commission that the second part-time administrative position has been filled with the  
123 hiring of Mary Klimonicz, also from Downingtown, who will be starting on Monday.

124  
125 **Retro-fit of Administrative Office Space**

126 Ms. Brill explained to the Commission that with the addition of two new administrative positions, it  
127 has become necessary to retro-fit our current office space in order to maintain an appealing esthetic  
128 and easy flowing space in the office. She presented quotes she has received so far and asked the  
129 Commission to advise her on the cost of this expenditure. Ms. Brill noted that currently they can  
130 work with what they have but it is not a good permanent situation. After a discussion by the  
131 Commission and Ms. Brill regarding options available, it was decided that the Commission would  
132 look at sketches and the actual space before moving forward.

133  
134 There was no additional Old Business discussed.

135  
136 **New Business**

137 **Gas Tank Issue**

138 There was a discussion regarding how best to resolve the gas tank vapor lock issue. Mr. Proctor and  
139 Mr. Di Domenico suggested a three sided enclosure but the consideration of building codes was  
140 brought up, which will be looked researched. In the meantime, Ms. Brill will get quotes to sand  
141 down and paint rust. Mr. Smith noted the Township Managers will work on options to resolve this  
142 issue and bring in back to the Commission before sending it to the Township Boards for approval.

143  
144 There was no additional New Business discussed.  
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150  
151 Any Other Matters

152 Chief Bernot reported on several matters.

- 153 1. The transition to the new weapon, Sig Sauer P320, started on Monday of this week.  
154 Expected completion of the transition is the end of May. She added they were also going  
155 from a level one to a level three retention holster and adding a weapon lighted flashlight  
156 to our weapon.
- 157 2. Lieutenant Rosato announced recently he will be retiring in June. As a result, the position  
158 was offered to Sergeant David Leahy as his replacement, which he has accepted. Sergeant  
159 Leahy has been scheduled to shadow Lieutenant Rosato so that he is prepared to take over  
160 in mid to late June when Lieutenant Rosato retires.
- 161 3. If anyone on the Commission is interested three vehicles have been completed with the  
162 new graphics with one having the new push bumper, which is being piloted this year.  
163 When everything is completely done on the vehicles we will unveil them to the public by  
164 way of a press release combined with a photo and we are going to stage the old car and the  
165 new car in front of the station to show the new look of the Department.
- 166 4. Our three newest full time officers are Joshua Micun, Mark McKinney and Ryan  
167 Benningfield which was effective March 7<sup>th</sup>. The fourth full time officer who will be  
168 promoted in July is still being determined at this point.
- 169 5. Our emergency response vehicle (CHIPPY) needs \$3,600.00 in repairs (\$2,400.00 for a  
170 new or rebuilt transmission; \$1,000.00 for front steering parts; \$200.00 for belts and a  
171 battery replacement). Since the vehicle is older and has been around approximately ten to  
172 fifteen years Chief Bernot requested authorization from the Commission for the repairs.  
173 Chief Bernot noted it has very low mileage because it doesn't get driven that often. Mr. Di  
174 Domenico suggested that based on the type of repairs needed, he believes it is because the  
175 vehicle is not getting used enough and should be driven at least once a week to which Mr.  
176 Proctor agreed. There was a discussion about cost replacement versus the repairs needed  
177 and the importance of having such a vehicle as part of the fleet. The Commission decided  
178 to authorize the repairs and Mr. Proctor called for a motion.  
179

180 **Mr. Di Domenico made a motion to repair the CHIPPY vehicle in the amount**  
181 **of \$3,600.00, plus or minus, and to have someone drive it more regularly, at**  
182 **least once a week. The motion was seconded by Mr. Proctor.**

183  
184 Mr. Proctor called for any public discussion.

