



# POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, NOV 21, 2012  
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS ELLIS  
VICE CHAIRMAN HUGO GRECO  
COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLUM  
COMMISSIONER MIKE DUFF  
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DAN GROSSO

RECEIVED

2012 NOV 28 P 2:00

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Nick Ellis opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

1. General Public Comments

Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill Rd expressed displeasure over the Commission's handling of her past civilian complaints and asked that a civilian police review board be established to accommodate future complaints. In light of her recent complaints not being on the agenda, Mrs Cleary requested a special meeting to consider them. Chairman Ellis stated that he looked into the complaint and determined that the Department "did nothing wrong" concerning the recent ticket issued to Mrs Cleary.

Motion by Comm Duff to move #8 Police Union Executive Session to the beginning of the meeting, renumbered as 2a; seconded by Comm Greco - unanimous.

As a point of order George Bryce, Police Union President, stated the Commission is bound by CT State General Statute and offered hard copies of CT Statute 1-200 stating that "executive session is to be for the purpose of employee discussion and evaluations" that this is a matter of public office not subject to executive session. Mr Bryce went on to state that the complaint entails the behavior of an elected official and as such should be open to public debate and discussion. Chairman Ellis stated that the Union's allegations do not, in his view, necessarily represent the truth. Mr Bryce stated that the Police Commission "as a general practice and rule has in the past allowed the general public, including Mrs Cleary to make baseless allegations, to the point of even allowing her letters to be attached to Commission minutes in contradiction of State Statute 1-200 and as such the Commission should grant the same rights to Department officers. Comm Duff stated that since the allegations presented could lead to litigation, the matter should be considered in executive session. The motion stands as passed. Chief Finch reading from Statute 1-200 noted that executive session includes "appointment, employment, performance, evaluation,

health or dismissal of a public officer or employee" which, according to the Chief applies here as concerning performance. Mr Bryce stated that the nature of the complaint "concerns actions outside the scope of (an) office". Objections were duly noted.

2. Review of Past Minutes for 10/17/12

Motion by Comm Duff to accept the minutes of the 10/17/12 as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Motion by Chairman Ellis to go into executive session at 6:12 and invite Chief Finch, Union President George Bryce and First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker to attend; seconded by Comm Greco – motion passed 2 to 1 with Comm McCollam voting no and Chairman Ellis' vote breaking the tie.

a) Police Union Complaint – Executive Session

At 7:35 the Commission came out of executive session into regular meeting.

Motion by Comm Duff to review all data concerning complaint posted by the UCU Local 1 Bethel Police Union in consideration of what has been so well submitted, a date for a special meeting will be announced; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

3. Budget Report

Chief Finch noted increased storm overtime. Numbers have been compiled for the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) for any reimbursement. First Selectman Knickerbocker stated coverage of the Rt302/Rt58 intersection could also be eligible for reimbursement. DOT's estimate of light modifications is two weeks. Considerable expenditures have been made for dispatch center overtime according to the Chief. One of two openings have been filled with the dispatcher expected to be able to operate on their own by the first week of December. Interviews must still be held for the second position.

Motion by Comm Greco to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Duff – unanimous.

4. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Chief Finch reported burglaries continue to rise with arrests pending.

Motion by Comm Greco to accept the monthly reports as written; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

5. New Business

a) 82 Stony Hill Rd - Deer Run Estates Subdivision

A subdivision plan for Barn Yard Enterprise was determined by Lt Dickinson to present no traffic concerns as long as the State DOT reviews the plan as the facility will be on a State road. The lieutenant's concern was over the possibility of trucks picking up and making deliveries blocking the already restricted sight line and asked that the State DOT review, in light of this, if the driveway is adequate to pull directly out without trucks having to back onto Rt6 or park directly in front of the establishment.

Motion by Comm Duff to accept Lt. Dickinson's recommendation concerning the Deer Run Estates Subdivision request and forward to the Planning and Zoning Commission; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

b) New & Revised General Orders

These are minor changes to existing general orders according to the Chief.

2010-03 Notification of Felonies and Call Outs

Directs officers in charge, the circumstances in which to notify superiors or call other officers into work.

Motion by Comm McCollam that 2010-03 with revisions of 11/16/12 be accepted as presented; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

2002-02 Command Structure

Concerns the restructuring of the three divisions. Field Command Officer and Patrol Division Lieutenant duties as currently defined were updated.

Motion by Comm Greco that 2002-02 dated 11/16/12 be accepted as presented; seconded by Comm Duff – unanimous

6. Correspondence

a) Police Academy

New officer Tom Streitenmeir's candidate report card indicates he is doing very well.

7. Chief's Report

• Training Report – Monthly

Monthly report was in the hands of Commissioners.

• Sergeants Test

Chief Finch reported meeting with the company which will run the test. The question of an Assessment Center multi-attribute performance tests vs the traditional oral board arose. The current contract language addresses only the oral board. First Selectman Knickerbocker added that this is subject to bargaining and should be addressed again if there is a benefit to the Department.

• Dispatcher Opening

This was addressed in item #3, Budget Report

8. Commissioner Comments

Comm McCollam complimented the entire Commission for keeping their heads during a meeting which was tough for the Chairman with the need to "keep moving forward".

Comm Duff complimented Chairman Ellis on his "reserve" during the meeting and wished all a happy Thanksgiving, a sentiment also expressed by the other commissioners.

At 7:55 motion by Comm Duff to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam –  
unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ferd Miller Jr".

Ferdinand Miller Jr

Secretary