



# POLICE COMMISSION

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## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2015

MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST MEETING ROOM "B"

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF  
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO  
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ  
COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLAM  
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

COMMISSIONER RICHARD BARTON (ABSENT)

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:07 p.m. The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

### 1. Public Comment

James Palmer of 52 Turkey Plain Rd stated he was speaking as a resident and not on behalf of the Building Committee of which he is a member. Mr Palmer, while agreeing that a new Police Department building is needed, questioned some aspects of the design. Any reduction in size should be made on operating areas outside of the firing range which Mr Palmer sees as necessary.

Simone Kelly of 77 Hoyts Hill Rd asked that she be informed as to the progress of her several past complaints. Chief Finch stated the complaints are presently being investigated and would address the issue in executive session.

Daniel Goodman identified himself as attending this and other commission meetings as a requirement for winning a Boy Scout badge.

### 2. Review of Past Minutes

Commissioner McCollam asked that the fourth line in #9 of the 5/20/15 minutes include the following: "The Commissioner personally believes the Captain should be appointed before the next lieutenant. Discussion followed and other commissioners agreed".  
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the amended minutes of 5/20/15; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

### 3. Interview Police Officer Candidate

At 6:35 motion by Comm Kolwicz to go into executive session for the purpose of interviewing a police officer candidate; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous

At 6:50 the Commission came out of executive session and recessed for 5 minutes.

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

2015 JUL 17 P 12:18

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At 6:55 the Commission reconvened.

Motion by Comm McCollam that candidate Michael Flynn be offered a job as a Bethel police officer conditional upon his meeting all requirements of the Town of Bethel and the Bethel Police Department; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

4. Budget Report

a) Comptrollers Report

No report was available per Chief Finch because of fiscal year-end still awaiting the final accounting the previous budget still being entered into the Town computer system.

b) Overtime Report

Chief Finch noted that two of the weeks were substantially high due to enforcement activities, the cost of which will be largely reimbursed by grant monies.

Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - unanimous

5. Old Business

a) Monthly Report

The Commission discussed the numbers concerning rape, larceny and motor vehicle theft. DUI arrests were noted by Comm Kolwicz as being dramatically down. Chief Finch noted the difficulty of making this type of arrest as well as the “chilling affect” of recent State requirements concerning the cross examinations and challenges to police officers which could arise from the stopping of operators of motor vehicles.

6. New Business

• Policy General Orders

Minor changes to accommodate accreditation standards

Chapter 3 Section 4 Sick, Vacation, Benefit Time

Only change is addition of military deployment support paragraph

Chapter 5 Section 1 Use of Force and Less Lethal

“yearly” added to one paragraph

Chapter 5 Section 2 Taser Conducted Electrical Weapon

Annual proficiency demonstrated and documented

Chapter 7 Section 1 Active Shooter & Threats

Minor changes to Ranking Officer and Annual Review

Motion by Comm McCollam that the following four General Orders rev date 7/15/15 be accepted as presented: Chapter 3 Section 4 Sick, Vacation, Benefit Time, Chapter 5 Section 1 Use of Force and Less Lethal, Chapter 5 Section 2 Taser Conducted Electrical Weapon, Chapter 7 Section 1 Active Shooter & Threats; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

Motion by Comm McCollam to add McNeil Rd under New Business and Turtle Crossing on Walnut Hill Rd under New Business and “No Right Turn” on Greenwood Av and Chestnut under New Business; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - unanimous

- Old Hawleyville Rd Truck Traffic

Lt Dickinson stated the reasons why he cannot support this request for “No Thru Truck Traffic” signs and enforcement. Old Hawleyville Rd is the best road and a main connection for Rt302 to Rt6 to Rt84, a collector for these major State highways. This would force traffic onto other far less suitable roads, Payne and Benedict. The Commission agreed to accept Lt Dickinson’s recommendation and to notify the petitioner of the same.

- Police Dept Firearms

Chief Finch stated that many departments offer an officer’s duty weapon to him or her upon their retirement. This has been done in a spotty manner in the past and the Chief asked the Commission for approval that it now be done on a regular basis. Historically the PBA and/or Police Union replaced the gun by advancing the price of a new gun. This benefits the Department by replacing an old gun with a new one. Often the new gun is assigned to a newly hired police officer. Lt Dickinson stated there is a grace period allowing the retired officer to declare the greater than 10 round magazine to the State.

Motion by Chairman Duff to authorize the transfer of a duty firearm to a retiring officer with the anticipation that it would be replaced by a similar or better model by the PBA and/or Police Union with the Chief’s discretion; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

- Commission Meeting of 8/19

Chief Finch asked that the regular meeting date of 8/19/15 be changed since he cannot appear.

Motion by Chairman Duff to cancel the meeting of 8/19/15 in anticipation of a special meeting on 8/26/15; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous

- McNeil Rd

Planning & Zoning wishes to approve making McNeil Rd a cul-de-sac by closing the road at Rt6 opposite Weed Rd. Per Comm Rubino, all residents are in favor of this to prevent a traffic cut-through to Hawleyville Rd. Comm McCollam had objections to this for emergency vehicle access reasons and wondered why after two years this was never officially brought before the Commission.

Motion by Chairman Duff that the Commission request recommendation for planning be reviewed from some agency concerning McNeil Rd before the Commission makes a decision and await notices from concerned departments concerning the closing of McNeil Rd before making any decision; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

- Turtle Crossing Walnut Hill Rd

Letter from Peter Turbo expressed concern for Turtles crossing Walnut Hill Rd in areas where wetlands are adjacent to woods and requested signs “Turtle Crossing”. Commissioners were at a loss to determine where exactly to post the requested signs and how to enforce that turtles cross at or near posted signs. Lt Dickinson stated his

solution that signs not be approved and instead brush be cut where it is overhanging the road so drivers can more clearly see turtles about to cross. This migration is limited to a short period of time during the egg laying season anyway and would not warrant year-round signs.

- No Right Turn Greenwood Av & Chestnut

A request from State D.O.T. requesting concurrence that all of the intersection of Greenwood and Chestnut be posted "No Right Turn" on behalf of a blind pedestrian. Since South on Chestnut and West on Greenwood are already posted the Commission's discussion concerned Chestnut North and Greenwood East. That the audible warning has since been fixed and the low collision history and the negative affect "No Right Turn" posting would have on traffic flow were considered in the decision.

Motion by Comm McCollam to agree with Lt Dickinson not to concur with the State's report to post "No Turn on Red" to all approaches to the intersection of Greenwood Av and Chestnut St thus denying "No Turn on Red" posting on Chestnut St Northbound onto Rt302 and Greenwood Av Eastbound onto Chestnut; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

7. Correspondence

- 1) Letter commending Offs Cordero and Conroy for capturing a burglar.
- 2) Stony Hill Fire Dept Chief Galliford commends Dispatcher Spinella for his professionalism in the Castle Hill Structure fire. Pertinent information was provided along with quick contact of mutual aid departments.

8. Police Building

Chairman Duff noted the Public Hearing to be held on Thursday 7/23/15. Following this will be a Town Meeting, then a Public Referendum with dates to be established by the Board of Selectmen. The Commission discussed the new police building proposal.

Lt Dickinson presented State Traffic Commission project proposals addressed to local traffic authorities to either hold a meeting or sign off on them. Two projects are proposed one being remarking of railroad crossings with paint and signs and the other rumble strips to run down the center of Greenwood Av from the Newtown line to Old Lantern Dr.

Motion by Comm McCollam to follow Lt Dickinson's recommendation concerning DOT's railroad crossings and rumble strip project; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous. Chairman Duff signed off on the projects for the Commission.

Comm McCollam left the meeting at 8:15

9. Chief's Report

The Chief noted that formal accreditation inspection is scheduled for Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>.

A new dispatcher Patrick Magyar has been hired. Mr Magyar comes certified having previously worked in Bridgeport and only needs the in-house training which has been completed. Dispatch is up to full staff.

10. Commissioner Comments

Comm Kolwicz asked what clout the Commission has in getting done the traffic related items it passes. He noted two items which were passed months ago, still not addressed

Comm Rubino asked if meetings cancelled, as was the June meeting, could be rescheduled during the same month as a special meeting.

Chairman Duff asked about the ramifications of meeting at the Police Department. The Chairman also requested questions from Commissioners to be addressed at the upcoming F.O.I. meeting

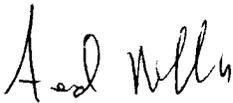
11. Executive Session

At 8:25 motion by Comm Kolwicz to go into executive session for the purpose of security issues and discussion of an on-going criminal investigation and invite Chief Finch to attend; seconded by Comm Rubino

At 8:50 the Commission came out of executive session.

At 8:51 Motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm Rubino - unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ferdinand Miller Jr.", written in black ink.

Ferdinand Miller Jr  
Secretary