

October 5, 2017
Municipal Building
121 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Special Meeting of the Township of Plumsted was called to order by Mayor Jack Trotta.

STATEMENT: "This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. It was presented for publication in The Trenton Times, the Asbury Park Press, and posted on the bulletin board."

The purpose of the meeting is for the Police Department to make a presentation of the overall operation and status of the Police Department. They will address certain administrative requirements their department must adhere to and will also be presenting their vision for the department.

No official action will be taken.

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT WERE:

COMMITTEEMAN LOTITO COMMITTEEMAN JONES COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI
DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK MAYOR TROTTA DAVID LEUTWYLER, CDC
ATTORNEY KELLY BUS. ADM. SCOTT PEZARRAS MUNICIPAL CLERK HENDRICKSON

Sergeant Earl Meroney, Sergeant Jason Reilly, and Public Safety Director Wendy Galloway from the Plumsted Township Police Department and June Madden and Sharon Gower from the Finance Department were also in attendance.

The meeting was opened with the flag salute. Mayor Trotta called for a moment of silence for the police officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Sergeant Meroney began the presentation by introducing himself and Sergeant Reilly. Sergeant Meroney said he has been on the Plumsted Police Department for 16 to 17 years and Sergeant Reilly has been with the department for 14 years.

Meroney spoke about their current organizational chart. He said there is a Director and Officer in Charge, and there are 4 squads with 3 officers each. Until 2002, operational hours for the department were from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. The department went to 24 hours after an increase in burglaries, mischief complaints and overtime. The department has been accredited since 2010.

Currently, the department has 14 officers; 3 sergeants, 1 detective, 1 K9 officer and 9 patrol officers. Officers work 12 hour shifts with an 80 hour pay period.

Meroney said the Department's Operational Units are Patrol, Traffic, Special Investigations Unit, and the K9 Unit.

He said sample calls for service include motor vehicle crash without injury, motor vehicle crash with injury, domestic disturbance, Psychiatric Emergency Screen Service (PESS) calls and missing persons.

Meroney said that motor vehicle stops generally take 8 to 12 minutes without criminal activity. Stops can include arrest for warrants, drugs or DWI which increases the time of the stop. He described the procedures for an arrest.

Meroney spoke about the procedures for a motor vehicle crash; assess for injuries and vehicle damage, traffic control, tow request, and gathering information for the police report.

Over the past few years, officers have responded to crashes with fatalities on township and county roads. When a fatality occurs, officers could be on the scene for an extended period of time. Meroney described the process for fatal or serious injury crashes. Sergeant Reilly said that the investigation could take from 4 to 6 hours and beyond. They also spoke about the procedures for a criminal investigation of motor vehicle crashes.

Meroney spoke about domestic disturbance calls. He said that responding to domestic violence calls is one of the most volatile and dangerous situations for police officers. Domestic violence

calls are one of the most common calls and also lead to about 14 percent of officer deaths each year, according to the FBI. Meroney outlined the procedures for responding to a domestic violence call, such as separating the parties, assessing for injuries, interviewing the parties and enforcement action to protect the victim. He said the township police are currently switching over to the Ocean County Sheriff Department's computer program which provides warnings regarding dangerous situations, such as weapons in the house, etc., to responding officers.

Sergeant Reilly said the victim is advised of their right to apply for a temporary restraining order (TRO). If the victim requests a TRO, the police contact the judge and have the victim go to headquarters to provide a statement and to take pictures of the injuries. If the victim does not want to proceed any further, the police are still able to testify and provide photos to the court. The police also contact the Ocean County Domestic Violence Team to assist the victim.

Meroney said that as of November 1, 2017, there is a requirement from the Attorney General's Office that an Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) scoring form must be filled out for any domestic violence complaint. Once the victim has been advised of their rights, the officer has to read 13 questions from the form to them. Their answers are scored on the back. If the score is 3 or higher, the officer has to call a judge or court administrator to request that the accused be put on a warrant, instead of a summons. The actual score is not provided to the judge. The score is available to the prosecutor for use in court.

Reilly said the State Attorney General's Office has created a Public Safety Assessment (PSA) to be used when processing an accused person. It is a computerized system where the State performs a criminal history check utilizing the fingerprints of the accused. A PSA Score is returned, which tells the officer if the complaint goes on a summons or if the accused goes to jail. It depends on the charge.

If the PSA comes back with a low score but the victim score on the ODARA is 3 or higher, the officer has to call a judge to request a warrant.

The PSA Score is generated based on a person's criminal history, prior arrests, etc. It can be a lengthy process with the new system to wait for the score. The officer has to stay with the accused until the score comes back, which can take up to an hour. The officer is required to follow the determination of the PSA score. PSA scoring has virtually eliminated the judge's involvement in processing the accused. If any changes need to be made, then the on-call duty prosecutor must be called. Prior to this, the officer would call the judge who would decide if the complaint should be on a warrant.

Lenny Grilletto asked who generates the PSA scores. Reilly (?) said that scores are generated by the computer utilizing a formula based on the fingerprints of the accused. Once the fingerprints are taken, it goes into the State computer database which returns the score to the officer. The officer has no control over the score.

Public Safety Director Galloway said it is like a risk assessment to determine whether that particular offender has a higher risk of re-offending or being more dangerous to the community. It takes the officer's preconceived notion out and leaves it up to that particular determination that was developed through the Attorney General's Office so they decide which way to charge the possible defendant in the case.

Committeeman Lotito asked if the system issues warrants. Reilly said yes, once the score is sent back, it sends everything to the complaint center. The officer does not get the score until he logs on to do the complaint and everything is uploaded for the officer. The summons or warrant is issued by the system.

Lotito asked if the warrant is reviewed by a judge before it is issued. Reilly said no, it is a no bail warrant which is reviewed after a certain length of time to determine if the person should be released. Meroney said that the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office has a unit whose only duty is to review indictable crimes or domestics every Monday morning.

Meroney said a form called a CSP has to be filled out by the officer and submitted to the Prosecutor's Office. The officer has to give a detailed narrative of what happened and the investigators at the Prosecutor's Office reads it and determines if the person needs to be on a warrant. The investigator sends it to the judge who either releases the accused or makes them stay in jail until the next court date.

Reilly said if the officer has to transport the accused to the county jail, it takes about 40 minutes. The officer has to sit with them while they are being processed, which extends the amount of time that an officer is out of town.

If a restraining order is granted, the judge may request that a search be made of the residence for weapons. If weapons are found, they have to be brought back to the department to be processed and entered into evidence. The weapons will be transported to the Prosecutor's Office. Again, this takes an officer off the road every time there is some type of restraining order.

Reilly described a domestic violence incident in which there was no restraining order requested. According to Ocean County Dispatch, the call took approximately 3 ½ hours. He said once the officer clears from an incident, he has to come back and write the report, which adds more time to a call. This does not factor in the extra time required if a restraining order is requested.

He added that it takes 2 officers to process a domestic violence complaint. When there are 3 officers on the road and 2 officers are off the road on a domestic violence complaint, it leaves only 1 officer on duty.

Meroney said if a victim requests a restraining order, there is a list of judges for the officer to call. He calls the primary judge for the township and it is an order that the officer has to wait 30 minutes for the primary judge to respond before calling a backup judge. It is the same process if a backup judge does not respond.

Meroney said the procedures come from the State Attorney General's Office, so every police department processes them the same way that we do in Plumsted Township. Our department is accredited so that adds a few more steps for us, however, the legal procedures are all processed the same way.

Reilly talked about Psychiatric Emergency Screening Service (PESS) calls. He said there has been an increase in those type of calls. One of the most important things is to avoid using deadly force. The Plumsted Police Department will treat emotionally disturbed persons with dignity and divert them from the criminal justice system when appropriate. He then described the steps that will be taken by an officer when responding to a PESS call.

Meroney said that one of the steps is to determine if a screener needs to come out to evaluate the person. An officer has to sit with the person until a screener arrives. It can take up to 45 minutes to an hour for them to arrive.

He said if officers can get the person to calm down, then they will ride with the patient in the ambulance to the hospital. By law, officers have to accompany the first aid squad when they take the person to the emergency room. The officers have to wait until they are released by the doctors in the psychiatric unit.

Reilly spoke about a PESS call that officers responded to in July 2017. The officers waited with the person until Mobil PESS arrived and then they transported him to the hospital for evaluation. According to Ocean County Dispatch, the call lasted almost their entire shift.

If a domestic or a burglary call comes in during that time, and there is only one officer on, he cannot go to the call by himself. Surrounding jurisdictions are contacted for help. If they are tied up and cannot make it, then one of the officers has to leave the dangerous person at the hospital or the call is going to have to wait. Reilly said that is one of the decisions they have to make as a supervisor.

Meroney spoke about missing persons investigations. He said they pose particularly difficult problems for law enforcement. Missing children pose even greater danger to the child. They require a swift, more coordinated response by the law enforcement community and media outlets. It is imperative that these investigations be given the appropriate degree of priority treatment. The investigation and all public safety activities must be timely and comprehensive.

Meroney said a missing person is a priority for the police. A supervisor must be assigned to a preliminary missing person investigation. This is to make sure that the officers are doing what they are supposed to be doing.

He said the Chief of Police shall be summoned in cases where the missing person is under 13 years of age, disabled; suicidal; or if there is a possibility or indication of criminal activity, or for any

other circumstance that warrants notification. Once the Chief is made aware of the situation, he determines whether or not to come in or to be in contact by phone to make sure that the supervisors have everything they need.

Reilly said that if a missing juvenile is 12 years or younger, or if there are suspicious circumstances involved, the officer notifies the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. There is no requirement that the reporting person has to wait any period of time to report the missing person. If a person is reported missing, they are treated as a missing person until deemed otherwise.

Meroney said that during the July 4th fireworks this year someone reported that their 10 year old granddaughter was missing. Sergeants Reilly and Meroney had police stop all traffic so they could search every car. Luckily, she was found waiting with friends in front of her car. This is an example of the procedures they go through when a child is reported missing.

He spoke about the Missing Person Report Checklist, which is everything that has to be included in the officer's investigation report. If you have a child or an elderly person living with you, make sure that identifying information is up to date. When the information is given to the department, it is faxed to the Sheriff's Department, who disseminates it.

Reilly said that as the Public Information Officer he will put the information out on Facebook with recent photographs. He said that most of the time that is what helps find people. We want to know who their friends are, classmates, co-workers, etc. We interview everybody. If someone is hiding them, if they are riding around in a car, like happened recently, we will pick them up on the side of the road.

At that point, the supervisor will evaluate the investigation and undertake any other reasonable actions to increase or narrow the scope of any search that may be undertaken.

Once we have all of the information from the scene, we call dispatch and have the radio room put it out through NCIC, which is a national system. If the person's name is run by a police officer anywhere in the United States, they are going to come up missing.

All resources or outside agencies used during the investigation must be documented as to when they were contacted, when they arrived, etc. All areas that have been searched are documented so we are not going over the same area over and over.

When a missing person is found, they will be detained until we or a family member gets to them and we determine that they are safe. Then they are removed from NCIC as soon as possible and confirmation of the removal is placed in the case file.

Sergeant Meroney said that he and Sergeant Reilly have come up with a Vision Statement for the department. He said police performance has been in the public eye for the last few years. Supervisors provide day-to-day direction to sworn officers. Supervisors are the first step in the chain of command from the officers to the residents we serve.

In law enforcement, it is imperative that a clear line of authority is identified and recognizable to all officers. Implementing a solid rank structure will lay the foundation of this department going forward.

A junior officer needs a supervisor who can tell them how to handle a situation. If the situation is serious, the supervisor will go to the officer's location. So there needs to be a supervisor on each shift.

Reilly said the Chief of Police is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the department and is the liaison to the township. A Lieutenant will have direct control over the Sergeants to assure the proper performance of duties and adherence to the written policies of the department. Sergeants will be assigned to a position where they exercise immediate supervision over the activities of the patrol officers.

As a result, there is supervision over the junior officers and teaching them how to be police officers. Graduating from the academy gives them the right to learn how to become a police officer and lead them by example. We want to get the officers to the point where they will be as effective as possible.

Meroney said in the academy, they are given a synopsis of what they are going to be dealing with as a police officer. They have to know the correct charges in Title 39. When they come here, they have just gotten out of school, they are nervous, and they are not sure what to do. The supervisor is there to show them the steps so that they become the type of officer that the department wants.

Meroney said the organizational structure that he and Sergeant Reilly foresee for the future includes a chief at the top, then a lieutenant, four squads with four sergeants, 2 nights, and 2 days working 12 hour shifts. Right now, there are 3 patrolman on a shift.

If a sergeant calls out, another sergeant can be called to cover a shift. If a sergeant is not available, the most senior person is assigned to be the officer in charge. Reilly said that right now, if there is something like a missing person, then a sergeant has to be called in on their time off.

As a policy, every shift should have a supervisor. Supervision can be done over the phone, but when the supervisor is present, an officer will find it easier to follow you.

Reilly said the Plumsted Police Department must always strive to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and that the department must develop a plan to meet this responsibility. That is why that training needs to be increased for officers. The standards and proficiency set by the agency will be developed to ensure that all officers receive the necessary instructions and guidance to meet the minimum standards of the department.

The goal is to produce highly trained and positively motivated police officers capable of meeting standards of performance required by the department. Increased training should be provided to all officers, as well as remedial training in those areas where deficiencies have been identified.

Meroney said that training will build on the foundation of knowledge given at the police academy, creating an environment in which officers develop new skills as well as increased proficiency. Our department is accredited, which means we have a higher standard to reach. There is mandatory training that we are required to do every year from the Attorney General's Office.

We would like to send officers to training with live scenarios, such as active shooters school, where they will receive hands on training. When officers receive the proper training and training not just through Power Point presentations, they will be better prepared to handle situations that could come up in the world today. It will make them a better officer. The main goal is to make sure they go home at night.

If an officer goes to additional training, such as narcotics school. Most of the time if a drug dealer has drugs, he probably has a weapon. It is probably not legal. A new officer coming out of the academy does not know what to look for. Training provides them with the red flags. A new officer is excited to be a police officer. A supervisor calms them down and shows them how to look at the scenarios, the vehicle, watch the people, watch the hands, etc. Don't just walk up to a car. Look at the surroundings. We have to make sure our officers are trained to be more vigilant.

Reilly said remedial training is designed to develop our weaknesses into strengths to make better police officers. It is one of the most important things we want to look at. That we are not always hitting on their strengths but taking their weaknesses and building them up.

Reilly said we want to establish a career path within the department by providing quality officers with additional training opportunities to develop their leadership skills. We want officers to become sergeants, lieutenants, or become chiefs. We want to guide them so they have the leadership skills. We want to provide that to them. It is one of the most important things to keep this agency going and start developing it from the bottom up. Reilly said that ultimately we want to increase the overall of efficiency and effectiveness of the department.

Meroney said to give them that training to keep the department going so tradition can be built up and continued when it is time for him and Sergeant Reilly to step out the door. So that the Plumsted Police Department is on the map as being top notch.

Meroney said we want this department to be like the Toms River Police Department. When you see our police department's uniformed officers, they are squared away. He said that he has learned that the majority of the job is how you look.

If you look sharp, if you look professional, it will affect how people respond to you. Sometimes you are going to have to deal with a person who doesn't really like law enforcement so they are

going to give you resistance. Usually if you look squared away and you talk to someone and ask them to calm down, they are going to say to themselves, they are squared away, I'm just going to leave them alone. If you look like your clothes just came out of the dryer and you walk up to somebody, they going to be like I'm going to take this guy, or I'm running from this guy. Reilly said the first thing a person does when they are stopped by a police officer is to see what they look like. It is a natural reaction.

Mayor Trotta said he would like to point out that Wendy Galloway is serving as our Public Safety Director for a dollar a year. Wendy said she volunteered. She has been a resident here for 25 years. She is retired State Police. She retired as a Major in Community Affairs from the Superintendent's Office. She carried a lot of different positions from road trooper all the way up. She really wants Plumsted to be the best department in Ocean County.

Trotta asked if there were any questions.

A resident spoke but was hard to understand as others were talking at the dais. He asked about the idea of sergeants being diverted. Meroney that right now he, as a Sergeant, is temporary Officer in Charge. Both he and Sergeant Reilly are going through a process to decide who will be the permanent Officer in Charge. The Sergeant Officer in Charge is basically filling in for the Chief and works alongside the Director.

The resident asked if Meroney and Reilly switch or if one was sergeant. They responded that they alternate and work hand-in-hand together. Resident also asked about both Reilly and Meroney working with the Director. Galloway said the Director is a civilian position, so they really have law enforcement jurisdiction.

Meroney said with the four squads they have now, there is one squad that does not have a sergeant. There was a discussion about who is in charge of the different squads.

Trotta asked if the Township Committee had any questions.

Deputy Mayor Sorchik said he has some questions. You picked motor vehicle, domestic, psychiatric and search and rescue missing person. Is that the preponderance of calls? Is that why you selected those models?

Reilly said they are the ones they respond the most to; they are high priority. Sorchik asked where most of our calls are in the township. Meroney said most calls are motor vehicle crashes, domestic, psychiatric evaluations (they go to quite a few of those). Reilly said it is everywhere. Sorchik said he wanted to make sure these were not the extreme type of calls. Meroney said these are our normal basic calls they notice reoccur more often. Sorchik said that a lot of the time constraints you mentioned are not specific. That was his concern when he asked them to put the presentation together. The public is not aware how much time it takes it process these calls. Also the fact that it requires two officers. That being said, if you have to tie up two officers on a call and there is a third officer on patrol and there is a domestic or fatal motor vehicle accident, you have to call for an outside agency or call someone in for overtime. Meroney said if it is a domestic or something that we can't wait for, there's two guys on, we send the third guy but he does not go up to the house. He contacts Ocean County Dispatch. Depending on where the call is located, we utilize Jackson, Manchester or North Hanover. If they are not available, then we request the State Police. Depending on where they are when the get the call, it can take forty minutes or so to get here. Especially since Fort Dix barracks closed a few years ago. Sometimes we answer calls on State Police side and we have to wait until they get there. Sorchik asked them to go back to the last point they made; that they have to call an outside agency. How frequently does it happen where you are overwhelmed; where all three officers are involved in calls. Meroney said it happens about once a month where they have to reach out to other agencies.

Meroney provided a scenario – years ago, he was sent to a call, requested back up. When the back up did not show up, dispatch sent a first aid squad as back up. When the ambulance came up he asked them what they were doing there. They responded, you needed someone. He said no, I need back up because I have an out-of-control person. He said that has improved.

Committeeman Lotito asked how many times our officers are called out of town. Reilly said that it is infrequent. The last one was about three months ago. We contained the situation until the State Police arrived. Meroney said maybe two or three times a year. We have been called to Great Adventure with some of the events that have been going on.

Sorchik said he wants to make sure the public is clear about the policies for processing the PSA score; where processing an individual can take an hour or so before the score comes back and it is decided if it is a warrant. The number of personnel that have to be present when you are dealing with domestic calls. These are all Attorney General directives. This is something we have to abide by. Reilly said many times you have to take the victim back to the department, take photographs and statements. Someone has to sit with the victim. You cannot leave them on monitors. Someone has to be with the accused. That is why you need two officers. Sorchik asked if that is one of the reasons there is overtime as an ongoing thing; simply because of a lot of these rules.

Sorchik asked about the judge the officers have to call. Meroney said it is our municipal judge and a backup judge. There is also another backup judge. They are all municipal judges. If it is a violation of a restraining order, now you have to call a Superior Court judge. Sorchik asked how long that takes. Reilly said that it can take hours if they are on the bench during the day because they are not going to call until they are done and they get the message. Sorchik said those are just some clarifications he had on their presentation.

Lotito asked how the detective and the canine officer fit into the current scheme. Reilly said that the detective handles cases on a certain basis. If he has a high volume of sexual assaults, burglaries, etc., he has to concentrate more time on those. If his case load is a little lighter, he can go on patrol and answer calls. He can fill in for vacation or sick days. Meroney said the detective floats if he is not busy. He works Tuesday through Friday and covers weekends. The canine officer has a shift. He is on one of the squads and is on patrol.

Lotito asked if the squads work twelve hour shifts. They answered yes, there are two morning and two night shifts.

Lotito asked about how long it takes for a shift change. They answered it takes about forty minutes. The officer who is going off shift informs the officer coming on about what has happened during the previous shift.

Lotito said he would like to see how many times things occur because he has not seen a lot of that information during the time he has been on the committee. The committee struggles with the energy drains and bottlenecks that we are dealing with at our (? Inaudible at 1:02:37) agency. Reilly said that information can come from Dispatch. They can bring up statistics and graphs, etc. With the new system, we are all on the same page now. Things were different in the past. The new computer system is going live on October 31st and we will be on the County system. The new system has been installed in their computers and all the mobile units so they will be ready on October 31st. Once that happens, Ocean County will be able to dispatch our officers through the computer in their cars. The call will pop on the screen. Prior to that, the statistics were different between our department and the County. The County has information about weapons in the house it also gives a warning. We click on a house address and it will tell us all the firearms in the house because it tracks the firearms ID cards and permits. Previous arrests will also be in the system.

Meroney continued to explain what happens during a call. A resident was asking for clarification including other towns for backup. Who has jurisdiction? If it is a domestic, there are procedures to follow for jurisdiction. The resident was talking again asking for clarification which was provided by Meroney and Reilly. (Some discussion was inaudible due to multiple conversations at once.)

Galloway said that the beauty of new system is now they can see what calls and their officers in Plumsted will be able to see what calls Manchester or Jackson are on. Before they could not see that. There will be a lot more connectivity with the new system.

Committeeman Jones asked if they switched over to the new system today. Meroney said, yes, everyone is going through training. Officers have to go through mandatory training. Two people from the County who run the program will come out when we go live on October 31st. Officers will be provided with a "token" to identify which officer is on duty in a certain vehicle.

Lotito asked if the previous system is going to be archived. Meroney said that they will get permission from the State to delete items from the hard drive.

Jones said he was very impressed with the presentation. He said he was not surprised because he said he sees them out working and they are probably the best department. He has a question about the packet. For him, the safety of the officers is the most important thing. Officers just

switched from the 40mm to the 9mm weapon. He asked if they are comfortable with their safety with the 9mm over the 40mm. Meroney said that if they did not think it was the right move and were not comfortable with it, they would not have done it. It all goes to training. New firearm training will be implemented. A weapon is a tool that we have and an officer has to be proficient using that tool. According to FBI studies, the 9mm has less recoil with a more accurate shot. Reilly said the reason why they went with the 9mm is because the FBI study shows it is more accurate, it is a faster round, and it does more vital damage internally. The 40mm does not have enough stopping power. It is about vital organs and accuracy. Officers are more confident with the 9mm versus the 40 caliber. Meroney said that an officer is responsible for every round that comes out of their weapon. An officer has more control over his weapon with a 9mm, so rounds are not going everywhere. It is safer for bystanders, particularly with newer officers on the force. Jones asked about the distance between the two weapons.

Trotta said that he wanted to point out for those who may not know it, Sergeant Meroney is the Office in Charge and the township is going through an interview process to select a permanent officer in charge. Eventually the officer in charge will become the chief of police. Both Sergeant Reilly and Sergeant Meroney are the candidates. Committeeman Jones is talking about a position paper from both of them where they see the department going in the future. Both of them suggested the change in firearms for various reasons. It was an added benefit that we were able to do the swap of guns and ammunition and it did not cost all that much and the ammunition is going to be cheaper in the long run. We are better off all the way around.

Mr. Grilletto asked if the trigger pull is the same on both weapons. Reilly said yes it is the same.

Committeeman Marinari said first of all, he has always been impressed by our police force. Their improvement and professionalism. The officers always look good. The professionalism that is shown is the most important thing. It is embarrassing for him to have an empty audience here. It is sad. There are 58 persons who are no longer with us. That is a major issue.

Marinari asked for an overview about juvenile issues that we have in the township and a breakdown what each of them would do with an active shooter in town.

Meroney said as far as the juvenile issue, it has been kind of quiet. There was an incident last weekend with spray painting of buildings. They were located. Juvenile incidents have calmed down. We do what we can as far as drugs. Unfortunately, we are not going to be able to conquer and defeat it. Getting the younger officers to drug search and seizure classes so they know how to get the drugs off the streets. Our new officers have been here from three months to three years and they need training in doing traffic stops and be aware of what to look for when they stop a vehicle.

Reilly said that first thing would be to get as many agencies out as possible to shut down roadways. Have the fire department stage up to stop people from coming in. As a police officer, if I find a threat, my goal is to eliminate the threat. Number 1, I would utilize the GXP system through the Ocean County Prosecutors Office. It is a mapping system that comes through officers' phones and shows where each officer on the system is located. It also has the phone number of each officer so the locations of officers be coordinated. To summarize, he would keep people from coming in, eliminate the threat, get staging areas, command centers, first aid on standby. These would be addressed going in. The system also shows you the areas that have already been searched, if there are multiple threats. The GXP system also eliminates the use of radios so that an officer's location cannot be detected.

Meroney said they are going to reach out to the schools to do an active shooter training. He went through active shooter instruction school. The department is going to hold a training day so that officers get used to clearing the building and know the layout and scenario. Reilly said it is a good thing to work with the first aid also.

Meroney said he has to commend the police, fire and first aid departments for the incident that occurred across the street two years ago. The scene was secured, the County was called in, and everyone got here as soon as they could, so we had extra support. It was not perfect, but we were able to make sure that the first responders went home safely.

Meroney said it would be a good idea to develop the GXP system so that it can be clipped to an officer's person so that it will be with the officer at all times. Similar to what the fire department uses when they go inside a building. If there is an active shooter and someone calls on a phone, it is unlikely that the officer will answer the phone. Years ago when you responded to an active

shooter, you went to the area and waited for backup. By law, we cannot do that anymore. We have to go toward the threat. They found that there are more casualties if you wait for backup to arrive. Now, you go and everyone comes to you.

Reilly said that when there is a domestic and one officer responds and there is a threat and someone is yelling for help, the policy is that the officer goes to help.

Meroney said they are looking for rifle vests to put in each patrol car in case we get an active shooter with a long rifle. An officer is more likely to survive if he is wearing a rifle vest. The vests they use now will not stop a round from a rifle.

Trotta asked if the GXP system comes from the county. Trotta said what he remembers from the presentation he attended, they want to map the public buildings so that when first responders arrive there will be coordinates on the map that they see on their phone where they can meet.

Reilly said this simplifies things so that an officer knows where to go, rather than having big complicated plans that were not understood and officers were in the wrong place at the wrong time. It was set up by the military for their operational plans.

Marinari said excellent, very good and thanked them for their answers.

Sorchik said he appreciated the presentation and thought it exemplified the teamwork that was used to put it together. He said it was outstanding. He wants to follow up on Committeeman Lotito's question about statistics. As Committeeman Marinari said, it was pretty widely known that this presentation was tonight and there only a few people who are here. It would be helpful for us to report police activities. What would be a reasonable time frame? Reilly said that after the new system goes live when we will be able to provide statistics. Sorchik asked about filing a report once a month at municipal meetings and put it on our website and be able to address those issues on a monthly basis. Meroney said once we go live on October 31st, we can reach out to the Sheriff's Office for the information. By the first of the year, we should have two months of good statistics. Right now, our numbers are different than the County's and it would be difficult to decide which is correct. With the new system, statistics can be broken down by officer, the number of calls, etc. It will be more accurate.

Trotta said what he would like to see going forward for the new year is a monthly report from the police department in meeting packets for the committee to review at its monthly meeting. It will be from the prior month. If we get a report every month, we are building on what we had.

Sorchik said he has a question for the interview. He does not want an answer now, but he wants them to think about it. Their proposal says they want to increase the agency by 18 percent or another 4 officers. It is a large expense. He would like to know, with a 2 percent cap, where they propose the money will come from. What is the plan, what is the process, how do they envision this? Over what period of time do they see that happening? He is not disagreeing with your proposal, but the committee has to figure out how to do it. They are the ones who have suggested it, so he is asking them to share their process during their interview.

Lotito asked if the Attorney General is putting requirements on our police department that is time consuming, are they providing any other support mechanisms or funds to help us. Meroney said they asked the Attorney General the same thing, and they responded that the department has to adapt to it. Lotito asked what happens if the department does not adapt to it. Meroney said that the department really has no choice. The Attorney General requires them to do it and they have to do it.

Lotito he also has an interview question. How are you positioning the 18 percent increase? Like Committeeman Marinari said, there are no members of the public here tonight. Last November, there was a ballot question that was voted down by 80 percent. In reality, what are the alternatives for the committee with the pressure from the public and from the Attorney General's Office?

Lotito said they laid out an awesome plan. It is very impressive in terms of the amount of detail that you provided. It enlightened him about some of the constraints and issues faced by the department. He knows we are looking at payments in lieu of taxes with the new development. When we look at those monies that is for a limited period of time, so anything we add to our residual overhead are capital dollars and not necessarily recurring dollars. We could take some portion equivalent of our tax rate given those monies. We really cannot take those dollars and build this stuff tomorrow. It puts us into a quandary. If we have to say no to some of this stuff,

what does that look like for Plumsted? This is our reality. How do we do that? Obviously, there is going to be a component of involvement from the community, getting information out to them. But they still may say no because people love to have the best police paid with their tax dollars. He would say, generally speaking, if they could articulate that in their interviews with the Deputy Mayor, it would help him to understand some of that.

Mayor Trotta asked for any further comments from the Committee.

Mayor Trotta asked if there was any public comment.

Lenny Grilletto asked about the county sending help from Jackson or Manchester. The officer who responds to the scene, does he respond to Plumsted or his own department? Meroney said he holds the scene until we get there. For domestic violence, all they do is make sure the parties are separated. Plumsted will be in charge. All we are doing is asking for assistance until we can get there. We make decisions on the scene and write up the report.

Grilletto asked what type of bullets ...Meroney said anything but rifle rounds.

Mayor Trotta asked if there was any other public comment. There was none.

Trotta thanked Sergeants Meroney and Reilly for their presentation and everyone who came out. He also wants to echo the comments of Committeeman Marinari that the number of people who came out is disappointing. He does want to thank those who did come out tonight.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN JONES,
THE SPECIAL MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Hendrickson, RMC
Municipal Clerk