



# POLICE COMMISSION

49 Plumtrees Road, Connecticut 06801 • Phone: (203) 743-5500 • Fax: (203) 748-1333

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

ATTENDING: VICE CHAIRMAN HUGO GRECO  
COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLAM  
COMMISSIONER MIKE DUFF  
COMMISSIONER DAN GROSSO  
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

Vice Chairman Hugo Greco opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

1. General Public Comments  
None

2. Review of Past Minutes for 11/21/12  
Comm McCollam asked that the last sentence of #1 General Public Comments be revised as follows: "Objections, due to concern over legalities, were duly noted".  
Motion by Comm Duff to accept the amended minutes of the 11/21/12 as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

3. Budget Report  
Chief Finch noted last week's overtime expenses as including expenses arising from assistance provided to the Newtown Police Department as a result of the recent tragedy. Comm Grosso asked if hiring an additional officer would reduce overtime in general. Chief Finch responded it would have a "minimum effect", that it would be necessary to hire 3 officers. Even one person short causes overtime to add up quickly.  
Motion by Comm Duff to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.

4. Old Business  
a) Monthly Reports  
Chief Finch reported burglaries as continuing to rise, the majority being residential. An increase of tickets written for cell phone use was noted by the Chief  
Motion by Comm Greco to accept the monthly reports as written; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.

RECEIVED

2012 DEC 27 P 2:53

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

5. New Business

a) Commission Meeting Dates for 2013

Vice Chairman Greco floated the suggestion that meeting times be advanced from 6:00 to 5:00. The Commission discussed this and decided that the current 6:00 starting time was the best compromise for Commissioners and Public-at-large. All agreed that a 7:00 starting time can potentially cause meetings which end unreasonably late.

Motion by Comm McCollam that meeting times for 2013 and Jan 2014 start at 6:00 at the Police Department; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.

Meeting dates were established for the third Wednesday of each month as follows:

Jan (already set at Jan 16)	
Feb 20	Aug 21
Mar 20	Sep 18
Apr 17	Oct 16
May 15	Nov 20
Jun 19	Dec 18
Jul 17	Jan 15 (2014)

b) Election of Officer for 2013

Vice Chairman Greco announced Nick Ellis' complete resignation from the Board of Police Commissioners. Vice Chairman Greco asked only that he remain as Vice Chairman.

Motion by Vice Chairman Greco to nominate Comm Mike Duff for the position of Chairman; seconded by Comm Grosso. Comm Duff accepted the nomination stating his realization of the position's "awesome responsibility, especially in these times". The he is able to utilize experience from having served on other boards as well a life experience all contributing to a needed "harmony". The motion remained open for other nominations, since none was forthcoming the vote was held for Mike Duff as Chairman and was unanimous. Chairman Duff took his seat at the head of the table.

Motion by Chairman Duff to nominate Hugo Greco as Vice Chairman; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous. The vote for Hugo Greco as Vice Chairman was unanimous.

c) Budget 2012-2013

Chief Finch stated that he did not as yet have a budget prepared. Instead of a sub-committee being appointed as in the past to work with the Chief in preparing a budget, the Chief will produce a proposed budget at the next meeting for the Commission to make approval decisions. A copy will be distributed to Commission members prior to the meeting so they can arrived prepared. Both the Chief and Chairman Duff sees the coming year as being a "challenging" one. Chairman Duff added that the Commission should not shrink from its responsibility to provide the Department with what it needs to perform its function. "Just enough" has never been good enough according to Comm

Grosso. Any additional funding above basic expenses must produce an investment return measured in terms of an “exponential benefit” to the community according to Chairman Duff. The Chairman sees this as his “thrust for every request for expenditure”; its benefit, help and affordability.

6. Correspondence

a) Police Academy

New officer candidate Tom Schretzenmayer will graduate next week. The other officer candidate, Bill May, has passed the necessary requirements and will start at the Police Academy January 4<sup>th</sup>. He will be hired on Dec 27<sup>th</sup> at a ceremony in the Department.

7. Chief's Report

• Training Report – Monthly

No report was produced this month. This month's report will be included at the next meeting.

• Sergeants Test

Test will be held Feb 1<sup>st</sup> for one opening

• Dispatcher Opening

There are now two openings since the latest candidate decided not to continue in the position. Two candidates are currently being considered.

8. Commissioner Comments

Comm Grosso asked if returning veterans can be hired for school security. Chairman Duff stated that security hiring will be the responsibility of the Board of Education.

Chairman Duff proposed a meeting between the Police Commission and the Board of Education to identify problems connected with the school security issue, particularly how it impacts the Police Department.

Comm Grosso asked that he be more personally involved in Commission matters, beyond simply showing up for meetings. Chairman Duff stated he will be drawing on his expertise as well as all Commission members.

Comm McCollam reminded Commission members that they all have the right to talk to anyone in the Department as long as they do not say or imply they represent the Commission as a whole, unless so designated.

Chairman Duff asked that a “welcome aboard” brochure be created for new Commission members to act as a “guideline” or “scope of activity” concerning their involvement in the Commission. Legal ramifications of Commission membership could be addressed at a Commission meeting by the Town Labor Attorney.

At 7:10 motion by Comm Greco to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ferd Miller Jr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and "M".

Ferdinand Miller Jr

Secretary