185  
186 **There was no public comment or questions. All were in favor. The motion**  
187 **was unanimously approved.**  
188

- 189 6. Chief Bernot noted that she sent an article to the Township Managers on March 15<sup>th</sup>  
190 regarding the East Whiteland Police Department being investigated by the Auditor General  
191 over the way they were handling overweight truck citations. She emphasized that WEGO  
192 has always followed state and federal laws for citing commercial vehicle violations, so she  
193 wanted to assure the Commission that article is not applicable to us.  
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195 Mr. Di Domenico referred to a conversation at the conference he attended at the Desmond Hotel  
196 regarding that some Townships do not pay a gas tax because they are strictly a State  
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**Page Five**  
**March 22, 2016 Minutes**

Police Township. Mr. Smith explained that the increase in money you are now paying for gas that you thought was going to be used for road repairs is now going to the State Police. There was a discussion on how the State Police system works throughout the state and the complexity of the issue.

Ms. Janet Emanuel, an East Goshen Supervisor, stated that she agreed about the issue of too many signs on Paoli Pike near the park. She noted, especially at night, you cannot tell what they say. It was pointed out that this is a matter to be addressed with PennDot. Mr. Pingar asked Chief Bernot if the Department ever cites vehicles or pedestrians for violations. Chief Bernot responded yes, mostly for motorists, not so much for pedestrians as long as they are crossing in the crosswalk. Mr. Smith pointed out that the law is ambiguous as it states it doesn't matter if a pedestrian is in the crosswalk as motorists shall yield to a pedestrian crossing, however he added there is a further sentence that states a pedestrian shall not suddenly step into the roadway.

Dave Molnar asked Chief Bernot if she had an exact last date for Lieutenant Rosato. Chief Bernot told Mr. Molnar that an exact date has not yet be determined but the thinking is it will be mid to late June. She told Mr. Molnar that she would keep him informed on the exact date.

**Officer Comments**

No officers were present.

**Police Reports**

**Monthly Activity Report:** Chief Bernot reported that there was nothing out of the ordinary. She added that the trend last reported due to the change in the Child Protective Services laws is still continuing to reflect a significant increase in reports of sex offenses and child abuse investigations in all three Townships. She will keep an eye on this trend and may come back with a recommendation for a change in staffing for CID if this continues. At this point no change is warranted.

**Commercial Vehicle Report:** Chief Bernot stated that the Department is continuing enforcement. She noted that while revenue from fines may not be what we anticipated, every effort is being taken to ensure those cited pay the penalty prescribed by law.

**Month End Report:** Ms. Brill reported that the total budget is approximately 3½ % under budget.

**PPU Report:** Chief Bernot pointed out to the Commission that since the services provided to Thornbury Township changed on November 20, 2015 the PPU's are starting to trend in the right direction. She reviewed the decrease in patrol hours to Thornbury from October 2015 to January 2016. Regarding traffic enforcement, she explained that starting this month she would be calculating all hours, not just TTE hours, provided to Thornbury from TSU and why she believes this change should be made. She added she is going to try to cap the TSU total hours for Thornbury at 40 hours per month. There was a discussion on how total TSU hours are calculated for Thornbury Township. Ms. Brill and Chief Bernot provided an explanation to Mr. Proctor on how the reporting of PPU's is calculated regarding TSU hours.

**Action Items**

Ms. Brill had no new items. Chief Bernot noted that there still is the pending issue regarding the electrical issues that are affecting the servers associated with the new camera system. She noted that

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250 the resolution of this problem may be covered under warranty and if so there would be no cost to  
251 the Department to rectify the problem.

252  
253 **Public Comment**

254 Mr. Molnar asked Chief Bernot for an explanation of Act 120. Chief Bernot replied that Act 120  
255 is a six month program offered in Pennsylvania to residents interested in becoming certified as a  
256 municipal police officer. This course can only be taken at accredited schools. In our area the  
257 schools that offer the course are Temple University, Montgomery County Community College and  
258 Delaware County Community College.

259  
260 **Executive Session**

261 Break for Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

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263 **Regular Public Session Resumed**

264 The Commission returned from Executive Session at 5:29 PM. The next WEGO Police Commission  
265 meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2016 at 2:00 PM

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267 **Adjournment**

268 Mr. Proctor called for a motion to adjourn.

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270 **Mr. Di Domenico made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Proctor seconded the motion.**

271  
272 Mr. Proctor called for any comments.

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274 **There were no other comments or questions. All were in favor. The motion was**  
275 **unanimously approved.**

276  
277 Respectfully Submitted,  
278 Linda Delia, Transcriber