



POLICE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, OCT 16, 2013
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLAM
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: VICE CHAIRMAN HUGO GRECO

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Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:07 p.m. The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

A plaque was presented to Nick Ellis as a token of appreciation for his years as a Commission member then Chairman on behalf of the Commission by Chairman Chairman Duff. The Chairman also welcomed First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker to the meeting.

1. General Public Comments

Matt Knickerbocker added his thanks to Nick Ellis and presented a two part report. The first part noted the Town's hiring of a contract administrator to move forward the construction of a new Police Department building. The second part of the report notified the Commission of a forthcoming letter from Benedict Rd residents concerned over speeding on their road. Though selective enforcement has been employed, it will only work on the north bound lane as a cruiser cannot be adequately concealed south bound. In addition to selective enforcement speed humps or a 3-way stop at the intersection with Chimney Dr could be considered. Lt Dickinson could begin his consideration of this problem.

2. Review of Past Minutes for 9/18/13

Chairman Duff asked that the last paragraph remove the word "potential" and replace the statement "thus distracting oncoming drivers" with "thus marking police officer's presence".

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the amended minutes of 9/18/13; seconded by Comm McColam – unanimous.

3. Budget Report

a) Comptroller's Report

The actual Comptroller's report was included as part of the normal packet of reports. Per request of the last meeting, included was a breakdown of weekly expenses, since 7/1/13. 50% of expenses is for Communications staffing. Even though the last dispatcher has been hired, due to the training period any reduction of expense in this category will probably not be evident until January according to the Chief. The Commission discussed Communications funding and staffing.

b) Overtime Reports

Communications overtime was high as noted before.

4. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Burglaries are down from last year. The Chief also noted a Detective Bureau Activity Report.

5. New Business

a) Sharon Ct - *speeding*

Lt Dickinson looked into this item added by Comm McCollam. Resident complaints concerned more traffic and more speeding. The request was for speed humps. Lt Dickinson reported that the speed unit detected over a 24 hour period an average speed equal to the posted limit of 20 mph. The traffic volume is not high at 241 cars compared to nearby Bethpage which has 1000 cars per day. 200 of these cars could be attributed to residents using the 10 trips per day figure for the 20 residents. The lieutenant recommended no action at this time.

b) Long Meadow La – *speeding*

Lt Dickinson looked into this speeding complaint added by Comm McCollam. This is an "extremely narrow old rural road" according to Lt Dickinson, ½ mile long with two sharp bends. No speed limit has ever been set. Chairman Duff added the presence of children playing in the area, oblivious to speeding cars. Since current road improvement will encourage more speeding the road has been added to the list of streets with proposed speed limits (see 5c) as 20 mph. State traffic engineers will probably recommend curve signs as well.

Motion by Comm McCollam to accept Lt Dickinson's recommendation to apply for a speed limit of 20 mph on Long Meadow La; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous

Motion by Comm McCollam to "flip" items 5d and 5c; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

c) Speed Limits – *various streets*

Lt Dickinson presented a list of various streets with proposed speed limits as part of his ongoing speed limit review, all based on citizen complaints and the need to be officially changed. This list will be forwarded for S.T.C. review.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept Lt Dickinson's recommendations; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

d) Site Plan, Knollwood Dr & Reservoir St

Lt Dickinson reported on this plan which the Commission has considered in the past. Modifications have generally improved site lines from the driveways except for lot #1 which is too close to the curve on Knollwood. Flipping the turn-around area for this drive would put the drive closer to Reservoir, improving the site line.

Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the recommendation concerning Lot #1 for the Knollwood Dr & Reservoir St site plan and forward the same onto the Planning & Zoning Commission; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

Motion by Comm McCollam to add Subdivision Reservoir St, Glenwood Dr as item 5c-1; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

c-1) Site Plan, Subdivision involving Reservoir St, Glenwood Dr & Sycamore Ct

Lt Dickinson's report shows no impact on traffic from the two proposed residences on Sycamore Ct. Site lines are good and turnarounds allow cars to proceed forward out of their driveways. Other issues remain for the future according to the lieutenant.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept Lt Dickinson's recommendation concerning two residences on Sycamore Ct; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

e) Discussion Concerning Past Meeting Minutes

Chairman Duff informed the Commission has the authority to review and correct unfounded derogatory and slanderous statements made in public session by a sequestrate of that section or elimination of the names mentioned. Commission members were asked to think about this for the next meeting. Comm McCollam asked that Town Counsel be consulted to be sure of the legality of such action.

f) Discussion Concerning Future Police Building

Besides noting the good news (see General Public Comments) concerning the Town moving forward with this project by the hiring of a contract administrator, Chairman Duff asked that the Commission begin considering a name for the structure.

g) Policy – Revisions

None

6. Correspondence

Resident letter requesting traffic light and signs on Westview. Lt Dickinson reported that this road has been added to the list for State review (see 5c).

7. Chief's Report

- Training Report – Monthly

Lt Dickinson's monthly report of current and future training was in the hands of the Commissioners.

- Officer May has completed his field training and is working. Certified officer LaJoie is working and another certified officer is in the final stages of testing and is expected to be hired at the end of the month.

- Police dogs are currently being viewed for suitability

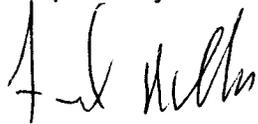
8. Commissioner Comments

Comm Rubino noted excessive speeding on Putnam Park Rd, Starr La south. Comm Kolwicz questioned the logic of traffic lights controlling the intersection at Rt302 (Greenwood Av) and Rt53 (Grassy Plain St). Lt Dickinson explained the State's changes but also noted the need for a segmented center line down Rt53 so drivers making a left turn onto Greenwood that they do not have the right-of-way.

Comm McCollam stated before the State's modification traffic at this intersection flowed more smoothly. The many near misses are not a matter of record. Chairman Duff noted the many pedestrians wearing dark clothing at night or failing to carry a flashlight. A public information campaign would be helpful.

At 7:38 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary