ORIGINAL

THE STATE OF NEW YORK : COUNTY OF ULSTER
TOWN OF OLIVE

- X

In the Matter of

POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

April 30, 2015

- X

BOARD: COMMISSIONER RICHARD OSTRANDER
COMMISSIONER PETER FRIEDEL
COMMISSIONER DONALD VanBUREN

ALSO PRESENT: CHIEF THOMAS VASTA
SERGEANT GLENN BUCHINGER
TIMOTHY DUPREE

- X

MICHELLE L. CONERO
10 Westview Drive
Wallkill, New York 12589
(845)895-3018

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Okay.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Call the meeting to order. Do the Pledge.

(Pledge of Allegiance.)

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Just to start off, I have minutes of the meeting that are a month-and-a-half old. A lot of the stuff has been -- gone by. Would you like to have me read them, would you like me to pass them around and read them, would you like to look at them individually? What would you like to do?

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: If that's it, just read through them quick. If they're that old. Last month or the month before?

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: These are from March 19th.

CHIEF VASTA: So yeah, last month's meeting.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Last month.

CHIEF VASTA: You can waive the reading too and you can give copies to everybody if you want to do that, too. It's up to you.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Move to waive the minutes.

CHIEF VASTA: And make copies.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Let me look at them while you're -- while we're talking.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Second.

CHIEF VASTA: Are you going to do old business first, Rich?

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Yeah, you can.

CHIEF VASTA: Old business that we have going on right now. The vests are -- they were due in by the 29th. They're not here yet. They should be here I imagine any day now. The vest grant -- the Federal vest grant is due by the 13th of May, and myself and Janice from the town offices are working on that. We're waiting on some banking information for that. That's about the only thing that's left for the grant that has to be completed.

The governor's Traffic Safety Grant was due. We didn't get to that. That is a countywide grant. I signed up for the grant and for the -- to get the information to get

approval to even put the grant in and I still haven't gotten that information back. So it's a process that has to be started a lot sooner than later if you're going to go for something like that.

Last month we talked about awards for certain officers. We have four officers that are going to be receiving awards. I want to do it on the May 12th meeting. I need you guys to get it on the agenda for the May 12th meeting. I'll pass these certificates out so you can look at them. There will be letters to go along with them that are almost completed right now. Those are the certificates.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Now you're going to do that at the --

CHIEF VASTA: May 12th town board meeting.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Okay.

CHIEF VASTA: All right.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Now, is the town board going to present them?

CHIEF VASTA: Nope. You guys are going to

present them.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Did anybody figure it out?

CHIEF VASTA: Yup. You guys are going to present them, the Commission.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Well I had -- I just had a thought in the back of my mind that -- that you as Chief and you as Sergeant should be there in uniform if possible, and then --

CHIEF VASTA: I happen to have the range on the 12th for my full-time job, so it works out. So I'll probably be able to be here by 7.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I mean do you have any suggestions that -- you know, I mean the Commissioners are involved but whether we quote stand behind you and you present the awards or read them or --

How do you feel, Peter?

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: I'm here either way, so --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I mean they were due -- were you comfortable -- would

anybody --

CHIEF VASTA: You've been through enough of these. Who usually does them?

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: I think the head of the agency should present the award. And I have no problem to get there. I'm off at 5, so I'll get there. I agree with Rich that it should be head of the police department, not -- not a town board member or the town supervisor because it's a police award.

CHIEF VASTA: Right. And I figured that being that the Commissioners are the --

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: I think they should be there.

CHIEF VASTA: They should be there.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Well, my thought -- my thought was somebody's got to read them between the two of you.

CHIEF VASTA: Right.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: That's fine. He can present the award.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Read a couple, present the award and --

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: We'll just see where

that is. There's a letter as well. It's kind of a narrative of what happened and it's kind of like, you know, you're like trying to sell a used car. You're making the guy sound like he reinvented the wheel. But I have no problem. I can sit there and read that. He can present the award.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: What I meant is let's say you read them, he presents them and then they walk --

CHIEF VASTA: Right.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: -- past the three of us and we shake their hand.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: And then they can go across to the town board if they -- or whatever. You can stand on the corner and they can go across the whole town board.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: We shake their hand and Peter will have to come down off the --

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: And what the Chief had asked me to do when I made a certificate is I'll just put a space on there for each one of the Commissioners to sign. And I think you

being there with the Chief and myself will send a message that it's a united front, the Commission and the police department are like one entity --

CHIEF VASTA: Those got to be signed by you three.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: I have the awards that -- the actual medal. I got them too. It didn't cost the town anything to -- or the department. It didn't come out of the budget, just in case you should wonder. None of this did. It's actually re-appropriating county property from when I got my awards. So, you know, we wanted to -- and I'm sure if we went back -- I started going hey, I got this, hey -- and if we start going retroactively --

CHIEF VASTA: You could go back and give the whole entire -- every department -- every officer probabl --

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: What we wanted to do was on a monthly basis try and recognize the guys so they're not waiting forever.

CHIEF VASTA: Right.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: Like the sheriff's

office does. You do something January 1st, you know, 2015, you've got to wait until May of 2016 before you can get recognized for it.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Right.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: A lot of stuff slips through the cracks but -- another reason for it is to highlight how much the guys and the department does do for the town. And I think -- it doesn't cost us anything, and if our guys are running around looking like Mexican generals, it's, you know -- you have awards all over the place. It's a moral booster. It's kind of like a drug, once you get one you want to go get another one, get another one. It's like a scooby snack.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I agree with that.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: It shows that they're appreciated, that their efforts --

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Thank you for doing that.

Rich, do you got everyone -- because I know we are on tape. Did you get everyone that's here on your sheet or should we make

1
2 sure that all three Commissioners are here,
3 Timmy Dupree is here, Glenn is here, Tom is
4 here.
5 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: That's a good
6 idea. Roll call.
7 COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: And we started at
8 7:00.
9 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I'm sorry about
10 that. That's --
11 COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Just because we're
12 taping it.
13 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: -- new to me.
14 New to me with taping.
15 CHIEF VASTA: This is a new system. We're
16 trying to make sure we get everything on
17 recording so that everyone is --
18 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: So we have
19 Commissioners -- we have Commissioner Donny
20 VanBuren, we have Sergeant Glenn Buchinger,
21 we've Chief Tom Vasta, Liaison/Police
22 Commissioner --
23 COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: I'm not a liaison,
24 I'm just a Commissioner.
25 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Just a

Commissioner. Commissioner Peter Friedel and Tom.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: The DOJ.

MR. DUPREE: Timmy Dupree Senior.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: D-U-P-R-E-E.

MR. DUPREE: That is correct.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I got it right. Okay. The meeting started at 7:00 with the Pledge Of allegiance, and the first item -- well, we'll do the other --

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: I'll have something written up for you the next time. I've done a thousand of these. When you make a phone call, just like today's date is blah, blah, blah, and then you just put a header on it and then you can just talk freely because then they know -- you know exactly what it is. You don't have to go five, ten minutes into the tape to say what date did this happen on. So it's easy.

CHIEF VASTA: This is just a trial thing to try to get a better -- to sway everybody -- everything -- if there's no questionable things, you know, that -- not even

1
2 questionable things, but if something got
3 discussed, it's now on record that it was
4 discussed. That's what it's for.
5 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Yeah. I don't
6 honestly think I missed anything. I could
7 have when six or eight people are all talking
8 at once at 90 miles-an-hour.
9 CHIEF VAST: This is just a back-up type
10 plan.
11 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Well what it will
12 do -- yeah. It just goes in the computer and
13 it's just a file.
14 COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Just save it.
15 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: The question I
16 had for you went out the window. You're
17 talking about a time period. Why couldn't we
18 just set it that you do it every six months,
19 or is that too close?
20 SERGEANT BUCHINGER: You could do that,
21 but what the Chief's main idea was to sit
22 there and say he's got so much stuff going on,
23 I've got so much stuff, everyone's busy. You
24 don't want to not recognize someone and then
25 have to fill out a hurt feelings report on

1
2 someone, saying well this guy got X, Y, Z and
3 I didn't get anything because it just got busy
4 and you forgot about it. When you do it on a
5 monthly basis it's also kind of an in your
6 face type of thing.
7 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Oh, you want to
8 do it every month?
9 CHIEF VASTA: Right. Yeah. If there's
10 something -- there could be months that
11 nothing goes on. There could be -- but if you
12 do it that way.
13 SERGEANT BUCHINGER: There could be just a
14 letter.
15 CHIEF VASTA: We're not waiting -- like
16 David Stoutenburgh is no longer employed here
17 but we have a life saving award for him from
18 2014. Some of the awards come from 2014.
19 We're trying to get a set program the best way
20 to utilize the awards program that we have set
21 in place.
22 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: So you can just
23 do it at the month -- whatever monthly --
24 CHIEF VASTA: Right, right. Like I said,
25 you're not going to have awards every month.

It could be, it could be not, you know what I mean. But this is, you know --

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: Just a way to not forget anybody.

CHIEF VASTA: The Department of Justice equitable sharing that basically says that anything that we take in seizure wise, it's just an equal sharing with the Federal Government. We're having an issue, it's computer wise, software wise, getting this so called document taken care of. We're a little behind on it but it will be rectified and it will be signed by somebody from here. Hopefully we can get it printed out tonight and we can get one of you guys to bring it over to the supervisor, have her sign it. It needs her signature on it so it could be sent down to New York City to get taken care of.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: When you get it done, and if she's there tomorrow, I'd get her to sign.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: She's supposed to be.

CHIEF VASTA: She'll be there tomorrow.

The military 1033 program, there was a little bit of a problem with that last month. We had discussed two items, a container for storage and a portable on-wheels generator. During that discussion we had talked about it and it was suggested by me that -- and the Commission that Officer O'Connell, who spent a lot of his own time, or all of his own time getting the program set up, go talk to Town Board Member Sofranko about the generator because he's an electrician, which he did. He told us what we would need. He was advised to bring it to the meeting. He brought it to the meeting on Monday, it was brought up on Tuesday, it was put to a vote on Tuesday and it was voted down.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: It was a tie.

CHIEF VASTA: It was tie. I wasn't there for the meeting. I'd like Peter, because Peter was here for the meeting, to discuss briefly what was discussed during that time.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Well, the reason -- the reason why it was voted down was Scott Kelder and Sylvia felt that it wasn't brought

to the Commission, so we had to bring it here or not buy but get it for free, and that's the reason why they supposedly voted it down. Jim Sofranko voted yes, I voted yes and Donny was absent from the meeting. And so it was a tie vote so it got put down. So we have to approve that we -- when we need stuff that we give authorization to Tom or whoever. If it's free, I'll say notify us ahead of time, just for the reason being and we'll give a verbal yes or no on it, but on this -- on this stuff it's a -- the essence of getting it, we can't wait a month because they're probably already gone.

CHIEF VASTA: Well, it's urgent right now that we pick the stuff up that we have allotted to us already. We could not find a full-size storage container. Like I wanted a twenty-foot storage container. But they have two -- they've put together two, they're called ISO-90s. They're 108 inches by 88 inches by 90 inches high. They're not very large but two of them back to back with four doors, two doors on each side of them, would

be plenty for what we need. They're waiting for us to pick them up at Fort Drum, which is about five hours away.

At the same time, we have in our inbox, so to speak, the 15 KW generator that's on wheels.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Is that what it is, --

CHIEF VASTA: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: -- a 15 KW?

CHIEF VASTA: I was told when I spoke to the supervisor that the reason that it was voted down was because they didn't want to acquire any more maintenance on a diesel -- to have a diesel generator. It's not something that's going to be running twenty-four/seven, that's going to require frequent oil changes, batteries, this, that. And if it doesn't work or it's broken, it didn't cost us nothing. If it breaks down the road, it didn't cost us anything. I don't get it. I don't understand it. But we do need to get up there to get the stuff we do need. So if we're going to pass up on the generator, let's pass up on the

generator and go get the containers so I can get the stuff out of my garage.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: I feel that we should -- I think the Commission should vote whether we should be getting both items. I feel we should get both items. It's free. Even if it -- even if we find that it's cost prohibitive to run it here, if there's an incident in the town where we need electric, you can wheel it over there, start it up and put flood lights on it. That's what -- that's what it's for. It's not necessarily to run this building. It's for if we have it and we need it for emergency, or even an event where we need power.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: It's a portable generator.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: It's a portable generator.

CHIEF VASTA: If the fire department has a major incident and they need more lights, and if the sheriff's department has got an incident going on and they need -- if a homeowner needs something, that they're on

oxygen or something and we can get something set up and we could get a portable -- at least get a portable generator and run it to their dry -- something to give something -- it's always there for. It's not designed to say that we have a generator at the police department and we're better, bigger than anybody else.

MR. DUPREE: I'll work on the generator if it gets here. That's what I did for years. And I am a licensed electrician.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: It could be a shared piece of equipment.

I agree with Peter --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: We can't all talk at once.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I agree with Peter. I think we ought to go get it.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Are we going to get both at once?

CHIEF VASTA: That's where I'm leading to next.

Mark's Towing out of Esopus is good friends with one of our officers. He's

willing to let that officer take his brand new flatbed.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Who is that?

CHIEF VASTA: Mark's Towing.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: He's really good friends with --

CHIEF VASTA: With Sean Ryan. The only thing he's requesting in return is two ride alongs with -- which is -- which has to be approved by the Commission. That's all he wants. He's a cop buff. You know, he likes the idea that he just -- he's not asking for -- we have to put fuel in it, and that's what we need to discuss. We need to discuss how we're going to pay for the fuel and if we're going to pay the officers to go get it. It's going to be an eight-hour trip for them at least, if not more, and it's going to take two guys.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: It'll be more.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: I know Mark for twenty years. He's a good guy.

MR. DUPREE: I'll pay for the fuel.

CHIEF VASTA: I can't do that. I don't

think -- I don't think it's going to be allowed to do that. I was going to shell it out and voucher it, the whole deal, the fuel, whatever, and then pay the officers their regular salary for their hours. But it needs to be -- again, that's something that you guys got to decide on.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Well, I would say that in my opinion the town ought to pay for the fuel.

CHIEF VASTA: I can voucher it. We don't have a -- the police department doesn't have a credit card, so we can't say just put the fuel on the card or whatever like that, and we can't use our WEX cards for anything other than -- which we do have for our patrol vehicles, because you have to punch mileage in and all that stuff. So like I said, I'll give them the money they need to get the job done and I'll just voucher it out.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I thought Janice had a credit card.

CHIEF VASTA: We do not. There's one credit card and it's the highway department

has one and it was -- I remember when they were trying to get it. It was unbelievable to try to get one. It just -- they weren't going to allow it to happen.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Can you get a cash advance? The town doesn't do that either?

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: No.

CHIEF VASTA: There's no petty cash fund or nothing like that I can go through. I have no problem with shelling it out. It takes a month to get it back, whatever, it doesn't matter to me. I need you guys to say I want -- I need you guys to say it's okay to do that.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: At the Tuesday night meeting we can give you approval for them to do it.

I make a motion --

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Second.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: -- to give approval --

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Second. All in favor?

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: -- to get that equipment and voucher off the expenses and pay the officers.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Second.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Aye.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Aye.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Aye.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: It's unanimous.

CHIEF VASTA: Just let me know when you're ready.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Now these generators are 220 volt?

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: They multi-task.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: When I used to haul them around they were small enough. The one he had on the screen looked like a big generator. We had small ones we used to --

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: He had a picture of a huge thing. That's not what we're going. It's only a 15K.

CHIEF VASTA: This is still on a -- it's on a trailer, it's own trailer, towable. It's a pintle hook trailer. That's the other issue that Tom is trying to work out right now,

Officer O'Connell is trying to work out right now, that that is road worthy for the four-hour trip or five-hour trip back.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Can you stick it in the --

CHIEF VASTA: I won't have enough room, unless I -- unless I run too with my own truck and pintle hook it back. But there's no sense of doing that, you know what I mean, because I can bring the trailer. If we ran another truck and trailer up, I could put one of the containers on the back of a trailer or run the generator up on a trailer and bring it back with a small trailer, but then we're talking about multiple expense. We're trying to do this --

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: As cost effective as possible.

CHIEF VASTA: -- as cost effective as possible. You know, if the town paid me mileage on my truck, which would cover my fuel cost. But I mean, you know --

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I don't see why you can't submit that. It's for business.

CHIEF VASTA: I'm saying I could end up going up there to get it with the truck and trailer and load one of the containers on the trailer and then load the generator on the back of the flatbed as well. So it's something we need to --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: These trailers will fit in the back of your pick-up?

CHIEF VASTA: Nope. A tow behind trailer I'm talking about. Putting one of those boxes -- one of the boxes on the back of a twenty-foot tow behind trailer and tow that back with my truck.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Okay.

CHIEF VASTA: And the other box can go up on top of the flatbed along with the generator that we strap down and come back. It's just a matter, for me, time.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Being available, yeah.

CHIEF VASTA: We did originally plan to go -- after the last meeting, to go that next Friday to go and get that stuff. Tom is working on that. I just need to know that we

-- if this is the route we're going to go, then then it's approved to go that route.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: It's approved. We just did that.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I've been to Fort Drum a lot of times and it takes you forever to get there. By the time you do, it's going to be a long day.

CHIEF VASTA: I'm figuring we're going to probably be messing around there for two or three hours trying to get these things loaded up and everything else. So you're looking at, you know, a long day.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Bring your skies.

CHIEF VASTA: It's probably still snowing up there.

We did have a mediation meeting, union mediation meeting. That was on the 10th of April. It was basically a hi, how are you type of meeting. Everybody got to meet each other. It was a very brief conversation between the mediation -- the union and the union members and then the mediator and the town. Some things were discussed throughout

that time. Basically one of the things that I took back from that is that the mediator tried to explain to the town that the police department is going to get comparable police items, comparable to cops in Ulster County. Some of those things, which I'm concerned about, is like the 207-C, the retirement type of stuff. You know, those are the things that they're pushing for, which I'm concerned that they're going to overgrow us to the point of not existing. But that's, again, up to the state mediator and the town and the town members and the members. Nothing to do with me. I'm just giving the information back.

There is a meeting scheduled, I think for June, between the mediator and the union, and then again sometime in October or November to meet with the town again. So we're not any further ahead on anything than we were before.

That's all I have for old business right now.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: That memo was rather unusually written.

CHIEF VASTA: The e-mail you mean? Yeah.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Not the e-mail. The paper they put out --

CHIEF VASTA: Right.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: - on that meeting.

CHIEF VASTA: I was very surprised to see it said maybe Thanksgiving. I went this like. I went -- just like --

Just going over my notes here quick.

6/18 is the meeting that they're having at their office at NYSUPA. That's the date. I wrote the date down.

New business. The -- I'm going to get his name wrong. Help me out. The Volkswagen guy.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: John.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: John Smith.

CHIEF VASTA: Yeah. He's having his annual `40s Volkswagen party. It's a car show. It's one of those things I dread every year as it comes through the town. He's got a permit. I made him get a permit so we brought money back into the town, because for years he's been having this with no permit. It is -- it's permitted if it's done the right way.

He's got EMS, he's got port-a-johns, he's got everything there. I have brought in -- I have an 8 to 4 officer working the dayshift, I have a noon to 8 officer working and I'm putting -- if need be there's going to be -- another guy is going to come in and work from like 6 to midnight. But we'll play that by ear.

MR. DUPREE: If you want to shove a car in my driveway, just leave it there for a day, you can do that, because it's right where the --

CHIEF VASTA: No. I know. There's multiple agencies that I have going that are aware of -- I've got some other avenues because there's a lot of underlying stuff going on there, drug usage and stuff like that.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: Underaged drinking and shit.

CHIEF VASTA: So I've been -- all the agencies are aware and I think everybody is going to have a piece of that. So he might get upset about it but he's fully aware --

he's fully aware. I've talked to him about it. He knows that once they touch the street they're fair game. He tries to tell everybody to stay there but last year they were terrorizing the streets basically for a good hour and forty minutes after like -- between 5 and, you know, 6, 6:45.

MR. DUPREE: He went down and put a flyer over his mailbox this year.

CHIEF VASTA: He's doing the right thing. I understand what he's trying to do, he's promoting the Volkswagen, the foreign car thing, but he doesn't realize, because he's a civilian, what type of people that's bringing. I think he does but he's just a civilian so he doesn't really care that much, you know.

I prepared these notes for last Thursday night's commission meeting, so I just have something to add. Last Friday the teachers' association had a rally in front of the school. They had about sixty people there over this -- the common core testing things that are going on. I had two guys down there. There was no issues at all. They did it in

the old Singer Denman parking lot. It was all good there. There was nothing going on there.

We've been requested to open and close the bathrooms in all the parks as of the 1st of May. I sent an e-mail out about that, so that should be being taken care of.

And that was all I have. I have some -- the new stuff as far as that goes, I have the spending report for the month.

We spent $21,970. That's including three payrolls and all our expenses for the month.

All of our ammo is in. That all came this month.

We have about 208,000 left in the budget for the rest of the year. That's the remainder.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: How many rounds you got?

CHIEF VASTA: How many rounds did I buy this -- that just came in? I think 1,500 rounds came in.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Just --

CHIEF VASTA: I think that's what came in. I don't know off the top of my head the bills.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Because it's -- that's really expensive.

CHIEF VASTA: Is that a -- I'm not sure if that's close session or open to talk about that.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: We're going into executive session.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: We're not sure if we need to go into executive session or not.

(A recess was taken.)

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: We're just going to talk numbers. We're not talking about -- I think we're just going to talk numbers.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: We just discussed whether -- Peter Friedel requested of Tom to give me -- give a report to the Commissioners on the feasibility of two full-timers to see what it would cost -- two full-time/part-time changing it or full-time to a full-time/ part-time, or the cost of leaving it the way it is and seeing what is best served and the cost savings, if there are any, going to one

way to another.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: To get it back in my head, two -- two full-time/part-time you're talking?

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: No.

CHIEF VASTA: No. I'll tell you exactly what it is. There's three different things. We're going to look at it at a budget situation for payroll for personnel --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Right. I understand that.

CHIEF VASTA: -- as far as having two full-time officers --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Right.

CHIEF VASTA: -- instead of one.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Permanent full-time?

CHIEF VASTA: Yup. Two permanent full-time guys and part-timers to fill in --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Okay.

CHIEF VASTA: Okay. To make it a completely part-time officers police department, and then -- or to leave it this way that we currently have with one full-time

and the part-timers --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: You're looking at three different --

CHIEF VASTA: Right.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Scenarios to see if there's any way that we can get better services --

CHIEF VASTA: For less money.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: -- for less money.

CHIEF VASTA: Because that is ultimately our goal.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I can remember years ago the Town of Kingston hired a full-time sheriff.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: Contract with the sheriff's office. Yes.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Right. If I recall correctly, I was in on the budget thing, and I believe -- it was years ago -- it was slightly over 50,000 per man, car, insurance, et cetera.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: Yeah. They purchased the vehicle, the Jeep, it was marked up like the sheriff's office, had a sticker on it that

said Town of Kingston Patrol and it was staffed with part-timers.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Yeah.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: They decided --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I remember that. That particular thing didn't work out.

CHIEF VASTA: Basically what we're going to look at today, I asked for assistance on this because this is something that I -- that I want not only me to be involved in, I want the Commissioners to be involved in it because ultimately you're my bosses. So I've talked to Donnie briefly about asking me -- asking for his assistance to speak at the town hall to get the information we need to put this package together.

Basically, if you want to start taking notes, what I did -- what information I do have that we can work right now is the current hourly rates for the full-time officer, which is 22.55 an hour, and the part-time officer is 21.04 an hour.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Now Donnie, you're going to give -- you're going to get

information from the town?

CHIEF VASTA: On certain things that I don't have. Basically what I'm trying to do is put this together with the exact figures.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Right. Because we don't --

CHIEF VASTA: There's no sense of me -- us working diligently to put together a package that we missed a point on. So I just started basically running some numbers, and I don't want to do that, I don't want to go any further with that until Donnie has all the numbers that I asked him to get from the town basically, if that makes sense to do that that way.

What I need to know -- I have -- what I have for information, I need clarification on it. What is exactly the full-time officers, how many hours a year he has for vacation, holiday leave -- I'm sorry, they call it personal leave. Personal leave and sick time.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: It used to be something like 22.

CHIEF VASTA: I have what I have for

numbers but I want to get it from the bookkeeper, this way it's exactly what is right.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Janice would be the one.

CHIEF VASTA: Yes. And then collectively between the Commission, myself and the Sergeant, we'll sit down and we'll start making -- we'll start making profiles for each one of those things that we discussed, and when we're done with the profiles they'll get presented in a professional manner so that there's no question.

MR. DUPREE: Do you pay the insurance?

CHIEF VASTA: That's what he's going to find out, what --

MR. DUPREE: And the retirement?

CHIEF VASTA: -- when he talks to Janice.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Vacation, personal leave and sick time.

CHIEF VASTA: Okay. And you're also going to find out from her what it costs currently with the numbers you're going to get for the full-timer for his benefits. That meaning

insurance, Workers' Comp, retirement. All that information.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: She's terrific. I bet she'll have that.

CHIEF VASTA: I also need to know if it costs the town -- what it costs the town per employee for like Workers' Comp. I know they have compensation -- they have to pay -- there's insurances that they have to pay but I don't know the names of them.

Do you understand what I'm asking for, Donnie? Does that make sense, what I'm asking for? Because it's not just like having -- if you have ten employees it costs -- Workers' Comp costs this much or whatever. You know what I'm saying. I need to know what those brackets are. I want to make sure this is -- this is going to be air tight and solid that it's -- there's no questions.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: And the purpose is?

CHIEF VASTA: To save this town money. This is all I ever hear.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: It's about

budgeting.

CHIEF VASTA: The town's budget is so over -- I keep getting it's so much percentage of the overall budget of the town and what are we going to do, what are we going to do. We have to get rid of something, we have to get rid of something. Well ultimately my job is to save money. The way I see it happening is that just from a -- I'll give you basic numbers. I ran some basic numbers. What I believe is that our full-time officer right now, just to pay him for all the hol -- the fifteen holidays or nineteen holidays they have off and to fill his shift for the part-time guy costs us right around 13,700 a year. $13,700. That means just to have that person here, to pay him not to work and to cover the shift that he's currently working, it costs us -- that's what it costs us.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: An additional 13,700 a year?

CHIEF VASTA: Additional 13 -- that's right off the bat. That's not even including his sick time, because I wasn't sure what he

1
2 got for sick time. That was just his vacation
3 and holiday for what the numbers that I
4 believe they are, okay. Which I think I'm
5 pretty close in that because I try to keep
6 track of his -- how much he has for leave. If
7 you add that on top of his salary that they've
8 discussed on the increase to take care of the
9 PERB charge, the union issue that we have,
10 you're looking at 68,000, 69,000 combined.
11 CHIEF VASTA: When you add that number in
12 there? And if you take the current
13 part-timer's salary and you ran it by sixteen
14 hours a day for 365 days a year and you add
15 the twelve part-time holidays on top of that,
16 you have maybe 130,000 complete. So your
17 personal services without the chief's salary,
18 maybe without training and stuff like that in
19 there, you're looking at like 130,000. You're
20 almost three-quarters with a full-timer. And
21 all I hear is we need to save money, we need
22 to save money, we need to save money. Cutting
23 shifts to save money can not happen. You
24 can't cut services to save money. You have to
25 figure out a way to cut -- this is the way --

this is the shitty part of having a business, so to speak, is that you have to look at your employee base and figure out what you're going to do to make the business run. This is what -- you know, but that's why I'm doing it the way we're doing it. We're doing it fully part-time with two full-time officers with part-timers in there, and it's going to be presented those three things as a whole. It's just -- it's a matter of -- I understand -- I understand we're in whatever, 1.4, 1 percent cap. I understand all that. So we need to look at that. That's what our job is. That's why you're the Commissioners and I'm the Chief. We have to look at that, and that's what we're going to take a real hard look at that in the next three months or so. The next two, three months.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I'll be going over there Monday. I'm off Monday. I'll be going over there and talk to Janice.

CHIEF VASTA: You can tell them what we're doing. We're just trying --

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Options.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: Trying to save money. That's the only thing I'll say. We're just trying to look to -- trying to save money, cut costs.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Cut costs and get more coverage. What can we do.

CHIEF VASTA: Those numbers are all public information. You don't have to tell her if you don't want to. Ask for those numbers and say we're working on a project and leave it at that. It doesn't have to be -- it doesn't have to be any other way. Like I said, I don't -- there's nothing -- there's no -- we're just trying to save. Ultimately the bottom line is every time anything is discussed about anything within this town, it's about everything is too expensive, and for years and years and years everything -- a lot of stuff -- a lot of money was spent but not a lot a shit got fixed. Look at the infrastructure that has to be worked on. Look at the stream mitigation stuff that's got to be worked on. As the police department we're all part of the whole entire town. We have to

do our part, and this is our part.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Would it be better if we, because Sylvia is going to be out on Monday, that we go tomorrow?

CHIEF VASTA: Just to get that information? No. Janice has that. Somebody has that information. Janice is the bookkeeper.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I'll try to get there. I don't know if I'll be able to get there.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: I can go tomorrow morning.

CHIEF VASTA: I'll tell you right now, Janice will give you all that information. She'd give it to me but it's not my -- it is my job but it's not my job.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I don't think it would be looked at as Sylvia's out so we're looking at the numbers.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: That's the only reason why I'm thinking that --

CHIEF VASTA: Somebody makes a phone call tonight.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I'll call her when I get home and tell them I'm going to go talk to Janice, we're just working on a project, we're starting to work on the budget, we're looking at options.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Financial planning.

CHIEF VASTA: Financial planning. Future financial planning.

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: You're just trying to cut costs, because she'll go ooooh.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: We will let her know prior to her leaving if there's any questions.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Just a heads up. That's all. Like I did last night.

CHIEF VASTA: I didn't hear nothing from her today, and thank you for that.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: It could be also an issue because of the secretary being --

CHIEF VASTA: It doesn't matter. We're not -- there's no ill intention.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: You're just asking for a public record.

CHIEF VASTA: There's no ill intentions here. This is a -- this has to happen. We have to cut money somewhere. So we have to do our job in doing that. Whatever --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Do you want to wait until Monday?

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: If I can get there tomorrow before they close I will. But I'm working tomorrow. If I get out of work I'll go there tomorrow. I'm going to call tonight. I'm going to call Sylvia and tell her that after the meeting -- we had a meeting and we want some information from Janice, just some costs, so we can work on -- we're working on future planning.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: We can call Janice tomorrow and say this is what we want, and then --

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Give her time to work on it.

CHIEF VASTA: She's also -- I know she's a busy woman. She's working on -- right now I asked her to -- I have -- I use a spreadsheet for the funding, the spending, and it's

difficult in this type of atmosphere to list stuff out because it's so -- it's categorized and there's only three separate groups and I'm not a hundred percent sure what she picks, it goes out of this fund, out of that fund. So I asked her to compile it after -- as of the end of last month, compile a number for me to compare to my numbers to make sure we're on the right track so that everything is squared away.

Like I said, I have nothing else --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: This is your baby, but if you go over tomorrow and you want somebody to ride along just to --

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I'll call you when I'm leaving Kingston.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: -- just to show a face. I'm not going to get involved. In other words, I'll let you run with the ball but just so you have two people there.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I'll give you a call on my way home from work. If you want me to pick you up, I'll pick you up.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: All right.

CHIEF VASTA: Do you have anything to add to anything? Anything we forgot to --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Seems to me, isn't it every department's figures wound up that part time was basically the most economical?

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: You're not paying insurance, you're not paying benefits, you're not -- yeah. It's much, much cheaper.

CHIEF VASTA: Particularly here, the way that I have made hires in this place, most of the guys bring ninety percent of their own equipment here,

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: And experience.

CHIEF VASTA: And experience. Yeah. They're not --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Here you've got experience. You've got guys that are, you know --

SERGEANT BUCHINGER: You know, a perfect example is the Town of Shandaken Police Department. Jimmy McGrath is there thirty years. Most of his people, if not all of them, are either retired or they were

full-time someplace else, so they're bringing, you know, all this experience. Like the chief said, a lot of them had their own equipment, just stuff you pick up over the years. It's a win-win for everybody. I mean I'm not trying to be the hatchet man or anything like that, but things aren't going to get cheaper, they're just going to get more and more expensive.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Yup.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Well that gives (inaudible) for other stuff.

CHIEF VASTA: That's what it is. Listen, I'm -- I understand. For awhile I didn't understand why in my brain when it came to this budget when the Commission before and the police department before me, the money spent for the services that were given was astronomical. The ratio was sickening. And we hadn't really increased it much compared to what it was before, what the usage was. The final usage was way blown out of the water every year. But the service and the product that we're giving to the town is unbelievable

compared to what it was, and that's all -- you know, all part-timers.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Leave it at that.

CHIEF VASTA: That's it. I don't have anything else. I just need if you can print that DOJ form somehow.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Do we need to say that the Commission is asking Donnie to meet with Janice to --

CHIEF VASTA: You can do that. You guys can vote on that if you want to.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Sure. I'll make a motion that Donnie head the committee augmented by whomever to look into --

CHIEF VASTA: Financial planning.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: -- financial --

CHIEF VASTA: Future planning.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: -- financial planning.

CHIEF VASTA: I hear that out of Town Board Member Sofranko's mouth every time I talk to him is that you have to think about your future planning. What's your future planning. What's your future planning.

1
2 That's what we're doing, we're future
3 planning.
4 SERGEANT BUCHINGER: And we are. We're on
5 it.
6 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Starting tonight.
7 All in favor?
8 COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Aye.
9 COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Aye.
10 COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Aye.
11 COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: What's next?
12 CHIEF VASTA: That's it. I have nothing.
13 COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Is there any other
14 business?
15 COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I have nothing to
16 bring up.
17 COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Do you guys have
18 anything?
19 The only thing is you're going to have
20 the parks taken care of; right?
21 SERGEANT BUCHINGER: That already went
22 out. That directive already went out.
23 COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: I think that's it.
24 SERGEANT BUCHINGER: It's not new.
25 COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Do you have

anything, Tim?

MR. DUPREE: No, I don't.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Move the meeting be closed at --

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Just before you do that, my --

CHIEF VASTA: Do you have something?

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I didn't want to knock you off your chair.

Communication. If you get something going on, just pick up the phone and let one Commissioner know and they can call the other ones.

CHIEF VASTA: That has happened. Has it not?

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Not lately. It's been awhile.

CHIEF VASTA: Anything that happens that's big enough that goes on, I make that phone call to somebody. I'm always doing that.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: And it's their responsibility to pass it on to the other two guys.

CHIEF VASTA: But have you had any issues?

Okay. Yeah. Communication is huge. And believe me, I need to use you guys for what I need to use you for.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I just think it's a quiet community. We don't have a lot of big issues.

MR. DUPREE: We can (inaudible) starts at 1:00 in the morning and I'll give you a call and tell you. I'll call the chief.

CHIEF VASTA: That's going to be done and over with by 11:00. The campers will be there doing what they're doing.

MR. DUPREE: They were in my backyard last year.

CHIEF VASTA: I know.

That's it. I don't have anything else.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: I'll speak to you before you go, Peter.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: I'm making a motion the meeting is closed.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: I need a second.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Second.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: All in favor?

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: Aye.

COMMISSIONER VanBUREN: Aye.

COMMISSIONER OSTRANDER: Aye.

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEL: 7:53 -- 54.

(End of recording.)

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Michelle Conero, certify that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings in the matter of a Police Commission Meeting held on April 30, 2014, was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Michelle Conero

MICHELLE L. CONERO
10 Westview Drive
Wallkill, New York 12589
(845)895-3018

DATED: November 17, 2015