



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, AUG 21, 2013
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

RECEIVED

2013 AUG 26 P 1:01

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLAM

Chairman Mike Duff opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. General Public Comments
None
2. Review of Past Minutes for 7/17/13
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the minutes of 7/17/13; seconded by Comm Greco – motion passed with Chairman Duff abstaining due to absence at said meeting.
3. Budget Report
Two additional reports were attached to the packet according to the Chief. One addressed last year's overtime expenses, the other this year-to-date. Of note was the \$152K out of a total overtime expense of \$289K for Dispatch. School security expenses included Bethel and Newtown. Motion by Comm Greco to accept the Budget Report as presented; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.
4. Old Business
 - a) Donation – Verdi Construction
Richard Verdi of Verdi Construction presented the Chief with a \$6,500 check to cover the purchase of a replacement K9 dog. Mr. Verdi's request was that he be present when the dog is selected and purchased. This will be very soon according to the Chief. Comm Greco offered thanks on behalf of the Commission. A brief discussion followed on police dogs in general.
 - b) Monthly Reports
Texting/cell phone violations are, to-date, twice that of all 2012

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

5. New Business

a) New Officer Hired - Salary

Vincent LaJoie was sworn in on Monday and began work on Tuesday. He will undergo a month of field training according to Chief Finch. Traditionally certified officers have been started at step 4. Because of Vincent LaJoie's 25 years of experience with the Danbury Police Department, Chief Finch asked the Commission to start him at salary step 5. This will allow Off Lajoie to go to step 6 next July. In response to a question by Comm Kolwicz, Chief Finch replied that sec 14.02 of the police union contract allows the Commission to credit a certified officer for his years of service by jumping salary steps.

Motion by Comm Greco that officer LaJoie be hired with a salary of step 5 per recommendation of Chief Finch; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - unanimous.

Chief Finch also asked that the 90 day insurance waiting period be waived, a Commission prerogative also within contract language.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to waive the 90 day waiting period for insurance for officer LaJoie; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

b) Speed Limit Recommendations (14 Roads)

Recommendations for speed limits on 14 roads approved by the Commission (see minutes 2/20/13 5c) have been returned by the State with minor modifications to two roads by the assigned evaluator. State statute requires State approval for speed limit modifications according to Lt Dickinson so that they are based on traffic engineering studies rather than local politics.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to concur with State recommendations as presented in a letter; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous. Lt Dickinson will resubmit to the State on behalf of the Commission for the necessary certificate.

c) New K9 Dog – *Financial Considerations*

Chief Finch asked the Commission's approval to find additional monies within the Department budget to pay for the \$6K training expense for the K9 dog when purchased.

Motion by Comm Greco to authorize Chief Finch to seek funds within the Department's budget to facilitate the purchase of the dog; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

d) Policy - Revisions

2007-25 Property Room Evidence

Clarifies lost/found box; asset forfeiture; property room responsibility

2007-23 Hostage & Barricaded Persons

Clarifies confrontation; Captain as executive officer instead of field operation off.

2007-10 Agency Property

Clarifies asset forfeiture property; seized property; numbered property

2006-08 Fiscal Management & Cash

Two general orders combined; Title change with responsibility going to Captain

2006-06 Records

Computer servers responsibility now resides with Capt, no longer records
Chairman Duff asked that additional language be added within this general order to reflect new State statute 11-60 requirement that sale and transfer information never be made public and the form DPS-3C stating this information not be retained within the Department.

Motion by Chairman Duff that section G be added to #8 of 2006-06 that sale and transfer of firearms information on form DPS-3C not be released to the public except as required by law; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

2007-15 Training & Career Development

Former separate policy 2007-16 concerning field training added

2007-26 Evidence Collection & Preservation

Statute numbers added to explain seized vehicle & property responsibilities

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept changes to policies 2007-25 Property Room Evidence; 2007-23 Hostage & Barricaded Persons; 2007-10 Agency Property; 2006-08 Fiscal Management & Cash; 2007-15 Training & Career Development; 2007-26 Evidence Collection & Preservation; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

6. Correspondence

a) Sgt MacKenzie

Correspondence from Sgt MacKenzie concerning the Atchinson Kansas 5K road race on behalf of the officer he has represented in other events for the past two years. The time taken will be tentatively counted as training time according to Chief Finch.

b) Off Chapman

Letter of commendation issued to Off Chapman by Chief Finch for all the help given to a driver during a stuck car incident.

7. Chief's Report

• Training Report – Monthly

Lt Dickinson's monthly report was in the hands of the Commissioners.

• Dispatch Opening

One candidate has been identified according to Chief Finch. The hope is to fill the vacancy within the next few weeks

8. Commissioner Comments

Comm Kolwicz commended Sgt MacKenzie and acknowledged the honor of being chosen for the Atchinson Kansas road race. The Commissioner also commended Off Chapman for aiding a stuck motorist

Comm Greco thanked Richard Verdi of Verdi Construction for his donation toward the purchase of a K9 dog and asked that the Chief send a letter on behalf of the Department also thanking Mr Verdi.

Chairman Duff also extended the gratitude of the Commission for the K9 contribution

At 7:40 motion by Comm Greco to go into executive session for the purpose of Chief Finch's evaluation and to interview a new officer candidate; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

At 8:45 the Commission came out of executive session.

Motion by Chairman Duff that employment as a police officer be offered to Thomas Butkier conditional upon a satisfactory background investigation and other standard and regular requirements of the State of Connecticut and the Town of Bethel; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous

At 8:46 Motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Chairman Duff - unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ferd Miller Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary