



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
VICE CHAIRMAN HUGO GRECO
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DAN GROSSO
COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLAM

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

The three commissioners comprise a legal quorum.

Chairman Mike Duff opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. General Public Comments

Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill Rd stated she had various issues she wished to present including F.O.I. inspection of cases for citizen complaints. Chairman Duff asked that if time is a factor, she present them in writing to the Commission or Town Hall for inclusion in a future meeting's agenda.

Mr Cameron Jones spoke on behalf of his World War II H.R.G. historical reenactment group's (26th Yankee Division) request to present a small demonstration involving firearms at the Memorial Day events in the vicinity of PT Barnum Sq. The First Selectman was encouraging according to Mr Jones and the necessary paperwork and fee schedule was obtained. The new Senate Bill 11-60 presents a problem according to Chairman Duff. The sheer volume of material precludes definitive review and understanding in the few days available before Memorial Day. Better would be a more thorough review with the applicant before next year's Memorial Day celebration. Mr Jones agreed.

Lt Dickinson asked that the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride be added to New Business.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to add MS Bike Ride to New Business as item D; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

2. Review of Past Minutes for 4/17/13

Motion by Comm Greco to accept the minutes of 4/17/13; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the minutes of 3/4/13 Special Meeting; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

3. Budget Report

Commissioners considered the budget report. Chairman Duff questioned reimbursement for prisoner pickup from out-of-state.

Motion by Comm Greco to accept the Budget Report as presented; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

4. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Chief Finch noted the additional reports as included. Major crime is happily low, arrests slightly down and motor vehicle accidents at the usual rate.

Motion by Comm Greco to accept the monthly reports as presented; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

5. New Business

a) Bethel Summer Festival July 12-14th

Ms Bobbi Jo Beers, Director of the Bethel Summer Festival explained the to-date steps taken by the organization of this first ever rain-or-shine event which will involve the closing of Greenwood Av between Depot Pl and Rector St, involving all of PT Barnum Sq, from 9:00 am to allow vendor set up with a kick off at 11:00, running to 6:00 pm. Utilizing maps provided to the Commissioners, Capt Bruckenthal explained the details for the redirecting of traffic, designated parking and placement of officers. A clear driving lane of 16 feet will be maintained for emergency vehicles. Proceeds will benefit local organizations initially toward the purchase of audio equipment for parade and other event use. All is pending State approval for the closing of a State road. Commissioners questioned traffic flow on various roads. When pressed, Capt Bruckenthal stated that in the end, to be successful, benefits must outweigh what would be a short term inconvenience, one measure being traffic flowing in a fluid manner.

b) Tinted Car Windows

Chairman Duff raised his concern over officers having to approach vehicles with too-dark custom tinted side windows. The difficulty in seeing the actions of occupants creates an unnecessary danger according to the Chairman. Since window density is measurable, its illegality should be enforced by the Department with warnings and inspection required issued to offenders. Comm Greco favored also enforcing tint regulations on those businesses performing those modifications.

c) Policy – Revisions

Chief Finch presented copies of modifications to four policies, changes indicated by yellowed-in sentences.

Vests. In order to obtain Federal grant monies, a policy must be in place mandating their use. The policy (dated 4/30/13 unnumbered at present) was presented to the Commission. Comm Greco stated that this should be part of the daily uniform requirement.

Command Structure General Order 2002-02. Reflects lieutenant job responsibilities and changes within Department structure.

Notifications General Order 2010-03. Minor changes in structure of how an order is written, communication and procedures for calling in extra officers.

Strip Searches General Order 2004-12. Affects only the law concerning the new definition of juveniles.

Motion by Comm Greco to accept the policy concerning vests, changes to General Order 2002-02, General Order 2010-03 and General Order 2004-12; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

6. Correspondence
None

7. Chief's Report
• Training Report – Monthly
Lt Dickinson's April report was in the hands of the Commissioners concerning ongoing training. Chairman Duff requested a debrief by the new School Resource Officer of the material covered in the course currently being given.

• Dispatcher Opening
One opening exists according to Chief Finch. Capt Bruckenthal is currently reviewing the contents of 50 applications. Chairman Duff asked that some preference be accorded to local residents who may be more likely to remain.

• Police Officer Opening
Chief Finch stated one opening exists with a possible second new opening if the budget is approved.

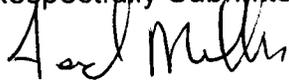
8. Commissioner Comments
None

9. Executive Session
At 7:16 motion by Comm Greco to go into executive session and invite Chief Finch and Capt Bruckenthal to attend; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - unanimous

At 8:08 the Commission came out of executive session

At 8:09 motion by Comm Greco to adjourn; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary