



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAR 18, 2015
MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST MEETING ROOM "B"

ATTENDING:

CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLAM -
COMMISSIONER RICHARD BARTON
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to add "Executive Session" to the minutes as item #10; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

1. Public Comment
None
2. Review of Past Minutes
Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the minutes of 2/18/15, minutes of 3/4/15 and minutes of 3/11/15; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.
3. Budget Report
 - a) Comptrollers Report
Chief Finch noted the big ticket capital items yet to be included.
 - b) Overtime Reports
Overtime is still under last year-to-date by \$17K according to the Chief, much due to Dispatch being up to full staff. Investigation expenses are about one half of last year-to-date. Some listed items will eventually be reimbursed 75% by State grants.

Motion by Chairman Duff to add the following items to New Business: "Hickok Ave" as item 5b; "CT Challenge Race" as item 5c; "Retirement or Resignation" as item 5d; seconded by Comm Barton – unanimous.
4. Old Business
 - a) Monthly Reports – *copies enclosed*
The reports were in the hands of the Commissioners

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b) MV Signage – Middle School

Off Broad presented his analysis of the signs requested by the Board of Education to redirect traffic at Middle School in the same manner as was previously done at Johnson School to keep parents picking up children separate from school buses. Off Broad noted the size, and placement changes he made to the requested signs to make them NTC compliant as well as suggested additional signs. Comm McCollam stated the necessity of having school personnel in place the day the signs are made effective to aid in traffic flow. Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the recommendations of Off Broad concerning the Middle School traffic flow patterns; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

5. New Business

a) Policy – General Orders

Chapter 4, Section 6 Holding Facility

A significant policy with minor changes, updated due to accreditation.

Chapter 7, Section 2 Hostage and Barricaded Persons

Minor changes concerning designation of Field Operations Command

Chapter 8, Section 5 Traffic Crash Investigations

Language revisions to reflect the new computer generated MVA reports
Major Accident Team responsibilities and training

Motion by Comm McCollam that the following General Orders with revision of 3/18/15 be accepted; Chapter 4, Section 6 Holding Facility, Chapter 7, Section 2 Hostage and Barricaded Persons, Chapter 8, Section 5 Traffic Crash Investigations; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

b) Hickok Ave

A complainant's letter centered around the fear of cars ramming her house. Off Broad described the "S" turn in question with the road becoming unduly narrow due to plowed snow piles on the opposite side of the road. His proposal was for a 15 mph advisory sign at the curve in question, the installation of road delineators to aid plow operators and the suggestion to the Highway Dept that a guard rail be installed. In the past four accidents reviewed, all the cars flew off the road at the same spot.

Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the recommendations in Off Broad's report dated 3/17/15 and forward the same onto the Public Works Director and Assistant Director with a cc to the Board of Directors; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

c) CT Challenge Race

This is the 11th year of this cancer survivorship race. The benefit race starts in Fairfield utilizing several stages of a 100 mile route. Only the 75 and 100 mile routes go through Bethel. Lt Dickinson recommends that the Commission approve the course so organizers can approach the State Traffic Authority.

Motion by Chairman Duff to allow the CT Challenge Race as presented by Lt Dickinson; seconded by Comm Barton – unanimous.

d) Resignation/Retirement

Chief Finch stated that Off Delohery has tendered his resignation to pursue a different career, and asks that a 10 day leave of absence (already granted) be extended by two days so it falls within the time necessary for Police Union contract ratification.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to extend Off Delohery's leave of absence by two days from 3/24/15 to 3/26/15; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

6. Correspondence:

- Officer Perun & Conroy

Letter of commendation for Offs Perun & Conroy for catching a burglar in the act

- Officer Cleary

Letter of commendation for Off Cleary based upon a Newtown letter concerning a drug search

- Long Meadow La

Concerns a death in January. Chairman Duff offered complimentary comments concerning the deceased

- American Legion Magazine

Noted was the article including a letter "Lasting Bond With Law Enforcement"

7. Police Building

Chairman Duff offered up the following motion for the purpose of discussion:

Motion by Chairman Duff that whereas the Bethel Police Commission agrees to the findings of the Space and Needs Recommendation, the Bethel Police Commission recommends that the Board of Selectmen pursue those steps necessary in order to fund and construct a police station on the site selected (Judd Av) which will fulfill the present and foreseeable needs of the Bethel Police Department; seconded by Comm McCollam for purpose of discussion – unanimous.

Chairman Duff summarized the previous meetings' discussions concerning the Space and Needs Study along with the Architect's recommendations all of which led to the consensus that a new police station is needed. The existing station is obsolete and the existing site is the "last place in town which should be considered for the construction of a new building". Consequently the construction of a new station at a different site is being pursued. Other problems and costs associated with the existing building were discussed by the Commissioners. It was agreed that refurbishing the existing building would ultimately cost more than a new building and "be functionally obsolete" when completed. The motion on the table was agreed to by all Commissioners.

Motion by Chairman Duff that the Chairman be directed to do all that is necessary to cause to be scheduled a PUBLIC HEARING on 9th of April in the General Purpose Room of the Bethel Municipal Center concerning the funding and construction of a New police station; said hearing to be conducted by a joint committee comprised of the Board of Selectmen and the Bethel Police Commission. The Building Committee, Town Comptroller and Jacunski Humes

Architects be specifically requested to attend; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Upon discussion the motion was amended to include Hawley Construction reading: Motion by Chairman Duff that the Chairman be directed to do all that's necessary to cause to be scheduled a PUBLIC HEARING on 9th of April in the General Purpose Room of the Bethel Municipal Center concerning the funding and construction of a New police station; said hearing to be conducted by a joint committee comprised of the Board of Selectmen and the Bethel Police Commission. The Building Committee, Town Comptroller, Hawley Construction and Jacunski Humes Architects be specifically requested to attend; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Additional discussion followed.

8. Chief's Report

Chief Finch reported dispatcher Jim Sanchez will be leaving in June necessitating the search for another dispatcher. Two police officer openings now exist after Off Delohery's resignation leading to the hiring of the top two candidates, Jarad Robinson and Michael McKinney who will start at the Academy shortly after swearing in. Chief Finch added that between the Academy and field training, it normally takes 7 months before an officer can work by themselves.

9. Commissioner Comments

Comm McCollam wished Off Delohery well in the pursuit of his new occupation. Comm Kolwicz commended Offs' Perun and Conroy for the burglary arrest with a "job well done".

Comm Rubino commended all the officers in the Department for working under the existing conditions imposed by the old structure.

10. Executive Session

At 7:22 motion by Comm Kolwicz to go into executive session and invite Chief Finch to attend; seconded by Comm McCollam.

At 7:31 the Commission came out of executive session.

At 7:32 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary