



# POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, SEP 16, 2015

MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST BD OF EDUCATION MEETING ROOM

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

2015 SEP 21 P 12:23

RECEIVED

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 6:10 p.m. The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

Motion by Chairman Duff to add "Public Input" as item 1a; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

1a. Public Input  
None

1. Review of Past Minutes

• 7/15/15 Two issues approved under New Business at this meeting were not included in the minutes. Site plan 36 Stony Hill Rd and Woods Gas Station 82 Stony Hill Rd.

Motion by Comm McCollam accept the minutes of 7/15/15 as amended; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

• 8/12/15

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the minutes of 8/12/15; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

2. Budget Report

a) Comptroller's Report

The Comptroller's Report was in the hands of the Commissioners

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

b) Overtime Report

Chief Finch noted the two high dollar weeks in August as being due to a temporary manpower shortage.

3. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Normal crime, nothing of significance.

4. New Business

First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker explained the long term plan of Planning & Zoning to close off the southern end of McNeil Rd as Rt 6 development progressed. Many legal steps were involved and completed save the endorsement of the Town's traffic authority, the Police Commission. Mr Knickerbocker asked that this final step be completed at this time. Neighbors are all in agreement of this and the Fire Department was consulted as to the slight increase in response time. Commissioner Kolwicz expressed his concern for the minute or two added response time adding that often it is a matter of minutes that make a difference. Commissioner Barton asked if the road can be "gated" for Fire Department use only to speed up response. Chairman Duff agreed with the First Selectman on the need to make McNeil a cul-de-sac, that the 30 second to minute-and-half response was not significant. Lt Dickinson stated that the closeness of McNeil to the firehouse makes the increase in response of small concern compared to typical response times for other Stony Hill residents.

Motion by Comm Rubino to endorse the request of the First Selectman to make McNeil Rd a cul-de-sac by closing off the southern end; seconded by Comm Barton – unanimous.

• Road Marking – *several*

Lt Dickinson recommended the following road markings to reduce collisions:

Sunset Hill at Wolfpits Rd: Centerline on Sunset to be segmented through the intersection of Wolfpits Rd, and the line directing traffic head-on into oncoming traffic removed.

Plumtrees Rd at Maple Ave Ext: So that cars in front of turning cars do not block the view of oncoming traffic, extend centerline so southbound vehicles on Plumtrees Rd do not start turning left onto Maple Av Ext too early.

Old Hawleyville Rd at Plumtrees Rd: Stop bar markings on Plumtrees Rd eastbound and Old Hawleyville Rd southbound need to be repositioned so that all cars at the intersection can see each other while still allowing enough radius for trucks to turn.

Birch Dr: To solve the problem of northbound Birch Dr traffic cutting across traffic while turning into Berkshire Industrial Park, the centerline should be started just before the curve, segmented through the intersection and then continued after the curve a short distance.

Judd Av: Mark centerline from the Rt302 crosswalk down Judd Ave 50 feet only. This would allow southbound Judd traffic to turn to the right if possible. Not marking the line beyond 50 feet tells drivers they are no longer on a higher speed road and forces drivers to align themselves with the road sides thus being more aware of pedestrians. The line can be painted from Whittlesey down to Maple Ave Ext where it is useful.

Motion by Chairman McCollam to follow Lt Dickinson's recommendations concerning road markings on roads presented; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

• Berry School

Lt Dickinson described his proposal for improving traffic and pedestrian flow around an island at the rear (east side) of the Berry School driveway where it intersects with

Whittlesey Dr. The request from the Berry School principal (Danielle Legnard) asks for a solution to the traffic confusion created by an island which contains a fire hydrant, not movable at this time. The Lieutenant described several options the best being the marking of short center lines to better indicate the proper side of the island traffic should use and the installation of two stop signs and stop bars and a yield sign and pedestrian crossing signs for the crosswalk placed just back from the intersection. The Commission also requested that lane arrows be added.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept Lt Dickinson's recommendation concerning markings and signs to the existing island at the end of the Berry School driveway; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

Lt Dickinson also explained the need for additional "No Parking" signs in the parking lot behind Berry School to prevent a backup of traffic plus 4 dedicated spaces with signs for staff and nurse.

Motion by Comm McCollam to accept Lt Dickinson's recommendation of signage for the Berry School parking lot; seconded by Comm Barton.

- Codfish Hill & Jacklyn Rd

A request from the residents of 121 Codfish Hill Rd asked for a stop sign at the Jacklyn Rd intersection to slow speeding cars as their child is to be picked up by a school bus starting this year. Lieutenant Dickinson explained that stop signs cannot be used to slow traffic and there have been no right-of-way conflict crashes to justify a stop sign warrant. The sight lines are adequate and it is not appropriate for speed bumps. The lieutenant recommended they contact the Board of Education transportation director to review the bus stop for safety. Reviewing the area, Lt Dickinson did note the need for a yield sign at the Codfish Hill eastbound ramp onto Jacklyn Rd.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to deny the request as to stop sign on Codfish Hill at Jacklyn Rd and approve a yield sign for the Codfish ramp at Jacklyn; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

- St Mary's Road Race 10/24/15

This is a request for a 5K/10K road race between 8:30 am and 10:00 am. Chief Finch referenced a letter by Lt Libertini noting the Firecracker race held this year using the same route in which the four officers hired were inadequate to safely cover intersections. Lt Libertini recommended the approval of this race as long as adequate numbers of officers are hired.

Motion by Comm McCollam to allow the St Mary's Road Race on 10/24/15; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

- Road Party

This request by all residents of McNeil Rd to have their road closed off on 9/20 from 12:00 to 7:00 for a road party was discussed by the Commission.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to grant permission for McNeil Rd road closure for a road party on 9/20/15 between 12:00 and 7:00; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

At 6:52 motion by Comm McCollam to recess for 8 minutes; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

At 7:00 the Commission came back into session

5. Promotions
  - Off Heather Burns
  - Sgt Mike Libertini
  - Sgt Steve Pugner

Town Clerk Lisa Bergh performed the swearing in procedure for each in turn.

Motion by Chairman Duff that Heather Burns be promoted to Sergeant effective 9/1/15; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

Motion by Chairman Duff that Michael Libertini be promoted to Lieutenant effective 9/1/15; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

Motion by Chairman Duff that Steven Pugner be promoted to Captain effective 9/1/15; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

6. Correspondence
  - Offs Delaney & LaJoieComplimentary letter received for Off's Delaney and LaJoie

Noted was a "Good Cops, Bad Cops" article sent to Chief Finch

7. Police Building

A discussion ensued concerning the proposed new police building.

8. Chief's Report
  - CALEA August 23<sup>rd</sup>Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies inspected policies, records, building and other matters on 8/23/15. Though not in possession of anything official at this time, Chief Finch believes all went well and accreditation will be awarded when the full CALEA commission meets later this year in Miami FL.

Two officers graduated yesterday from the Police Academy in the top 1/3 of their class.

9. Commissioner Comments

Comm Kolwicz congratulated the newly promoted officers and recognized Offs Delaney and LaJoie.

10. Executive Session – *personnel issue*

At 7:45 motion by Comm Kolwicz to go into executive session for a personnel issue and invite Chief Finch to attend with Off Christos and retired Captain Bruckenthal on call; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

At 8:00 pm the Commission came out of executive session

Motion by Comm McCollam to set Captain Pugner's salary at \$95,750, top pay recognized as \$100,789 at present; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to promote Off James Christos to Sergeant at a date to be announced; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

At 8:10 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm Barton - unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Miller Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Ferdinand Miller Jr  
Secretary