



**Town of Townsend Public Safety Committee Meeting
January 30th, 2026 @ 9:00am
VIA Conference Call & Town Hall
141 Main St. Townsend, DE 19734**

9:00am Public Safety Committee Meeting

- I. Call to Order: Approximately 9:05am.
- II. Opening Ceremonies
 - a. Roll Call: TM Goodyear, TC Gallagher, CM Bangura, CM Wiggins, & Chief McCloskey.
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance: All participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - c. Recognition of Visitors: FO Helms.
 - d. Announcements: CM Wiggins commended Town staff for their response to the recent snow events.
- III. Citizens Comments & Participation.
 - a. None.
- IV. Adoption of Agenda.
 - a. *All agreed to adopt the agenda as written.*
- V. **ACTION ITEM-** Continued Discussion and Review of FY27 Budget Requests
 - a. TM Goodyear shared that the PD has created a mockup pay plan for the department, to be reviewed by the committee.
 1. Chief McCloskey reviewed a proposed PD pay scale organized by rank and years of service. He explained that the dept is currently experiencing recruitment challenges due to salary rates that are lower than those offered by several neighboring municipalities and law enforcement agencies. Chief stated that more competitive compensation packages in surrounding jurisdictions have made it difficult to attract qualified applicants and fill the dept's two vacancies. He emphasized adjusting the pay scale would help the dept remain competitive in the regional job market, improve recruitment efforts, and assist with long term employee retention.
 - I. TM Goodyear expressed concern regarding the proposed pay structures. Specifically, the inclusion of the Town's annual salary increases in addition to the proposed sliding pay scale. She stated that providing both separate forms of salary growth seems like "Double Dipping" from her point of view. She asked the committee to carefully consider how the PD pay



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scale will interact with the Town's existing compensation practices to ensure fairness and fiscal responsibility.

- II. Committee members discussed the potential budgetary impacts of the proposed adjustments and the importance of maintaining adequate staffing levels to ensure continued Public Safety.

- b. Chief McCloskey expressed the need for additional patrol vehicles to support the upcoming increase in staff. He presented current vehicle options and considerations. He noted that while the dept did receive a grant funded Ford Mustang Police vehicle, it is not well suited for the dept's needs. Chief explained that the vehicle's glass roof presents safety concerns and that the limited rear passenger space makes it impractical for transporting detainees following an arrest.

1. CM Wiggins tasked Chief McCloskey with researching possible grant funding and identifying vehicle makes and models that would best meet the dept's operational requirements. He was asked to provide recommendations and cost estimates for the committee to consider.

- I. Chief Confirmed.

2. TM Goodyear reminded the committee that Budget requests are due by February 15th.

VI. Ongoing Business Updates.

- a. CM Wiggins requested reviewing the PD policy within the next couple of meetings which will be held in an executive session due to confidentiality.

VII. New Business.

- a. None.

VIII. Discussion regarding next meeting date.

- a. *The next meeting was prescheduled for Monday, February 2nd at 9am.*

IX. Adjourn.

- a. All agreed to adjourn the meeting.

1. *Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:01pm.*
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