MINUTES
Moderator's Committee on Police Incident Reporting
May 9, 2017

Present: Brian Bergstein, Selectman Bernard Greene, Tom Elwertowski, Deputy Superintendent Myles Murphy, Police Officer John Canney, Len Weiss and Lynda Roseman.

Minutes of April 4th were approved.

The committee met to discuss the first draft of our report. Bernard Greene suggested adding to the draft a description of what is currently done regarding incident reports. He also suggested a brief explanation of public record law regarding what can and cannot be reported because of disclosure laws.
Myles Murphy pointed out that if we post everything and need someone to filter all of the entries, human error could result in information being posted that should not be, which could result in liability for individual town workers and for the town.

John Canney added that while it might sound farfetched, criminals could also look for patterns, for example, if someone's alarm has gone off multiple times, a prospective burglar could decide to hit that location thinking no one would respond to the alarm.

Len Weiss added that incidents of importance should be reported but didn't see any value in reporting all of the minutia that gets reported every day.

Tom Elwertowski talked about the differences in how surrounding towns handle the reporting of information and Myles Murphy added that there is no standard for reporting. Each town does something different. He also noted that some changes have already been implemented in Brookline as a result of our meeting with Phil Harrington of the Police Department's Community Service Division and Scott Wilder the Police Department's technology specialist.

Len Weiss reminded us of the Chief's semi-annual report which is distributed to Town Meeting and is available to the public.

The committee agreed to meet again on Tuesday, June 13, in the Selectmen's Conference Room on the 6th floor of Town Hall to work on and hopefully approve a final draft of our report.