



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016
MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST MEETING ROOM "B"

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
COMMISSIONER AMY MANNION
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RICHARD BARTON
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO

ATTENDANCE; Police Officers 2
Citizens 0

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.
The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

The Commission began with item #4 through item #6 in expectation of a late arriving Commissioner. At 6:24 when that Commissioner had not arrived the Commission considered item #3 Grievance then items #7 through #10 then item #2.

1. Public Input
None
2. Review of Past Minutes
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the minutes of 5/10/16; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to table the minutes of 4/20/16 due to only two voting Commissioners who attended that meeting; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous.
3. Grievance
Town Labor Attorney John Shea was in attendance.
Lt Libertini addressed the Commission concerning his investigation of the events concerning the allegations of procedure violation concerning Off Delaney (see minutes of 4/20/16 item #3 Grievance). On several documented occasions flat pin connection to the on-board modems was separated on the cars Off Delaney was driving during his assigned shifts, thus severing GPS internet access to the main departmental server. In all cases server disconnect coincided with a modem disconnect. Lt Libertini described his findings as constituting “strong circumstantial evidence” of wrong doing on

Off Delaney's part. Other undocumented discipline involving the same incident relating to Off Delaney goes back to 2012.

As well as on other occasions, a motion activated camera showed Off Delaney in the trunk of his police vehicle and the GPS connection going dead within minutes during Jan 2016. On a single night a hidden cell phone indicated undisclosed time spent out of service at a local park.

Comm Mannion asked about the specific procedure violated leading to the proposed 24 day suspension for Notice of Complaint #152. Lt Libertini identified it as Department policy on computers Ch2 Sec8 Tampering with Police Equipment. In a last minute phone call, Off Delaney's Union assigned attorney declined on behalf of his client the polygraph Off Delaney previously volunteered to take. Turning off power to a modem indicates to Lt Libertini a person wanting to hide his location. Also it involves wasted time trying to locate the connection problem as well as putting other officers at risk who next use the vehicle.

Chairman Duff asked if this is an officer also in need of some kind of help. Although given due notice neither Off Delaney nor a Union representative was present at the meeting.

At 6:47 motion by Chairman Duff to go into executive session and invite Chief Finch, Lt Libertini and Attorney Shay to attend; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

The Commission came out of executive session at 7:10

Motion by Chairman Duff that the Commission endorses the corrective action of 24 days suspension as issued by the Chief. Because of the preponderance of evidence presented the corrective action is appropriate; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

4. Budget Report

a) Comptrollers Reports

Commissioners questioned and received answers to several line items

b) Overtime Reports

Overtime continues to climb according to Chief Finch, at the close of the fiscal year it could total \$300K.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the budget and overtime reports as presented, seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous.

5. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

The Commission considered the reports. Paperwork is still pending on the recent murder. The Chief also reported a motor vehicle fatality this past month.

Motion by Comm Mannion to accept the monthly reports; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

6. New Business

- Summer Fest – Chamber of Commerce, July 16th

Letter by the First Selectman indicated by Board of Selectman approved the closing of PT Barnum Sq for this event.

- Retirement – Off T. Farina

Letter from Off Farina officially announcing his retirement for 7/15/16.

- Retirement – S. Off D. Hayes

After 40 years of service Special Officer Dave Hayes retired 4/20/16.

Motion by Chairman Duff accepting the retirement of Off Farina and Spec Off Hays with regret; seconded by Comm Mannion - unanimous

- Connecticut Challenge – July 30th

Lt Dickinson reported this Cancer Survivor Benefit Ride as being held in the past without much impact on traffic. It passes the Police Department to Old Hawleyville to Brookfield. Expert bike riders all, the lieutenant proposed safer routes to avoid certain intersections.

Motion by Chairman Duff to accept Lt Dickson's recommendation to allow the CT Challenge ride on 7/30/16 on the route designated; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous.

- Site Plan – 11 Henry St

In his letter Lt Dickinson described this 3 family and 1 studio apartment addition to an existing 1 family residence. Road is wide and a 350 foot sight line exists in both directions. The only issue is a obstructing fence.

Motion by Comm Duff to accept the Henry St proposal and forward to Planning & Zoning; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Police Building

Chairman Duff noted that an architect has been chosen for the new building.

9. Chief's Report

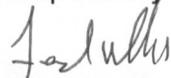
Chief Finch noted a report on monies collected for pistol carry permits and the Memorial Day ceremony at the Police Department on 5/22 at 11:45.

10. Commissioner Comments

Comm Kolwicz asked why none of the traffic related motions put forward by the Police Commission, the Town's traffic authority, have been implemented by the Public Works Dept in the two years he has been a Commissioner. Chairman Duff suggested bringing in the head of that department for a discussion. Comm Kolwicz also commended officers Zor, Robinson, Rost and Broad for their actions at the recent fatal accident. Chairman Duff asked that the public exercise patience in following school buses and school vans which are GPS monitored to not exceed posted speed limits. A tailgating vehicle can be a weapon intended to intimidate.

At 7:30 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr Secretary