

1 WESTTOWN-EAST GOSHEN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
3 March 30, 2017  
4  
5

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

10  
11 **Call to Order**

12 Mr. Proctor called the March 30, 2017 Westtown-East Goshen Police Commission Meeting to order and  
13 lead the Pledge of Allegiance.  
14

15 **Moment of Silence**

16 Mr. Proctor called for a moment of silence for our police, firefighters, first responders and all our troops  
17 serving home and abroad and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.  
18

19 **Approval of Minutes**

20 There were no changes, comments or questions regarding the February 27, 2017 minutes. Mr. Proctor  
21 called for a motion to approve the minutes.  
22

23 **Mr. Haws motioned to approve the February 27, 2017 minutes as presented. Mr. Proctor**  
24 **seconded the motion.**

25  
26 Mr. Proctor called for questions or comments.  
27

28 **There was no public comments or questions.**  
29

30 **All were in favor. The motion was unanimously approved.**  
31

32 **Chairman's Report**

33 Mr. Proctor noted that thanks to Chief Bernot and Ms. Brill the Police Appreciation dinners were a  
34 tremendous success. Chief Bernot stated it was a very worthwhile event. Chief Bernot is considering  
35 making this an annual event and discussed spreading them out by having one in the summer and the  
36 second one in the fall.  
37

38 **Review of Approved Bills**

39 Mr. Proctor stated the Commission reviewed the bills of February 2, 2017, which were approved by Mr.  
40 Pingar and Mr. Smith. There were no comments or questions from the Commission.  
41

42 **Township Roundtable**

43 **Thornbury Township:** Not present.

44 **Westtown Township:** Mr. Pingar and Mr. Haws had nothing to report.

45 **East Goshen Township:** Mr. Smith requested Chief Bernot to continue to do whatever can be done  
46 regarding pedestrian crossings at the park. He noted that the speed signs have been installed.  
47  
48

51  
52 Township Roundtable (con't)

53 East Goshen Township:

54 Mr. Proctor stated that since Chief Bernot came on board and the changeover to 12 hour shifts, in  
55 addition to new organized squads now in place, he has seen an officer on the street much more than ever  
56 before. Officers are much more visible.

57  
58 Chief Bernot – Complimentary Letters and Complaints/Issues

59 Chief Bernot stated she is still behind on complimentary letters and will discuss the reasons why in  
60 Executive Session.

61 Regarding complaints, Chief Bernot reported there are no new complaints. She added that during  
62 Executive Session she will update the Commission on the officer who was terminated in September.

63  
64 Old Business

65 Part-Time Officer Update

66 Chief Bernot reported the four new part-time officers have completed their field training and currently  
67 are working on their own. With regard to the hiring of the additional two new part-time officers, Chief  
68 Bernot explained that she and the lieutenants reviewed the current eligibility list and are not ready to  
69 make a determination. Therefore, she recommends to close the current list and restart a new process in  
70 May. She noted this process will take about three months with an approximate date for hiring the new  
71 officers in October 2017. Her expectation is that with graduation from the two schools who offer 120  
72 Training it will enhance the scope of candidates available for hire in May. Mr. Proctor and Chief Bernot  
73 discussed issues involving integration of new part-time officers into our Department's system regarding  
74 policies, procedures, scheduling and field training. Chief Bernot assured Mr. Proctor that new part-time  
75 officers integrate very well into our system. Regarding Mr. Smith's question on the current status of  
76 part-time officers, Chief Bernot responded there are currently ten part-time officers.

77  
78 Building Updates - Phones

79 Mr. Proctor stated that several officers expressed how pleased they are with the new phone system. Ms.  
80 Brill agreed and stated how much better the new voicemail system is working.

81  
82 Hartford Insurance Renewal Quote

83 Ms. Brill explained that after discussions with Hartford it has been determined that in order to increase  
84 coverage amounts an additional employee is required. She noted the pending hire of a third part-time  
85 administrative person, which is currently being addressed, should meet Hartford's requirements. Once  
86 this hire is completed Ms. Brill will look into increasing the coverage limit with Hartford and advise the  
87 Commission on her findings.

88  
89 Quote for Light Pole Removal and Installation of Wall Lights

90 Ms. Brill explained that the original quote to remove the existing pole and replace with a new light pole  
91 was \$2,800.00 (including all costs). She went on to explain that to remove the current pole light and put  
92 spotlights on the wall, instead of a new pole light system, was quoted at \$2,300.00 (including all costs).  
93 She provided copies of the two quotes. After a discussion on both quotes and pending additional  
94 research by the Township Managers into issues involving ordinances and permits to changeover to wall  
95 lights, it was determined that Mr. Pingar and Mr. Smith would make a final decision and email Ms. Brill  
96 with their recommendation. Mr. Haws asked if Township Public Works could handle this issue, to which

100 Mr. Pingar noted that there is electrical specialty work involved which Township Public Works is not  
101 equipped to handle.

102  
103 There was no additional Old Business discussed.

104  
105 **New Business**

106 **Ride Along Program**

107 Chief Bernot reported she is getting good feedback from the Supervisors about this program. She  
108 suggests letting the Supervisors know that if they have a specific date in mind they should contact  
109 Lieutenant Leahy by phone or email and he will accommodate them. The Chief believes this is a great  
110 program and would like it to continue.

111  
112 **Mobile Video Recorders**

113 Chief Bernot stated she is waiting for the updated quote which will include the two year warranty. She  
114 anticipates receiving this in the next week or so. Once received she plans to hold a meeting with the  
115 maintenance officers, one or two officers, and our IT consultant to make sure all questions are being  
116 addressed so the transition goes smoothly and correctly. In response to Mr. Pingar's question on her goal  
117 for having the new MVRs in place, Chief Bernot responded it is her hope to have this completed in 30 to  
118 60 days, she noted this will depend on WatchGuard's availability to come out to install the new MVRs.

119  
120 **Narcan Saves**

121 In response to a request from last month's meeting, Chief Bernot presented the Commission data  
122 showing Narcan saves. She noted the data goes back to when officers began carrying Narcan in 2015.

123  
124 There was no additional New Business discussed.

125  
126 **Any Other Matter**

127 **Gas Tank Painting**

128 Ms. Brill presented two quotes for painting the gas tank. The first was from Paint Doctor for \$1,800.00  
129 and the second was from Benner & Sons for \$3,700.00. Other than the significant cost difference, the  
130 only other difference noted was that Benner & Sons quote provided more job description details. It was  
131 decided that Ms. Brill should contact Paint Doctor regarding their quote and ask for a detailed description  
132 of work to be performed and present it to the Commission at the April meeting. Mr. Haws noted why  
133 isn't this a job for our Public Works Department? Ms. Brill stated that Westtown decided not to do it; to  
134 which Mr. Pingar responded it's not that they couldn't handle the scope of the work, it was a question of  
135 pulling workers off of road crew for a number of days to complete the project. Mr. Smith stated East  
136 Goshen Public Works will paint it at the recharge rate, which he believes will be lower than the \$1800.00  
137 quote. He will get a price for Ms. Brill. A decision on how best to move forward will be decided at the  
138 April meeting.

139  
140 **Hot Water Heater Issue**

141 Ms. Brill reported that Elliott Lewis has concerns about the co2 levels in the basement because they  
142 didn't think there was proper venting. She noted there is a carbon monoxide detector in the basement and  
143 while the levels change from time to time, the alarm has not gone off. Elliott Lewis presented a quote for  
144 \$1,070.00 explaining what they believe was the most economical and best first step to take to address this

147  
148 issue. It involved an internal cleansing of the heater and also work on the flue. Mr. Proctor questioned  
149 how an internal cleansing of the heater would decrease the co2 levels. The Commission discussed this  
150 issue extensively, at which point Mr. Pingar noted that he and Mr. Smith have meet with Elliott Lewis  
151 regarding this and noted a draft was discovered coming in through the door, which has been sealed and  
152 now the levels seemed to have improved. He added that carbon monoxide detectors are very sensitive  
153 and it has never gone off and further stated that's not to say that the 12 year old hot water heater is  
154 functioning at its most efficiency potential. Mr. Haws questioned investing \$1,000.00 into a 12 year old  
155 hot water heater which may reach it life's expectancy in a year or two and need to be replaced. Mr.  
156 Proctor agreed. It was decided that Mr. Pingar and Mr. Smith would meet again with Elliott Lewis to  
157 gather further information on how best to resolve this issue. Ms. Brill will set up the meeting.

158  
159 **Officer Comments**

160 No officers were present.

161  
162 **Police Statistic Reports**

163 **Monthly Activity Report:** Chief Bernot reported nothing outside of the ordinary. Regarding ChildLine, as  
164 has been stated over previous months there has been an increase in calls since the law changed. This report  
165 reflects there has been a 171.65% increase in these type of cases. Chief Bernot will continue to monitor  
166 through 2017, however if this increased trend continues, she might include a proposal to add an extra  
167 detective in her next budget. Mr. Haws asked what the procedure is for departments that do not have a  
168 detective unit. Chief Bernot replied it would be handled through the County detectives. She gave a brief  
169 description on how the system works through the County. She added she would give a more detailed  
170 explanation in Executive Session. Mr. Proctor noted that serious, more complex cases can go on for a  
171 long time, to which Chief Bernot stated the County does handle the in-depth cases via their forensic  
172 interviewers. Chief Bernot believes that while she understands the cost concerns, if we help one child that  
173 is our priority. Mr. Pingar spoke candidly on the topic stating a discussion by both Boards needs to occur  
174 moving forward regarding the large amount of money spent on traffic safety and its actual improvement  
175 on safety versus the importance of coming up with resources to help prevent child abuse and protect the  
176 children in our Townships. Chief Bernot added that while only a small amount of calls result in charges,  
177 every incident reported must be investigated and taken seriously.

178 **Commercial Vehicle Report:** Chief Bernot stated there were two details in East Goshen, none in  
179 Thornbury and two in Westtown last month.

180 **PPU Report:** Chief Bernot noted that Thornbury Township received on average 12.56 hours per day for  
181 patrol and 2.31 hours per day for traffic enforcement for the month of February, which is within the  
182 scope of the contract.

183 **Month End Report:** Ms. Brill reported the bottom line on the budget is it is 1 to 2% under budget.

184  
185 **Action Items**

186 There were no action items.

187  
188 **Public Comment**

189 There was no public comment.

190  
191 **Executive Session**

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

193 **Page Five**  
194 **March 30, 2017 Minutes**

195  
196 **Regular Public Session Resumed**

197 The Commission returned from Executive Session and resumed their regular meeting at 7:40 PM. No  
198 further issues were discussed.

199  
200 **Adjournment**

201 Mr. Proctor called for a motion for adjournment of the March 30, 2017 meeting.

202  
203 **The motion was so moved by Mr. Haws and seconded by Mr. Proctor.**

204  
205 Mr. Proctor called for any comments or questions.

206  
207 **There were no comments or questions. All were in favor. The motion was unanimously**  
208 **approved.**

209  
210  
211 Respectfully Submitted,  
212 Linda Delia, Transcriber