

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2015**

Mayor Hammond called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming tonight. Fiscal Officer Hastings took roll call with the following members present: Mr. Shelton, Mr. Sadler, Mr. Laxton, Mr. Wissinger, Mr. Geiger and Ms. Evans. Solicitor Hess and Chief Jordan were also in attendance. Engineer Grosse was absent.

Mayor Hammond asked Solicitor Hess to explain the reason for tonight's meeting. Solicitor Hess said there were two pieces of legislation on the agenda tonight for Council's consideration. He suggested looking at Ordinance 2015-03, an ordinance to abolish the Commercial Point Police Department per the ORC section 731.10. Solicitor Hess asked that the title of this ordinance be amended to read "ORC section 737.15" as indicated in the body of the ordinance. He said the second piece of legislation is Resolution 05-2015 which will only come into effect if Ordinance 2015-03 is passed.

At this time, Mayor Hammond asked for a motion to suspend the three readings on Ordinance 2015-03, An Ordinance Abolishing The Village of Commercial Point's Police Department Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code § 737.15. Mr. Shelton asked for clarification because he thought we needed to suspend the procedural rules. Mayor Hammond told him they could but did not have to in a Special Council Meeting.

Mr. Sadler said he would like to make two motions before Council considered voting on Ordinance 2015-03. Mr. Sadler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to allow Chief Jordan to present to Council. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Shelton – No, Ms. Evans – Yes, Mr. Wissinger – Yes, Mr. Sadler – Yes, Mr. Geiger – Yes, Mr. Laxton – Yes. The motion passed. At this time, Mr. Sadler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to allow citizens comments. Ms. Evans asked if there was a way to limit the amount of people that are allowed to speak. Several members of the audience commented that they were in attendance and to please let them speak. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Laxton – Yes, Mr. Geiger – Yes, Mr. Sadler – Yes, Mr. Wissinger – No, Ms. Evans – No, Mr. Shelton – No. In the case of a tie, Mayor Hammond had the deciding vote. Mayor Hammond asked that everyone be polite and courteous. He said if they are not, the meeting would be called to order and all discussions will be stopped. Mayor Hammond gave a Yes vote to the motion. The motion passed.

Chief Jordan thanked Council for the chance to get to speak to them. He said he found out about tonight's Special Meeting by word of mouth this past Saturday, however it was not by a Village Official. He said he was shocked and dismayed being that there was an issue with the police department and he being the Chief was not contacted. He said his responsibility is public safety for this village and he takes it very seriously. He said he is passionate about his job. He said there are a couple of issues that he wanted to go over with Council. He said that he has numbers that will prove it is more financially sound to have our own police department. He said he is not bashing the Sheriff and has a lot of respect for Sheriff Radcliff and his deputies. He said he knows we are a small village and the mentality that people have of small village cops is that they are like Paul Blart, rent-a-cops, etc. He said he has heard it all. Chief Jordan said he has been doing this job for 20 years. He said it has been in the newspaper that he is not a good chief, but is a good officer. He said he had to hear it from family members in West Virginia that read about him in the news. He said he does take offense to these comments. He said he doesn't have the options that a larger department has. He said he along with his officers have to handle every part of the incidents. There is no one to hand the paperwork over to. He said he is not perfect. He said there is only one perfect person in this world and they were dumb enough to nail him to the cross, luckily for the rest of us. Chief Jordan said he has never done anything illegal or immoral and he won't. He said we have a policy and procedural manual that he put into place since he became Chief. He said when he came in the manual was just a few pages with the understanding of "have gas will chase". Chief Jordan said we spent roughly \$ 104,000 last year within our police department. He said out of the \$104,000, a new computer was purchased and upgrades to existing computers in the amount of \$ 3,000.00 was spent. He said if you deduct this amount from the total budget spent on the department, we are now at \$ 101,000 spent on protecting the Village. Chief Jordan said 3,493 man hours were worked in 2014. He said if you divide the man hours into the money spent on the department, you come up with roughly \$ 27.00 per hour spent in 2014. Chief Jordan said he knew a raise was budgeted for, however he hadn't had a raise in 2 years. He said his officer had received a \$ 1.00/hour increase. Chief Jordan asked Mayor Hammond how much the Sheriff contract was for by the hour. Mayor Hammond said \$ 34.12/hour. Ms. Evans corrected Chief Jordan on his figure of \$ 27.00/hour and said it should be \$ 29.00/hour. Chief Jordan apologized and said there was another amount that needed to be deducted out of the cost for the department. He said Mayor's Court took in about \$ 9,000 in 2014. He said the maximum amount that was paid to our magistrate was \$ 3,300. Chief Jordan took the difference of \$ 5,700 out of the budget to show what the numbers would have been if we didn't have Mayor's Court. He said this would bring the amount to \$ 96,000 spent on the department divided out by the number of hours worked, got him to the \$ 27.00/hour. (\$96,000/3,493 hours) Chief

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2015**

Jordan said we are saving a total of \$ 6.50/hour by keeping our own department over contracting with the Sheriff. Ms. Evans asked if the Village received revenues from other agencies that issue citations in the Village. Solicitor Hess said the Village only receives money if the citations are written under village code offenses. Chief Jordan said the Sheriff can write citations under Village code. He asked Solicitor Hess if he or the Sheriff would write someone a citation under Village code and it ended up in Municipal Court in Circleville, who would be responsible for representing the Village. Solicitor Hess said normally it is the law director, however there are certain circumstances where the Village Solicitor would have to step in. Chief Jordan recalled an incident that happened several years ago that cost the Village \$200/hour for representation in court on a \$ 150 fine.

Chief Jordan said the 2015 budget amount is \$ 173,000 which is \$ 13,000 more than the amount given by the Sheriff contract. He said there are certain items in this year's budget that don't actually pertain to the officers working here. He said there is an amount budgeted for if/when we need the Sheriff's assistance. He said there is also \$ 15,000 budgeted for a new police cruiser, which he appreciates, however this amount will not purchase a new cruiser. He said it would pay for 3 used ones though. He said it would cost him roughly \$ 5,000 to replace one of our existing cars with a newer used car from another agency. He said this alone is about \$ 10,000 that is not necessarily needed this year. Chief Jordan said there is money put aside to replace two radios this year. He said this is not an every year expense.

Chief Jordan said there has been concern about keeping and retaining officers. He feels this is the main agenda for tonight's meeting. He said we had an officer leave at the end of February. He said that on March 3, 2015 he sent emails out to other agencies who have connections to a lot of officers, looking for anyone who wanted to work part time. Chief Jordan said it has been said that he wasn't looking to hire officers. He said that he was doing just that and has proof of what he sent out. He said on March 3, 2015 a posting went up with a deadline of March 17, 2015 to apply for our vacant position. Mr. Shelton asked when Officer Kaltenegger resigned. Chief Jordan said it was at the end of February 2015. Ms. Evans said a letter of resignation was received on February 9, 2015. Chief Jordan said his last day of work was February 24, 2015. Ms. Evans said a month had gone by before we started to solicit for another officer. Chief Jordan said when Officer Kaltenegger first told him he would be leaving the department, he did not give an exact date of when he was leaving. He said he didn't want to go and bring on a new employee when he wasn't sure of the last day of work for Officer Kaltenegger. Chief Jordan said he had received a letter from Officer Kelly. He read the letter and I quote" Chief Jordan, I'm aware that we are in the process of hiring another 30 hour a week officer to work for the Village, and this process might take a month or so to complete. I would be more than happy to fill the gap until we get someone on board. I feel that with my current schedule as a firefighter, 24 on 48 off, I would be able to fill these hours. Also if after this new officer is hired, I would also be interested in the up to 30 hour position to continue helping the village out, if that is something the Mayor and Council would like. As a reminder I have been a police officer with the Village since 2008 and am much more familiar with the town and residents than another outside agency. If you, the Mayor or anyone on Council have any questions about me filling in to help during this shortage of coverage that we are having, feel free to contact me. Officer Kevin Kelly." Chief Jordan said he forwarded this email and made contact by phone to Mayor Hammond on March 6, 2015. He also told him he had applicants that he was interested in making contact with. He said the deadline to apply is tomorrow, however he does not feel comfortable making contact with these applicants without knowing the future for the department. Mayor Hammond asked Chief Jordan to explain how he responded to the email. Chief Jordan said Mayor Hammond did call him back and indicated that if Officer Kelly was interested in taking the 30 hour position, we would hire him. However, Chief Jordan said Officer Kelly wasn't interested in a permanent position but was offering to help during this time. Mayor Hammond said that he had contacted Solicitor Hess because he wasn't sure if we could hire him as a subcontractor. Mayor Hammond said Solicitor Hess informed him that Officer Kelly could come back as the 30 hour officer however not as a 1099 employee. Mayor Hammond said Officer Kelly was offered the 30 hour a week position in which case he declined. Mayor Hammond told Chief Jordan that if Officer Kelly wanted to donate his time, the Village would appreciate it. Chief Jordan said Officer Kelly has been donating time. He is required to work 16 hours a month and Officer Kelly has actually been working 24-32 hours a month. Chief Jordan said when he spoke with Solicitor Hess and explained the situation, Solicitor Hess told him it was legal to have a seasonal employee. Chief Jordan said Mayor Hammond did approve for he and Officer Greathouse to work increased hours if needed until someone was hired. Mayor Hammond said he is not responsible for the scheduling of hours worked and that it was up to the Chief.

Chief Jordan showed Council a folder with applications and resumes that he has received. Chief Jordan said he along with all of Council are responsible for putting a gun and badge on someone. He said it is something he takes very seriously. He said it was mentioned that he didn't attend meetings and get the information to Council sooner. He said it is very difficult for him to attend every meeting due to personnel issues. Chief Jordan said he spoke with a former FOP for the City of Columbus tonight that gave him information on how to contact retirees from the city to see if they

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2015**

would want to come and work here. He said these would be seasoned officers with street experience. Chief Jordan said he doesn't want to contact these retired officers if Council is going to disband the department. Mr. Geiger asked what the name of the organization was. Chief Jordan said it was the Columbus Police Department's auxiliary unit.

Chief Jordan said it was suggested to him to get candidates right out of the academy. He said he did that and one of them is still with us. He said Officer Greathouse is doing a great job and shows a lot of professionalism. He said he is not over zealous or trying to overkill. Chief Jordan said Officer Greathouse is a good fit for our community. He said Officer Greathouse has 6 months of employment in with the Village and would now be eligible for unemployment. He said Officer Greathouse left another job to come here and work for the Village. He said that he is dedicated to this department. Chief Jordan said he couldn't guarantee that if he or Officer Greathouse were offered another position paying \$25/hour that they wouldn't take it. He said Officer Kaltenecker did leave pretty quickly after he was hired, however the reason he left was he was offered a full time job with health benefits, vacation and sick time off.

Chief Jordan summarized by saying that he feels it is financially cheaper to keep our own department. He does have applicants that he will be going through. He said he has a plan and is working on it. He said passing an emergency ordinance is not the appropriate thing to do. He said it doesn't allow time to think it through. He said if Council would want to help and assist with the hiring process that would be great. He said he knows he is not the greatest Chief in the world. He has experience in the field but not in management. He said he wouldn't ask his officers to do anything that he himself wouldn't do. He said the Village is going to grow and the police department needs to grow as well. Chief Jordan suggested to look at the number of residents and work on a plan to decide how many hours of coverage are needed as we grow.

Mr. Shelton confirmed with Chief Jordan that he had received Officer Kaltenecker's resignation on February 9, 2015. Chief said that was correct. Mr. Shelton asked when his last day worked was. Chief Jordan said he thought it was February 24, 2015 but wasn't 100% sure. Mr. Shelton questioned why Chief waited until March 3, 2015 to put the job posting out. He said this was the second time he has heard about a stack of resumes during a meeting. He asked where the resumes are before the night of the meetings. Mr. Shelton said Officer Kaltenecker has been gone almost a month and no one has been brought to the Mayor for hire. Mr. Shelton said he doesn't see any urgency in trying to fill the open position from the Chief. He said we have residents that we are answering to all the time regarding lack of police coverage. Chief Jordan said there were a few people that contacted him after Officer Kaltenecker left. He also received permission from Mayor Hammond to post the position. Chief Jordan said he doesn't understand what his role is as the Chief when we have a vacant position. He said that he oversees the department but he is not responsible for the department under the ORC. He said he answers to a manager. Ms. Evans asked Chief Jordan if he needed direction to back fill a position of an officer that had left. Chief Jordan said absolutely. He said he could look at everyone in attendance tonight and promote them as an officer but it doesn't mean a hill of beans until the Mayor says, "Raise your right hand".

Mr. Sadler asked if a contract with the Sheriff was signed on March 2, 2015 during the meeting. Mayor Hammond said no because there wasn't enough votes to waive the three readings.

Mayor Hammond said to Chief Jordan that since they started working together, Chief has always brought applications and resumes along with recommendations to him. Mayor Hammond said if Chief Jordan said he was waiting for Mayor Hammond to give him the go ahead to get started with filling this position that was an incorrect statement. Chief Jordan said he had no control over the budget and didn't know if the money was available. Mayor Hammond said the money is there. Ms. Evans said there is no misinterpretation of what the Council wants. She said they have been demanding 90 hours of coverage for a long period of time. She said she doesn't understand how Chief Jordan wouldn't get that if someone leaves, Council wants that position filled right away. Chief Jordan said anything that has to do with money, he was told he needs to get approval from someone else. He said that is how he treats anything that is going to have an expense. Ms. Evans told Chief Jordan that he didn't do anything for 30 days. She said there is no gray area from the Council. They want 90 hours of coverage. She said she thought since we have had quite a bit of turn over, there might be another candidate readily available from the last time we interviewed. Chief Jordan said he did not have a stock pile of applicants waiting to hear from Commercial Point. They have taken other positions. Chief Jordan said he was told to go to the academy and hire from there. He said that is what he did and one officer stayed with us and the other decided to leave. Mayor Hammond said there was never a direction given from him on where to hire officers from. Mr. Shelton said it was discussed at a COW meeting when they were discussing wages.

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2015**

Mr. Sadler said there is an ordinance to abolish the police department not a trial for when Chief Jordan posted a job opening. He said we went from March 2, 2015 from when a temporary Sheriff contract was to be voted on to Council finding out on Saturday, March 14, 2015 that there was a Special Meeting to abolish the police department on March 16, 2015. Mr. Shelton said he had members of Council come up to him in early February, right around the same time Officer Kaltenecker submitted his letter of resignation, and say to him that what we have going on isn't working. He said he was asked what needed to happen to find out if the contract with the Sheriff was still an option. On February 10, 2015 Mr. Shelton said as President of Council, he did his job and sent a letter to the Sheriff. Mr. Sadler asked if the letter was shared with all of Council. Mr. Shelton said he was asked by two individuals of Council to contact the Sheriff and that is what he did.

Chief Jordan thanked Council for allowing him to speak. He said he really appreciated it. He said looking at what the people of the community want, they want their own department. He said Mayor Hammond is one of his bosses, however he works for the other 2,200 people of the Village too. Chief Jordan said he knows several people in the community. He said there are people who will come and talk to him about issues before they speak to someone that they don't know. He said he is not bashing the Sheriff or his deputies, however the residents want their own department. He said as a Council, you should want your own department because you can control it. He said he has arranged his schedule last minute to make sure if an officer is needed in the community, example RITA hearings day, we had coverage. He said there are several things that you don't want to outsource, one of them being police service. Chief Jordan said starting a police department from ground zero would be a big job and we would be better off keeping what we have. Chief Jordan said you will not find many people with as much heart and dedication to their job as he has. He said we have good officers and should keep what we have. Chief Jordan said he is open to suggestions from Council.

At this time, the meeting was open for Citizen's comments. Mr. Lamb said he has been a resident for 20 years. He said he feels good when he is out in his yard and sees our police cruiser go by and the officer waves to him. He said he appreciates them and with that he was on his way out the door. Ms. Evans asked him to stay for a minute. She said she feels there is a perception issue that there will be no coverage in the Village. Mr. Lamb said that was not what he was saying. Ms. Evans wanted to make sure he understood that even if we went into a temporary contract with the Sheriff, the Sheriff would be in our Village during that time and we would have coverage. Mr. Lamb said the first people to know there is no police department in Commercial Point would be the criminals. Mr. Shelton said there would still be a police department for the Village; it would be the Sheriff.

Mr. Steve Kaiser said that he knew Council was tired of the police department issue taking up their time. Ms. Evans said she wasn't tired of the issue and just wants a resolution. Mr. Kaiser said Council just went through this months ago when they tried to ramrod it through as an emergency issue. He said the citizens spoke up and told Council what they wanted them to do and Council listened and stopped the emergency issue. He said in the meantime, Council made decisions on what they were going to do as a whole to fix the issues that were going on. One of the solutions was to get a mediator between the Mayor and Police Chief. He said that has not happened. Mr. Laxton said Chief Jordan and Mayor Hammond said they did not need a mediator and that their relationship was good. Mr. Kaiser continued and said there was no internal investigation of fraudulent documents and the changing of documents with regards to the police department. He said the issues and problems that Council is dealing with now are due to Council not doing their job and resolving the issues between the Mayor and Police Chief. Mr. Kaiser asked if anyone had seen the exit interview document from Officer Kaltenecker. He suggested to Council that they review this document as it explains why he left and what he thought of the Mayor and his position. Mr. Kaiser said the reason Officer Kaltenecker left is not just because he had a better job opportunity, but also because he didn't get along with the Mayor and didn't like how the department was ran. Mr. Kaiser asked for the truth once and for all. He said as of Wednesday night, the Village received a letter from Mr. Murphy's attorney with regards to a lawsuit that has been dangling over Council for months. He said as of Saturday, there is now an emergency meeting scheduled to do away with the police department. He feels this is the way that Council thinks they can do away with Mr. Murphy being that he wouldn't have a job to come back to if the department was disband. Mr. Shelton said his letter was sent to the Sheriff on February 10th. Mr. Kaiser said there are people on the board that don't believe the Chief is doing his job. He said they don't like the fact that the Mayor has not disciplined the Chief and have no grounds to fire him. Mr. Kaiser said if Council fires the Chief, they will be in the same situation they are in with Mr. Murphy over a wrongful lawsuit. He said there is no communication between the Mayor and Chief that results or resolves any problems. He said that is the problem that Council is having. Mr. Kaiser said Council cannot pass the ordinance that they have on tonight's agenda for multiple reasons. He said one reason is because of ORC section 731.21. Solicitor Hess said that has been addressed and will be amended when the ordinance goes to vote. Mr. Kaiser said Council cannot pass the ordinance as emergency

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2015**

measures without firing all the officers first and then disbanding the department. Solicitor Hess and Mr. Shelton told Mr. Kaiser that his time was up.

Mr. Gary Joiner thanked Council, Solicitor Hess, Mayor Hammond and everyone in attendance tonight. He said he had talked to residents over the last two days and has obtained 98 signatures that represent 336 citizens in the Village that say they want their own police department. He said he had 2 people say they needed more information before they would sign and one lady that said she didn't like the police department and to bring on the Sheriff. Mr. Joiner presented the list to Mr. Shelton. Mr. Joiner said this was brought up in the July meeting minutes which he had on hand. He said the people spoke at that meeting. He said Council, as elected officials, need to listen to the people. He said in July, there was discussion about certain measures that were going to take place. He said he challenged the Council to do ride-a-longs and only two members of Council have done them. He said no one has gone out and talked to other Villages to see how they manage their police department. Mr. Joiner said he represents 12 other municipalities and has 28 years of experience in police business. He went on to say where all he has been employed and the titles that he holds. He said he worked for the Village, however his badge was taken away in July because he challenged the Mayor on relinquishing the department. He said a month later he received a letter in the mail that said his services were no longer wanted. He said he could bring the Chief in and he would tell everyone that Mr. Joiner did nothing wrong. He said there was nothing in the transcript that was rude or demeaning in anyway. He said the malarkey that he hears that we don't have people to fill the positions is wrong. He said he spoke to Ms. Evans in about helping out and covering hours and she didn't even realize that his badge had been taken away until Mr. Sadler brought it up in a Council meeting in October. Mr. Joiner said it is a passion of his to serve this community. He said he knows it is a passion of our law enforcement to serve this community. Mr. Joiner said he was really disappointed because he sat in Mayor Hammond's house with Mr. Shelton and discussed this issue shortly after the July meeting. He said Mr. Shelton was on board with doing something to build our police department but nothing ever came of it. He said Mr. Kaiser has a point in this being a retaliation measure. Solicitor Hess told Mr. Joiner his time was up. Mr. Joiner said there was one more request. He asked Mr. Geiger to recuse himself from the vote due to an incident that his wife was involved with that happened during the January 2015 Council meeting. He said a report was filed however the prosecutor denied filing any type of charges. Again Mr. Joiner was told his five minutes were up. Mayor Hammond said Mr. Joiner called him the following day after he sat at his house discussing the department and said to go ahead with the Sheriff and forget about Chief Jordan. Mayor Hammond said Mr. Joiner told him that he had contacted Chief Jordan and wanted him to step down as Chief. Mayor Hammond asked Mr. Joiner to confirm that was what he said. Mr. Joiner said he didn't recall that.

Mr. Kuzelka asked why Officer Kelly is not allowed to work part time to help cover hours. He said we offered the Sheriff to come in and work part time to help us out. He said he doesn't know if communication problems are the real issue between Mayor and Chief Jordan. He said in prior terms the financial responsibility has been discussed but he questions the moral responsibility to the Village is from the Council. He said that is important and you can't put a price on it. He said there are several signatures and a house full of people here tonight that want to keep our police department. He said Council needs to create the police department and get the Mayor to do his job and work with the department and get this issue put to bed. He said bringing the Sheriff in is idiotic. He questioned the contract only running to December 31, 2015. What is the next Mayor to do? He will have nothing to start with. Mr. Kuzelka told Council to do their moral responsibility and make this a successful department. He said he refuses to think the Sheriff can do a better job than our own police officers can do. He said one of the reasons people are moving here is because we have our own police department. Mr. Kuzelka complimented Mayor Hammond on getting sidewalks put in. He said at first he didn't agree with it but seeing people use them every day has changed his mind. He said Council needs to make decisions to continue to make the Village grow. He said he was sorry that people pay a lot of income tax because they make a lot of money. He said he doesn't care how much he pays as long as it makes this Village better.

Mr. Dan Klos, attorney for John Murphy, said Mr. Murphy asked him to attend tonight's meeting. He said he appreciated all the comments about keeping the police department. He told everyone in attendance a little about himself. He said he had served as a police officer for 13 years. He said he is really concerned about the conduct of the Council with what they have done, not only in regards to Mr. Murphy, but what they have done since Mr. Murphy left. He informed Council, whatever they decide to do this evening regarding this police department, will have no effect on Mr. Murphy's case. He said this litigation will continue. He said with what is going on in Ferguson right now, he doesn't know that this Council really wants to publish the fact that they retaliated against a police officer for filing civil rights charges. Mr. Klos said that he sent a letter to the Mayor where he outlined in full detail what Mr. Murphy's rights are and what he believed this Council should have done and what they should not have done. He said this Council should not abolish this police department simply because the community needs this department. He said he is just as

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2015**

passionate about the police department as Chief Jordan. He said when you put that badge on, it doesn't stop a bullet. He said it's not an object that you pin on your shirt but a badge that you pin to your soul. Final thoughts from Mr. Klos were: 1) Mr. Murphy is not going to go away, 2) Council needs to really think about the decisions being made in regards to this community, 3) wished Council the best.

Ms. Gooden-Kinney said she knows a lot of Council members have mentioned they have issues with Chief Jordan. She suggested to downgrade him to a supervisor and bring in a new Chief of Police. She said to not do away with the police department. She said we are not a Village without our own police department.

Solicitor Hess said we were going to be closing the Citizen's Comments after Mr. Thompson speaks. Mr. Thompson said he was on Council when Mayor Hammond came on board. He said one of things he heard from Mr. Shelton and Mayor Hammond was that they really disliked the emergency measures the previous administration rammed down people's throats. He said the big one was the RITA tax. He said he was under the impression that this group was going to work away from passing things by emergency. He said he hasn't seen that. He said this looks like retaliation and doesn't make sense. He said the agenda should go out on Thursday. He said for this current agenda to be put out on a Saturday afternoon and no one in the public told about it, not even some of the Council members, it looks shady. He said in his opinion it is going after personnel agendas. He asked Council to not pass the ordinance as an emergency and allow it to go through the three readings. He said to give someone a chance that has alternative ideas to be heard. Mr. Thompson said he feels that Mr. Laxton, Mr. Sadler and Mr. Geiger will listen to other ideas, however Mr. Shelton is a lost cause and won't listen to anyone. He said he spoke to Mr. Wissinger outside and asked him to listen to the people and not pass it as an emergency. Mr. Thompson said he could guarantee that two people on Council ran on the fact that emergency measures were bad, however we are constantly seeing the language month after month. Mr. Thompson said he received a voice mail from Mr. Laxton that the reason for the emergency language was because the Sheriff needed to know. Mr. Thompson said he didn't think this was true and the Sheriff could wait and let the legislation run its course. He said he knew for a fact that Mayor Hammond did not forward the email from Officer Kelly to anyone on Council. He said that he talked to Officer Kelly himself and was told he would work 30 hours until we do not need him anymore. Mr. Thompson said he doesn't feel that Mayor Hammond has supported the police department since day one. Mr. Thompson said he sat on Council for two years battling against Mayor Hammond with regards to the department. Mr. Thompson asked Council to take a breath and don't let this pass as an emergency. He said this something that is very important and Council needs to keep battling and not give up. He said he has a few ideas the he knows have not been looked at. Mr. Thompson said as an elected official, Council needs to do as the majority wants. He said right now the majority is here telling you to not do this.

Mr. Jason Lawless said he was a Police Chief for another Village and has worked with Mayor's and Council members. He said he doesn't live in the Village however his child goes to school in our community. He said he thinks Council is making a decision that will effect more people than what they think it will including the children at the schools. He said the Sheriff can't even run the County in a proper way. He said Council is making a decision to outsource to someone that doesn't have the personnel to do the job.

At this time, Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laxton to amend the title of Ordinance 2015-03 to read Ohio Revised Code § 737.15 and remove § 731.10. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Shelton – yes, Ms. Evans – Yes, Mr. Wissinger – Yes, Mr. Sadler – yes, Mr. Geiger – Yes, Mr. Laxton – yes. The motion passed.

Legislation:

Ordinance 2015-03 – AN ORDINANCE ABOLISHING THE VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT'S POLICE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE § 737.15 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wissinger to suspend the three readings. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Shelton – yes, Mr. Sadler – No, Mr. Wissinger – Yes, Mr. Laxton – yes, Mr. Geiger – Yes, Ms. Evans – yes. The motion passed. Mr. Shelton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laxton to adopt Ordinance 2015-03 and declare an emergency. At this time, Mr. Sadler asked for an analysis of why this ordinance is being presented. Mr. Shelton said over the past 6 months, we have had 30 hours of coverage. He said we had the Chief and an additional 60 hours of police officers working, however they didn't work on their own until just recently. Mr. Shelton said if contracting with the Sheriff is the next step, which he feels it should be, we will get 90 hours of coverage plus we will allow the Sheriff to use our police station as a substation. He said we will actually be getting more than 90 hours of coverage. Mr. Sadler asked what is going to be done with all of the equipment, etc. that the citizens have paid for. He asked if we were going to sell it for a loss. Mr. Shelton said there could be discussion about that. Ms. Evans said the date of December 31, 2015 is concerning to her. Mr. Sadler said they were discussing the disbandment of the police department. She said she

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2015**

couldn't make a decision on one item without having a better understanding of the other. Ms. Evans asked why the different opinions on Officer Kelly. She said she knows he quit, but the bigger question was she feels we are a training ground and how do we get out of that. She asked what Chief's plan was to get out of being a training ground. Mayor Hammond said Chief Jordan sent him an email regarding Officer Kelly helping out. Mayor Hammond said he needed to speak with Solicitor Hess to see if this was an option. He told Chief Jordan that he would get back to him. He said in the meantime, see if Officer Kelly would be interested in the 30 hour position. Mayor Hammond said he made this offer without consulting Council. He said Chief Jordan got back to him and said Officer Kelly could not work the full 30 hour position due to family issues. Mayor Hammond said there wasn't a provision that he knew of where Officer Kelly could be a subcontractor to the Village. He said Officer Kelly could work as a reserve, as he is now, or take the 30 hour position in which case he turned down. Mayor Hammond said as of this moment, there is not a candidate on his desk for review. Mr. Sadler said that was a staffing issue and we are talking about eliminating our police department. There were several comments from the citizens. Mr. Sadler said on March 2, 2015 there were not enough votes to contract with the Sheriff and now 12 days later there is legislation to abolish the police department. Mayor Hammond said this was a legislation item and he had no involvement in this. He said this came strictly from Council members. Mr. Shelton said there were Council members that came up to him asking for this. Mr. Sadler asked why this has to be an emergency. Ms. Evans said she is not opposed to anything. She said just wants coverage. Mr. Sadler said Council has heard from a lot of people that they want that coverage to come from Commercial Point Police Officers and not farmed out to the Sheriff. Ms. Evans said they haven't been getting the coverage. Mr. Sadler said we were getting 90 hours of coverage up until Officer Kaltenegger left. Ms. Evans said that was a very short period of time. She said Chief Jordan admits we are a training ground. Ms. Evans asked Chief Jordan if he had any thoughts or plans or suggestions to not be a training ground. She said she has been involved for 2 ½ years and it has been a revolving conversation. She asked Chief to make up a proposal for Council to defend the department. Chief Jordan said it will take not being on the news in a negative way and offering of vacation and personnel days. Ms. Evans again asked Chief Jordan to make a proposal to Council for what he needs to run the department. Chief Jordan made a few comparisons to the utility department. He said they went from 1 full time and 2 part time employees to 3 full time employees. Ms. Evans asked how long it took for that to happen. Mayor Hammond said it was over a 3 year process. Chief Jordan asked how long the utility department had been in existence compared to the police department. He feels the police department has been here a lot longer, however doesn't get the same benefits as the utility department. Chief Jordan said the pay for the officers was fine. He would like to see the up to 30 hour position be funded so that he can pay someone to cover for hours when he is off. He asked the Chief of South Bloomfield how much his officers get paid. The Chief of South Bloomfield said the officer were just bumped up to \$ 16.00/hour with benefits. Mr. Joiner said the people that signed his petition said it was time to move to a full time department. Ms. Evans said no one is offering full 24/7 hour coverage for the Village however it has been discussed for the officers to be 40 hour a week positions. Ms. Evans said she is missing a proposal from Chief Jordan. Chief Jordan said he has suggested full time officers before, however was turned down because Council didn't want to pay for the benefits. Ms. Evans said she has been here 2 ½ years and does not see a proposal or urgency from Chief Jordan to defend his department. Chief Jordan asked for 2 days to get a proposal put together and present it to Council. Ms. Evans confirmed with Chief Jordan that he wasn't asking for more money in wages. He said he was not asking for higher wages but was asking for benefits and more hours.

Mayor Hammond said this was not something that he brought to the table and it was clearly stated that he cannot vote. He said in 2011 the Village had \$ 575,000 in revenues into the General Fund. He said they had 20 hours of paid coverage until July when the election period was coming up. He said Chief Jordan and Mr. Murphy were moved to 30 hours a week each. He said they were not allowed to work past 7:00 p.m. on Monday – Friday and never on weekends. Mayor Hammond said this is information he received from the Chief when he came on board. He said in 2012 we had \$ 502,000 in revenues, losing \$ 72,000. He said in 2013 we had \$ 530,000 in revenues. He said in 2014 we just got back to the figure we had in 2011. He said the police weren't allowed to work weekends or past 7:00 p.m. and only had 20 hours of coverage before July of 2011. Mayor Hammond said he gave Chief Jordan total control over scheduling and increased the hours to 90 hours of coverage, however unsuccessful getting there. He said the police and coverage are very important. He said contrary to what people think, he never wanted to come in and get rid of anybody. He said Council moved ahead and Mr. Thompson worked hard for more coverage. He said we have never sustained 90 hours of coverage except for when we went with the Sheriff. He said he feels there should have been more done when there was more money. He said we have moved a long way from where we were. He said the citizens put up with 20 hours a week of coverage through July of 2011. He said they put up with nothing and now they have a lot more but it still isn't enough. Mr. Sadler said no one is saying that it is not enough. He said we have a motion to disband our police department and Ms. Evans asked what it would take to keep the department.

**VILLAGE OF COMMERCIAL POINT
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2015**

Chief Jordan said if we do a temporary contract with the Sheriff for 30 days Monday- Friday from 6:30a-4:30p will help until we can get our position filled. He said he will get a proposal together for Council. Ms. Evans asked if there was a proposal from the Chief that was worked on previously. Chief Jordan said he had worked on one 2 years ago when we had the full and part time positions funded. Someone in the crowd asked where that money went. Council said it went back into the General Fund the following year. Ms. Evans asked if anyone on Council had any thoughts. Mr. Sadler said the Village is growing. He said the hospital in Grove City is going to be hiring 1,500 employees that are going to be needing someplace to live and will probably come south. He said we already know that Westport Homes wants to expand. He said we have already talked about expanding the water plant and get additional wells. He said the growth is coming and we need to be prepared. Mr. Sadler said one of the steps we need to do visit looking at full time officers, not 24/7 coverage. Mayor Hammond said the important part is the police coverage. He said he has been fair with the police officers. He said he has asked Council to increase wages and they have agreed. He said it was determined by Council that they would not be adding anymore feet on the street with offering a benefit package. He said the benefit package would give the officers almost 6 weeks of time off with pay and he questioned how those hours would be covered. Chief Jordan said it won't be more feet but it will be feet that have walked the streets before. Ms. Evans said it doesn't take care of the coverage issue but does solve the longevity of the officers. Ms. Evans asked if we could fill the vacant 30 hour position with a Sheriff Deputy. Mayor Hammond said that was something that the Sheriff would have to answer.

Chief Jordan said it is a growing community. Now is the time to put 2 officers on full time and get 80 hours of coverage. He said we have a reserve officers that is willing to work an additional 16-24 hours a week if that position is funded again.

Mr. Sadler encouraged Council to vote no on Ordinance 2015-03 so that they can further their discussion. Ms. Evans asked if the ordinance could be tabled. Solicitor Hess said the Ordinance could be tabled. Mr. Klos suggested getting a resource that could do an independent feasibility study to figure out what Council wants to do. He said to check with the Ohio Chiefs of Police to see if they can be a resource. He said to check with other local communities and ask them for help as well. Ms. Evans asked South Bloomfield's Chief if they have ever worked with anyone on the feasibility study. He said they always go through the Ohio Chiefs of Police organization.

Ms. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to table Ordinance 2015-03 for further investigation. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Shelton – yes, Ms. Evans – Yes, Mr. Wissinger – Yes, Mr. Sadler – yes, Mr. Geiger – Yes, Mr. Laxton – yes. The motion passed. Mr. Geiger said most negative comments he heard while talking to residents regarding our police department was in regards to Chief Jordan.

Ms. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laxton to table Resolution 05-2015. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Shelton – yes, Ms. Evans – Yes, Mr. Wissinger – Yes, Mr. Sadler – yes, Mr. Geiger – Yes, Mr. Laxton – yes. The motion passed.

Ms. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Geiger to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor. The meeting adjourned.

Joe Hammond, Mayor

Wendy Hastings, Fiscal Officer