

August 3, 2012
New Egypt High School Auditorium
117 Evergreen Road
New Egypt, NJ 08533

The Special Meeting of the Township of Plumsted Committee was called to order by Mayor Leutwyler at 7:20 PM. Leutwyler explained this was an official Township Committee meeting and there was some business that had to be done.

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

The purpose of the meeting was to approve resolutions authorizing the promotion of Sgt. OIC Matthew S. Petrecca to Chief of Police and appointing Sgt. OIC Petrecca as the Public Safety Director.

THOSE OFFICIALS PRESENT:

COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA COMMITTEEMAN MARINARI MAYOR LEUTWYLER
COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG ADMINISTRATOR DANCER DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK
CLERK HENDRICKSON

The meeting was opened with the flag salute.

Kayla Salcfas came to the dais and sang the Star Spangled Banner.

Mayor Leutwyler introduced the professionals on the stage. Mayor Leutwyler introduced individuals in the audience, Chief Charles Kuyl of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office; Detective Vince Petrecca; Michael Reina, Mayor of Jackson Township; former Mayor of South Toms River, Sam Russo, Sr.; all Ocean and Burlington County Chiefs of Police. Also in attendance was Sgt. Fred Lane from the Hamilton State Police Barracks; also from the State Police was local resident Major Wendy Galloway, Lt. Col. Malace from Ocean County; Assemblyman Ron Dancer; and representatives from the local Fire Company and EMS. Leutwyler continued by saying last but not least, the State Police Retired Al Petrecca, Matt Petrecca's father.

Municipal Clerk, Dorothy J. Hendrickson, read a letter dated June 11, 2012 from Michael J. Lynch, Plumsted Township's Public Safety Director addressed to Mayor David Leutwyler and the Township Committee recommending the appointment of Matthew S. Petrecca as Chief of Police. (See attached correspondence.)

Mayor Leutwyler asked for a motion to accept the Public Safety Director's recommendation to appoint a Police Chief.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, THE PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO APPOINT MATTHEW S. PETRECCA AS THE POLICE CHIEF WAS ACCEPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Mayor Leutwyler read Resolution No. 2012-237.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, SECONDED BY DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK RESOLUTION NO. 2012-237, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE PROMOTION OF SERGEANT MATTHEW S. PETRECCA, O.I.C. TO THE POSITION AND RANK OF CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

There was a hearty round of applause for the newly appointed Chief of Police, Matthew S. Petrecca.

Chief Petrecca was asked to come forward.

Assemblyman (and former Mayor) Ronald S. Dancer administered the Oath of Office as Chief of Police to Petrecca while his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Al Petrecca held the Bible.

Again, there was a hearty round of applause for Chief Petrecca.

Mayor Leutwyler asked Chief Petrecca's wife Diane and his brother Vince to please come forward. Mrs. Petrecca and Mr. Vince Petrecca pinned the Stars on Chief Petrecca's collar, Mayor Leutwyler pinned on his badge.

Mayor Leutwyler recognized the School Board Members that were in attendance, Garrett Midgett, Sandy Soles and President of the School Board Harry Miller.

Assemblyman Ron Dancer called Chief Petrecca to the stage. Dancer said about 14 years ago, March 20, 1998, they stood together on the dais at 31 Main Street and they had the honor of swearing Matt in as a Patrolman on Plumsted Township. Dancer said the Township Committee members who appointed Matt in 1998 were Bonnie Quesnel, the late Ken Francis, the late "Mike" Roberts, and Joe Przywara. Dancer went on to say he would like to take this opportunity to the present committee members for having the level of confidence 14 years later in selecting Petrecca as the fifth Chief of Police since the Police Department was established in 1965. Dancer said on behalf of Governor Chris Christie, the New Jersey State Legislature (all 120 members) who paused in their deliberations to pass a Joint Legislative Resolution sponsored by the 12th Legislative District Representatives, Senator Thompson, Assemblyman Ron Clifton and himself as Assemblyman. Dancer said to Petrecca this resolution commends and congratulates you for 14 years of exemplary service to the Township of Plumsted, its citizens. On behalf of Governor Christie and the New Jersey State Legislature, Dancer presented Petrecca with the Joint Legislative Resolution. Congratulations Chief Petrecca.

Mayor Leutwyler presented Petrecca with a Certificate of Appointment as Police Chief.

Police Chief Petrecca said in 2009 when he took over the Police Department there was a lot of adversity. He said a prayer for himself asking for guidance to get it right. Petrecca asked Rev. Dan Schafer to come forward and lead a prayer for the future of this agency, the future of the officers, the residents of the town he is serving and the protection of all of his brothers and sisters in uniform, for God's protection.

Rev. Schafer said he has been a friend of Petrecca for years and is so proud of him and honored to be here. Schafer said a prayer for Petrecca, the department and all first responders.

Chief Petrecca said he wanted to thank the Plumsted Township Mayor and Township Committee for trusting in his capabilities to hold the title of Chief of Police. He continued by saying that if it weren't for the Committee, this monumental moment his life wouldn't be. He thanked them for their support and commitment to public safety to the community and all they have done for the Police Department. He said he would not disappoint them in their decision. Petrecca said he was raised by a father who was a State Trooper and an uncle and they kept it close. There are people in his life that are not here that were taken away.

Petrecca thanked all of the Police Chiefs for taking time from their busy schedules to attend tonight and to the Chiefs who couldn't make it but called with their support. He went to say he looks forward to developing a great working relationship with all of them. It was the early 1990's when Plumsted Township had their last Chief of Police and he was honored to join all of them. He thanked Marlene Lynch Ford from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office for her words of encouragement, it has been an honor to serve under her. Petrecca thanked the New Jersey State Police out of the Hamilton Barracks, the Jackson Township Police Officers, the Manchester Township Police Officers, the New Hanover Police Officers and the North Hanover Police Officers for backing the Plumsted officers while on patrol by themselves. Petrecca promised they will continue to build their relationships and their communications in the future. Petrecca said Jackson Township Police Officer Teddy Kucowski started with him and other police recruit classmates that were in attendance.

Chief Petrecca recognized Public Safety Director Michael Lynch by saying he was the best mentor that an Officer In Charge could have. He said he has taught him so many valuable life lessons and for the position of Chief of Police. He will take them with him for the rest of his life. He continued by saying he knew this wasn't the end of their friendship but would give him pop quizzes on Title 39 and supervision. Petrecca thanked Lynch for everything; he said he will never forget what he did for him, his family and the agency.

He went on to recognize former chiefs of Seaside Heights. Petrecca said he started his career in Seaside Heights Police Department and the detective sitting in the back did his interview. He made the transition of crossing the thin blue line enlightening. Working for Seaside Heights was an honor. Starting his career there was an honor and working under their leadership was impeccable. He thanked the chief for giving him this opportunity. He said he will never forget that or where he came from. He went on to all of the instructors at the Ocean County Police Academy. He thanked them for giving him the best foundation a young police officer could ask for; they are true professionals in their field. He went on to thank former Public Safety Director, Retired Lt. Albert Dempster, who hired him and took a chance. And thanked Mayor Dancer for

taking the chance and allowing him to begin his career in Plumsted Township. Chief Petrecca went on to say to the Rodgers Group, in 2009 we began a journey of accreditation together and we accomplished that goal in 2011. He thanked Retired Lt. Col. Frank Rodgers and his entire staff. They have always been professional and an asset to the law enforcement community. For what they had done for Petrecca and the agency, Petrecca will always hold their friendship and partnership very close. He thanked them again and said they are all true professionals of their craft. To Chief Charles (Rocky) Papp he thanked him for pushing him in his education. This has meant a lot and it isn't done, but it will be. He thanked him for being a role model in the Petrecca lives.

Petrecca thanked Retired Lt. Col Phil Madison and Detective Jim Hill for looking out for him and the officers of the police department. Thanks for the recent procurement of mobile data terminals of the patrol cars and the new records management system. Without them this would not have occurred. They have helped propel this department into the 21st Century. Petrecca said he and the officers greatly appreciate all of their support. He looks forward to building on their relationship. To the Ocean County Radio Room, he recognized Tina by saying she was the best radio communication a police agency could ask for. He went on to say that he appreciates all that they have done for him and the officers of this police department. They are the lifeline of the officers on the road.

To the Ocean County SWAT Team North Platoon, thanks for the memories Petrecca served with them for seven (7) years from the beginning of the establishment of the team. As he moves forward he will miss them all, but will not forget the things they have done together. They know where he is if they need him. To all of the veterans and service men and women in the audience, thank you for your sacrifice, specifically to my Uncle Doug Field, and asked him to stand up. He told him he has a lot of respect for him and a lot of love.

He thanked all of the workers in Plumsted Township for their support. It is an honor and privilege to work with skilled professionals, he appreciates all that they do for him and the officers. They make their lives easier and he hoped he does the same, we are family. To the residents and business owners of Plumsted, as the Chief, I made a commitment to you in 2009 and I make it today, that I will always put your needs, your safety and your concerns first and serve you to the best of my capabilities. We will continue to work together in the future and build on the relationship we have established. My door is always open to everyone. To the Plumsted Township School Board Superintendent Karen Jones, thank you and all of your staff for your support. Our high level of communication is what puts us on the same page in accomplishing our goals and keeping our students and staff safe. Linda Salcfas, Plumsted OEM Coordinator, you work side by side with me every day. We have to work on the same page and you are a true professional. He said he appreciates everything she does for him, appreciates their therapy sessions and appreciates what she does for the officers and residents of this town. She really needs to be recognized for what she does for them. He thanked the New Egypt First Aid and Fire Department for their support. The officers and residents are lucky to have them. They are simply the best and true professionals and looks forward to continue building their professional relationship and serving the residents.

Petrecca continued by saying last but definitely not least to the officers and Administrative Assistant Cyndi MacReynolds of the Police Department. To my officers, in 2009 we had a lot of issues. It started with trust and trust comes from the top. We got it back and you know where we stand. Trust that we will accomplish the goals, the missions and the objectives we set. He went on to say he knows all of their capabilities. He knows the men have their professional goals. Communications have to first and foremost in order for this to work. The men put it out on the line every day, there are no finer officers a chief could ask for. Stand tall, walk proud, that is what I ask, be professional, you know what I expect and I stand behind you 100% and always will. The sky is the limit as we move forward. I want to thank you for trusting in my capabilities, trusting in the vision I have for this agency. There is a lot going on in this head, I am already 10 years ahead. The residents are fortunate to have you to protect and serve them. Thank you for supporting me throughout it all. I promise I will never let us become stagnate and we will remain progressive as we move forward into the future. Plumsted has been beleaguered, our name hasn't even been spelled right or put in the right county half of the time. Petrecca said beleaguered no more, we move forward, we build. Thank you.

Chief Matt Petrecca continued by saying to all of his friends and family, he said he has childhood friends in the audience, he is honored to call them friends and thankful they are here tonight to share this moment. To my Mom and Pop, this comes from the heart and it always has. Mom, people need to know Anna Mae Petrecca, you haven't slept in 50 years, your husband was a State Trooper, you tell us to watch our backs out there and we do. Pop says you should have been the State Trooper of the family. You gave us love, you told us never to back down and we never have. Five boys and one girl takes an amazing person to raise them. You did a great job Mom and I love you very much, I hope I make you proud. Pop, I love you and hope I make you proud. Your infinite words of wisdom, don't judge other peoples inventory, look for the good in

people and just keep pushing forward. You are the quietest man I know, but when you talk people need to listen. You are a very, very intelligent man. I love you dad and I am proud to call you my father. To my brothers and sister you know I will never forget where I came from, I love you all very much and I will always have your backs. Specifically to Vincent Petrecca, I am honored to say you are my brother. You have more character and integrity in your pinky than I do in my whole body. You are a role model for what an older brother should be, I thank you for all of your support and the many late night conversations on the phone that we have about our jobs. I love you Vince and I will always be there for you.

Petrecca continued to say to Diane (his wife), Nicholas, Jacob and Conner (his sons). You have been through it all with me Di. It is not easy being a police officer's wife, it takes a special person. Throughout the years you have stuck by me on so many things, missing family functions, going out on SWAT call outs, holidays, shift work. It is part of the job and you accepted that and never complained, the demands of school, the late nights on the computer, what can I say. No one will ever know but us, we will keep it that way that is what makes it special. To my boys, you guys are my heartbeat. To Nicholas he reminded him to be a leader not a follower, it is important. I hope I make you proud as your dad, I love you guys. You guys are my driving force behind everything I do. Without you I would be lost. I love you very much and I promise to keep you guys number one in my life.

For anyone that he missed in the audience Petrecca said I want to thank you for coming out and sharing this monumental moment in my life, wow, big moment and I am honored to serve. Thank you, Thank you.

Mayor Leutwyler said I don't know how you follow that, there isn't a dry eye in the house. Leutwyler asked Michael Lynch, Public Safety and former Chief of Police of Lakewood Township to the podium. Chief Lynch said he will combine his comments and announcing his retirement.

Lynch congratulated Matt (Petrecca) on his promotion to Chief of Police. This promotion represents a very positive event, not only in Matt's life, but also in the operation of the Plumsted Police Department. Chief Petrecca, you have the highest level professionalism and integrity. Lynch said he has gotten to know this young man over the last nine years as a police officer who cared about the Police Department and the officers. To get to know Matt, Lynch went on patrol with him, in about 2002 on a cold night in February, I stopped at the police station to see how everything was going. The temperature was about 20°, snowing and the roads were snow covered. As Matt and I were driving around the township, we were exchanging thoughts about the department and what could be accomplished to make improvements. During this time the conversation came around to family, Matt, not only on this occasion, but on every other occasion over the last nine years, talked about how much he loved his wife and children, how he admired his father for the guidance and love he had fostered over his formative years making him the person he is today. Lynch said he must salute Matt's father and mother on the excellent rearing of a young man. I respect a person that embodies those ideas of what is good and noble. The community is fortunate to have Matt as Chief of Police. On that cold February night, I soon found myself on several motor vehicle stops with Matt. I saw first-hand how he spoke to the drivers, he was polite and a true professional. Of course, I changed my future meetings with Matt, the last time I was on a motor vehicle stop was probably 1972, but it was rewarding. Now that the Police Department and the community have a top qualified man at the head of the agency, I am retiring as the Public Safety Director. I want to thank Assemblyman Ron Dancer and all members of the Plumsted Township Committee for their assistance over the last nine years enabling myself and the officers to make improvements to better serve the community. Thank you.

Assemblyman Dancer asked Chief Petrecca and Michael Lynch to remain on the stage. Dancer said that Lynch's service in law enforcement has not gone unnoticed by Plumsted Township nor by the State of New Jersey. Dancer said Lynch left out a couple of things in his story about coming to Plumsted Township. When Lynch came here in about 2004, the Township Committee appointed him. The former Director of Public Safety was making \$20,000 a year. Lynch was appointed and the resolution of appointment was approved at \$20,000 a year. Dancer went on to say that he was a little disturbed when Lynch came to him about two weeks later prior to the next Township Committee Meeting. Lynch said we are going to have to talk about the \$20,000. Right away Dancer said he was sorry but that is all we had. It wasn't that. Lynch had just two weeks in this police department and speaking to the officers, some of whom are here this evening, he recognized the financial need to put that \$20,000 not in his pocket but into the pockets of the officers and the operating expenses of the department. From 2004, Michael Lynch has never taken more than \$1.00 a year and he doesn't cash the checks, they are all outstanding. Dancer asked Lynch and Petrecca to come forward. Dancer said as Chief Petrecca said, there is great chemistry here and he has been your mentor. Lynch was not only an Air Force Veteran, but started his career in the Lakewood Police Department in 1969 working his way up through the ranks to become the Chief of Police of Lakewood, then retire and come to Plumsted Township. On behalf of Governor Chris Christie and the New Jersey State Legislature

we wanted to commemorate, commend and congratulate Director Lynch for a lifetime of public service defending and protecting the lives and safety of the families and citizens of the State of New Jersey. Congratulations. Dancer presented Lynch with the State Senate and Assembly Joint Legislative Resolution.

Mayor Leutwyler thanked Lynch and said to have someone of Mike's caliber here as Public Safety Director mentor Petrecca and the other officers, a plaque doesn't seem to be enough to thank him. Mayor Leutwyler read the plaque and presented it to Lynch for his eight years of service as Public Safety Director. Leutwyler thanked him from this committee and all prior committee people.

Mayor Leutwyler read Resolution No. 2012-238 by title and asked for a motion to approve.

ON MOTION OF COMMITTEEMAN TROTTA, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, RESOLUTION NO. 2012-238, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PLUMSTED, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING MATTHEW S. PETRECCA AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY, WAS ADOPTED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Assemblyman (and former Mayor) Ronald S. Dancer administered the Oath of Office as Director of Public Safety to Petrecca while his wife held the Bible.

Mayor Leutwyler presented Petrecca with a Certificate of Appointment as Director of Public Safety.

Petrecca thanked his friend from Ship Bottom Police Department for taking pictures. He also thanked the Chief of Police from his hometown and said he couldn't have a better Chief in his town to protect his sons and her men are lucky to have her. He thanked the Jackson Township Police Department and a former Plumsted police officer Anthony Turso his old partner, and Ted Kucowski also a former Plumsted police officer. Petrecca thanked everyone else for coming out and for their support.

Mayor Leutwyler asked for comments from family, friends and the public.

Petrecca's sister said the family is very proud of him and will stand behind him no matter what and they loved him.

Mayor Leutwyler said when Petrecca was appointed as Sergeant OIC in 2009, he took the ball and led the department at a time when it was in shambles. The department went through the accreditation. Petrecca led the way. He is now being contacted by other towns to help them through the accreditation process. Leutwyler said you could use a lot of words to describe Matt, hardworking, loyal to a fault, but the word that best summarizes is integrity. Leutwyler said Petrecca's parents should be proud of themselves for raising a family such as theirs. Leutwyler personally thanked Petrecca for the integrity and leadership he shows for this community and the police department. He couldn't be more proud to be mayor when the Township Committee could make Petrecca the Chief of Police.

Deputy Mayor Sorchik congratulated Petrecca and the Plumsted Police Department. He said they do a great job and they have a great leader. Committeeman Trotta also thanked Petrecca for his trust in the Committee and wished him good luck in the future. Committeeman Marinari said he had the honor of working with him as a School Board member and it is an extreme honor to work with him now as the new chief. He told Petrecca he had a lot of praises tonight all surely deserved. He went on to say that Petrecca is an exemplary person. He is loved. These individuals here are examples of what all police forces should be in this country. Marinari said he has had the honor to sit at his farm and talk to Petrecca about many things. He was there when his mother-in-law died very suddenly and a couple of weeks ago, he was playing baseball with his two and half year old granddaughter. Marinari wished him the very best.

Committeeman Wysong said he wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge and send out a special thank you to all of the police officers in Plumsted Township for the exceptional work they do every day to keep our community safe and secure. Wysong continued by saying as evaluated what personal qualities and skills are needed to make a good Police Chief and a leader what came to mind was integrity, courage, loyalty, understanding, compassion, critical thinking, initiative, vision, and genuine concern for the safety and welfare of his officers, mentorship, and service before self to mention just a few. Chief Petrecca, I salute you, as one who exemplifies all of these qualities and many more. Your deeds over the years speak far better for you than anything I can say. Your leadership and unselfish devotion to duty has transformed our police department into a top notch professional organization and force. I thank you. You are well deserving of this promotion and I am pleased to be part of it and share this occasion with you, your family, your friends, professional colleagues and the community. Chief it is my prayer that God shower his choicest blessings up you, your family and give you strength and wisdom to lead

your department as you continue to protect and serve the people in Plumsted Township. Congratulations Chief you have my complete trust and confidence.

Mayor Leutwyler reminded everyone after the meeting everyone is invited to the lobby for coffee and cake. Leutwyler said he had received a call before the meeting from Pastor Dominick Cuzzo informing him he was sorry but was unable to make the meeting tonight. Leutwyler asked Rev. Dan Schafer to come forward for the benediction.

ON MOTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR SORCHIK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEEMAN WYSONG, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. ROLL CALL VOTE: ALL AYES.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy J. Hendrickson, RMC
Municipal Clerk