



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 19, 2012
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS ELLIS
COMMISSIONER DAN GROSSO
COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLAM
COMMISSIONER MIKE DUFF
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: VICE CHAIRMAN HUGO GRECO

Chairman Nick Ellis opened the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

1. General Public Comments
Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill Rd presented two citizen complaints, one to Chief Finch and the other to Chairman Ellis. The appropriateness of the Commission version was called into question by Chairman Ellis until the Chief's official response can be drafted and considered. Ms Cleary agreed and withdrew the Commission version.
2. Review of Past Minutes for 8/15/12
Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the minutes of the 8/15/12 meeting; seconded by Comm Duff – the Commission approved with Comm Grosso abstaining due to his absence at that meeting.
3. Budget Report
Chief Finch stated that overtime is \$2,900 lower than last year-to-date, the fiscal year having started July 1st. Chairman Ellis questioned a line item.
Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Duff – unanimous.
4. Old Business
 - a) Monthly Reports
Chief Finch described his effort to accurately report officer activity concerning selective enforcement including assignment and times on location. Concerning Chestnut Ridge (see 8/15/12 minutes item 5a), selective enforcement has been assigned for all shifts. Tickets have been written and warnings given. Comm McCollam noted higher DUI arrests and complimented MACO officer Shanley for his activity for the month. Comm Grosso noted the rise in larcenies.
Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the monthly reports as written; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.

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5. New Business

a) Nashville Rd Truck Complaints

This item was on the agenda at the request of First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker. The First Selectman addressed the Commission on behalf of Nashville Rd residents whose numerous complaints described truck noise day and night, and truck speed on a narrow and winding road. "No Thru Trucks" sign posting needs State STC approval which according to Lt Dickinson has been applied for and denied in the past. Mr Knickerbocker stated that it is time to revisit this issue for several streets on behalf of the citizens of the town. Also the raising of the railroad bridge on Turkey Plain Rd needs to be addressed once again.

Motion by Comm McCollam that the Department apply to the State for "No Thru Truck" signage for three streets in town, namely Chestnut Ridge, Nashville Rd and Mansfield St; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.

Comm McCollam asked if any of the engineering work, done at the time the bridge raising was first considered, is still available.

b) Speeding – Chestnut Ridge Rd

Chief Finch noted this item as being "work in progress".

Comm McCollam added a letter to Correspondence as item 6c which should have been addressed to the Commission as a whole from the Connecticut Employer of the Guard and Reserve asking for a statement of support. Comm McCollam pointed out that the Department, by law, follows the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

6. Correspondence

a) Dept of Consumer Protection

Letter concerning the legalization of medical marijuana

b) Chief States Attorney, Rocky Hill

Chief Finch pointed out that guidelines and laws have changed resulting in a new set of standards from the Chief States Attorney concerning video and voice recording relating to certain felonies. State grants for new equipment may be insufficient to cover the cost to municipalities. This will be a consideration when the Chief draws up the budget for next year. Systems already in place may or may not continue to be useful.

c) Connecticut Employer of the Guard and Reserve

Letter – acknowledgement of a letter received by Comm McCollam

7. Chief's Report

• Training Report – Monthly

Monthly report was in the hands of Commissioners.

• Dispatch Opening

Background investigation is currently going on for a Dispatch applicant.

- IACP Meeting Sept 29 – Oct 3

Chief Finch apprized the Commission of his intent to attend the IACP Chiefs of Police conference in San Diego along with Capt Bruckenthal.

8. Commissioner Comments

Comm McCollam stated that the traffic lights on Grassy Plain and Greenwood In front of the carwash present a problem. Concerning the lanes leading toward the Sycamore, when the left green arrow goes away, a solid green on the other bank of lights cause some people to stop and others to cut traffic off. The State STC needs to observe the situation and make the necessary adjustments before a serious accident occurs.

The Chairman added the light on Grassy Plain at South St as needing a timing adjustment because of traffic backing up. Comm McCollam stated that there are two curb cuts at this intersection without marked crosswalks.

Comm Duff described the intersection of Nashville and Taylor as presenting a site line problem to drivers at the Taylor Rd stop sign because of cars parking on the adjoining rectangular square owned by the Town. Lt Dickinson's presentation showed the safety improvements to this intersection over the years as well as its appearance after the final modification before bushes and cars partially blocked the view of stopped cars. The lieutenant will look at this intersection for next month's meeting though he pointed out that drivers often blow through stop signs with clear site lines and tend to stop more often when site lines are partially blocked.

At 7:39 Chairman Ellis stated the Commission's intent to reopen and return to the preceding Special Meeting.

At 7:40 motion by Chairman Ellis to adjourn the Regular Meeting; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr

Secretary