

1 WESTTOWN-EAST GOSHEN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
3 November 16, 2016  
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5

6 In attendance were Chair Charles Proctor, Vice-Chair Mike Di Domenico, Chief of Police Brenda  
7 Bernot, Business Manager Kathy Brill, East Goshen Township Manager Riek Smith, Westtown  
8 Township Manager Rob Pingar and Thornbury Township Manager Judy Lizza. Also present was  
9 East Goshen resident Dave Milnar. Not present was Thornbury Commissioner Jim Benoit.

10  
11 **Call to Order**

12 Mr. Proctor called the November 16, 2016 Westtown-East Goshen Police Commission Meeting to  
13 order at 3:00 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.  
14

15 **Moment of Silence**

16 Mr. Proctor called for a moment of silence for our first responders, police, firemen, ambulance,  
17 EMT personnel as well as our troops home and abroad.  
18

19 **Approval of Minutes**

20 Mr. Proctor asked for any corrections or comments on the minutes from October 19, 2016. There  
21 were none. He called for a motion to approve the minutes.  
22

23 **Mr. Di Domenico motioned to approve the Police Commission minutes of October**  
24 **19, 2016. Mr. Proctor seconded the motion.**

25  
26 **There was no public comment or questions. All were in favor. The motion was**  
27 **unanimously approved.**  
28

29 **Chairman's Report**

30 Mr. Proctor thanked Ms. Brill for reminding him of the correct time for the meeting.  
31

32 **Review of Approved Bills**

33 Mr. Proctor stated the Commission reviewed the bills, which were approved by Mr. Pingar and Mr.  
34 Smith. There were no comments or questions from the Commission.  
35

36 **Township Roundtable**

37 **Thornbury Township:** Ms. Lizza thanked Chief Bernot for the services provided by the officers and  
38 their assistance whenever she needs to discuss an issue.

39 **Westtown Township:** Mr. Pingar had no report. Mr. Di Domenico had no report.

40 **East Goshen Township:** Mr. Smith had no report. Mr. Proctor had no report.  
41

42 **Chief Bernot – Complimentary Letters and Complaints/Issues**

43 Chief Bernot stated that an email was sent to the Commission on October 31, 2016 showing all  
44 complimentary correspondence. Regarding complaints, she noted the officer with numerous  
45 Internal Affairs investigations who was terminated September 30, 2016 has filed for an aggrieved  
46 determination. Waiting for further information pending the selection of an arbitrator. The officer  
47 also applied for unemployment benefits which were denied. He subsequently filed an appeal and a  
48 date for that hearing is pending. Mr. Harvey is currently up-to-date on all issues.  
49

53 With regard to the Bellingham complaint, Chief Bernot noted that as mentioned at the last meeting  
54 the woman was convicted and has now filed an appeal with the PA Superior Court, which if heard,  
55 will be in either Harrisburg or Philadelphia. Still unsure whether the complainant will be filing a  
56 lawsuit of which she has plenty of time left to do that. Currently we are involved in an appeal on a  
57 Right to Know Request that she was denied.  
58

59 There was a new Internal Affairs investigation regarding an allegation of an oversight on a report.  
60 This was determined unfounded as it was unintentional, however the individual was still counseled  
61 regarding future occurrences.  
62

63 A resident indicated verbally he wanted to lodge a racial profiling complaint but never came to the  
64 station to follow-up. Chief Bernot explained the details of the incident and stated that after her  
65 review of the reports and MVR she adjudicated this complaint to be unfounded. She sent the  
66 complainant a letter explaining her unfounded decision and also invited him to come to the station  
67 to meet and talk with her. She feels it is important for residents to understand the Department's  
68 non- tolerant policy on racial profiling and their dedication to serving all residents.  
69

70 An Internal Affairs investigation is currently being conducted and Chief Bernot will discuss this  
71 further during Executive Session.  
72

### 73 Old Business

#### 74 Part-Time Officer Update

75 Chief Bernot stated that Officer Hiro has been working on his own as of November 6, 2016 and he  
76 is doing an excellent job. She added there has been some difficulty finding new candidates due to  
77 some struggling with the polygraph portion of the process. She noted there are three candidates  
78 currently who have passed the polygraph portion and have moved on to the psychological  
79 evaluation. It is her expectation and she is hopeful to have three officers ready to start the field  
80 training program beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Proctor noted the  
81 importance of having quality and officers of high standards on the force. He referred to Officer  
82 Renegar who was patrolling in Mr. Proctor's neighborhood and stopped to speak with him and then  
83 stopped again further down the street to speak with another resident. He also spoke about another  
84 incident during a stormy night when he encountered tree branches on the road. He notified Mr.  
85 Miller who sent a crew to clean up the debris and added that the WEGO police responded to assist  
86 directing traffic. Mr. Di Domenico praised the spectacular job Officers Rodriguez and Wassell did  
87 while assisting during a traffic accident that involved a member of his family.  
88

#### 89 Building Updates - Phones

90 Ms. Brill reported that she and Ms. Lee have met with Mr. Smith and Mr. Pingar and gave them all  
91 the quotes received and answered their questions. A decision from the Townships Board of  
92 Supervisors is pending.  
93

94 There was no additional Old Business discussed.  
95  
96  
97  
98

101  
102 New Business

103 Promotional Ceremony

104 Chief Bernot thanked everyone who was able to attend the ceremony and expressed how much it  
105 means to the officers to have them there.

106  
107 There was no additional New Business discussed.

108  
109 Any Other Matters

110 Ms. Lizza noted that she recently attended a tabletop exercise at Cheyney University regarding the  
111 protocol in place in the event of an active shooter incident on campus. She noted to Chief Bernot  
112 that currently the Cheyney police force has eight full time officers and two part-time officers. This  
113 is down from a force of twenty-two. Ms. Lizza expressed her concerns and wanted Chief Bernot to  
114 be aware of the situation since WEGO will probably be the first to respond to such an incident until  
115 the State Police are able to get to the campus. Chief Bernot noted that Chester County has an active  
116 shooter program which trains all police officers and explained the challenges involved because  
117 Cheyney University is half in Chester County and half in Delaware County.

118  
119 Officer Comments

120 No officers were present.

121  
122 Police Reports

123 Commercial Vehicle Report: Chief Bernot noted there were six details; four in East Goshen and  
124 two in Westtown. She added that details would be performed in Thornbury this month.

125 PPU Report: Chief Bernot reported that Thornbury Township received 13.26 hours per day for  
126 patrol and 2.14 hours per day for traffic enforcement.

127 School Activity Report: This is new report and is a summary of what is going on in our schools  
128 and what the school resource officer is being assigned to do. Chief Bernot pointed out that the  
129 officer has diverse activity and it is labor intensive. She noted there are 17 schools and explained  
130 an overall of what is being done including things being done proactively including drills. In  
131 response to Mr. Di Domenico's question regarding the Community Service officer (regarding  
132 DARE and Life Skills) in the public schools, Chief Bernot stated there has been no response yet  
133 from the School Boards on the fee of \$1,000.00 to continue with this service. There was a  
134 discussion on drug use in our schools and in the area. Chief Bernot noted she has collected a lot of  
135 data on drugs as they apply to PA and Chester County and will share it with anyone interested.  
136 She added that 85% of all our crimes have a connection to drugs, and noted that in the middle  
137 school and high school marijuana appears to be the primary drug problem, but noted there is a  
138 concern about children going in their parents medicine cabinets and taking prescription drugs. It  
139 was decided by the Commission to continue with this new report for now.

140  
141 Action Items

142 Mr. Smith asked whether the gas tank had been painted. Mr. Brill responded she would look into  
143 the progress of this issue and follow-up with Mr. Smith.

144  
145 Public Comment

146 Mr. Milnar asked if a date had been set for the next meeting. It was decided by the Commission that  
147 the next meeting will be Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 3:00 PM.

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149 November 16, 2016 Minutes

150  
151 Executive Session

152 The Commission broke for Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

153  
154 Regular Public Session Resumed

155 The Commission returned from Executive Session and resumed their regular meeting at 4:02 PM.

156  
157 Adjournment

158 Mr. Proctor called for a motion to adjourn.

159  
160 Mr. Di Domenico made a motion for adjournment of the November 16, 2016  
161 meeting. Mr. Proctor seconded the motion.

162  
163 Mr. Proctor called for any comments.

164  
165 There were no other comments or questions. All were in favor. The motion was  
166 unanimously approved.

167  
168  
169 Respectfully Submitted,  
170 Linda Delia, Transcriber