



POLICE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, NOV 20, 2013
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

RECEIVED
2013 NOV 22 A 10:03
TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

ATTENDING:

CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
VICE CHAIRMAN HUGO GRECO
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLAM
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

The Chairman welcomed First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker to the meeting.

Motion by Chairman Duff to add "Setting of Dates For Next Year's Commission Meetings" to New Business as item 5d; seconded by Comm Rubino - unanimous

1. General Public Comments

Matt Knickerbocker congratulated board members on their election and reelection to the Police Commission. Mr Knickerbocker reported that the Board of Selectmen appointed Hawley Corporation as the contract administrator for the new police department building, developing specs and RFP's soil testing and site evaluation. Chairman Duff asked for contact information which the First Selectman promised to provide.

Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill welcomed the commission back and submitted correspondence to each police commissioner.

2. Review of Past Minutes for 10/16/13

Comm McCollam asked that one of the duplicate "Chairman" titles be struck in paragraph 2.

Chairman Duff asked that 5e include the term "Roberts Rules" as: "Chairman Duff informed the Commission that it has the authority *per Roberts Rules* to review and correct ---"

Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the amended minutes of 10/16/13; seconded by Comm Rubino - unanimous.

3. Budget Report

a) Comptroller's Report

Chief Finch explained reimbursement from other towns billed for Sgt Wright's polygraph services.

b) Overtime Reports

Expenses are broken down on a weekly basis as well as year-to-date. Communications overtime was high but the Chief noted the last dispatcher hired bringing Communications up to full staff will be on his own by the end of December or beginning of January. This and the fact that 2013 vacations have all been taken should have the effect of reducing Communications overtime. Of the \$15K to \$20K spent for grant supported activities, 60% to 75% will be reimbursed. The Chief will be looking into having these monies as well as the aforementioned polygraph services returned to the overtime account.

4. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Larcenies have been coming down from past years. Comm Greco asked about cell phone use arrests. These have gone from 5 arrests in 2010 to 145 in 2013 year-to-date. The Chief also noted he is still experimenting with the format of the Detective Bureau Activity Report.

b) Discussion Concerning Past Meeting Minutes

Chairman Duff stated that while Roberts Rules provides the authority, F.O.I. (Freedom of Information) takes it away. Specific state statutes also addresses the integrity of filed reports. The Chairman asked that this be tabled while he performs additional study on the subject. Apparently the authority to make changes rests with the Appellate Court only when it approaches a board or commission to review specific filed minutes adding comments pertaining to "valid and confirming evidence" presented thus "cleansing the integrity and reputation of the individual involved".

c) Discussion Concerning Future Police Building

See General Public Comments, Matt Knickerbocker. Chairman Duff stated that this is good news. Any questions can be put through to the contact person. Hopefully progress will be "quick and efficient".

5. New Business

a) Discussion Concerning Design Plans of Future Police Building

Copies of the old original plans were presented to Commission members by Chief Finch. The Chief described the layout of the two floors. The design was based upon the results of a current and future space needs study conducted ten years ago. Standards of office and operating space size for projected personnel were employed. Comm Greco asked about building costs. First Selectman Knickerbocker stated that the Board of Selectmen addressed the issue of updated costs and will consult with the architect on this matter.

b) Discussion Concerning Proposed School Resource Officer MOU
The draft forwarded by the Chairman of the Board of Education concerning school resource officer command and control structure was seen by Comm McCollam as unnecessary in a town like Bethel which has had "proven working relationship" with the schools for many years now. What other towns in the area have such an agreement as the draft proposes and did some problem make this necessary? Chairman Duff stated he will do research on existing standards and procedures and asked Chief Finch to touch base with police departments in surrounding towns to access their agreements and any potential problems which might make such an agreement necessary. Chief Finch sees this type of agreement as unnecessary in Bethel, pertaining more to a large system where long lines of communication are under strain. Matt Knickbocker stated a law firm hired by the Board of Education produced this document designed for big city environments where a large number of SRO's are employed. The current working relationship between the school district, Town and police force has been proven to work.

c) Policy - Revisions
2000-03 Less Lethal Force Weapon
Incorporates Police Academy state wide model policy concerning use of tazers.

2003-02 Domestic Violence
Incorporates Police Academy policy. Old Bethel policy is left in at the end to distinguish it from the state policy.

2013-04 Secondary Employment
New policy specifying potential conflict of interest employment activities one cannot do as a police officer.

Motion by Comm McCollam to accept policies 2000-03 Less Lethal Force Weapon; 2003-02 Domestic Violence; 2013-04 Secondary Employment with revisions of 11/20/13; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

d) Setting of Dates For Next Year's Commission Meetings
Motion by Chairman Duff to establish 2014 dates for Police Commission regular meetings as the third Wednesday of each month at the Police Department starting at 6:00 pm as:

1/15/14	7/16/14	1/21/15
2/19/14	8/20/14	
3/19/14	9/17/14	
4/16/14	10/15/14	
5/21/14	11/19/14	
6/18/14	12/17/14	

Seconded by Comm Greco - unanimous

6. Correspondence
None

7. Chief's Report
a) Training Report – Monthly
Lt Dickinson's monthly report of current and future training was in the hands of the Commissioners.

One day staff leadership training was held in Waterbury

Det Sgt Wright has been involved teaching investigative interviewing and eyewitness identification and sequential line-up to comply with an Academy State mandatory policy guidelines originating with the States Attorney's Office and legislature.

Chief informed the Commission of important aspects of the International Chiefs of Police convention in Philadelphia.

The new police dog 'Bishop' is doing well.

8. Commissioner Comments

Chief Finch replied to Comm Rubino that all officers carry tazers from armory issue when going out on patrol

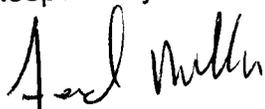
Comm McCollam stated that the traffic lights and lane identifications on the Rt53 and Rt302 intersection are still "screwed up". There are uncounted near misses. It is only a matter of time before a very serious accident occurs. The commissioner suggested setting up a monitor camera to prove the problem to the STC.

Comm Kolwicz asked about the progress of the Walnut Hill bridge. First Selectman Knickerbocker filled the Commission in on the many problems encountered and solved and progress to-date.

Chairman Duff reported the Charter Revision Committee rejected the proposal that the Commission be appointed rather than elected. The Chairman also noted the dangerous problem of property owners tending to curbside flowers on Chestnut St by standing in the road. Residents have complained about speeding in the past but this flower tending is a "personal responsibility" issue.

At 7:18 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary