

## **MINUTES of Moderator's Committee on Police Incident Reporting January 10, 2017**

**Present:** Town Meeting Moderator Sandy Gadsby, Committee members Police Officer John Canney, Deputy Superintendent Myles Murphy, Selectman Bernard Greene, Tom Elwertowski, Brian Bergstein, Len Weiss, and Lynda Roseman

Sandy Gadsby reviewed some housekeeping matters and reminded members of the Open Meeting laws as well as protocols for posting meeting minutes. He also suggested we inform the petitioner of Article 30, Gary Jones, of our next meeting as a matter of courtesy. He then left the committee meeting.

The committee held a formal vote unanimously electing committee co-chairs Myles Murphy and Brian Bergstein. The committee also elected Lynda Roseman as secretary.

The committee discussed the two-fold mission of determining the desirability and feasibility of online posting of complete police reports.

Myles Murphy gave a presentation on what the Brookline Police Department is currently doing to post information about incidents in the Town. He showed us the website which posts a blog and has a link for public records access and contact information for Amanda Williams, the Records Access Officer. There is also a daily police log that is public and contains a listing of all calls and police responses that come into the Dispatch Unit. Information is also being disseminated via Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. The Community relations Officers, Phillip Harrington and Michael Gropman determine what to post on the blog. Tom Elwertowski pointed out that Newton seems to post every single incident as a kind of laundry list; Brookline's postings, while more selective, provide more details and information. People can also find information on crimereports.com which is a data base integrated with the Brookline daily log and posts that information on their website along with the blog and other information that comes from the Brookline Police Department.

Myles shared hard copy examples of an incident report and an accident report. There are approximately 6,000 reports generated a year. Due to exemptions prescribed by the State Public Records Law, some information must be redacted before a police report can be released. This is often an arduous and time consuming process. Brian and Tom agreed to interview Amanda Williams and/or her supervisor, Neil Harrington to find out more about the redaction process for our next meeting.

Tom offered to do some research regarding what other towns do regarding the posting of police incident reports.

The committee agreed that we should inform Gary Jones of our next meeting date and Bernard agreed to meet with Mr. Jones before our next meeting to discuss the intentions of Article 30. The committee also agreed to hold a public hearing at a date to be determined.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 14 at 8:00 am in the Selectman's Conference Room on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of Town Hall.