



POLICE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, DEC 18, 2013
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

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

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

2013 DEC 20 P 2:28

RECEIVED

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:12 p.m. The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

The Chairman welcomed First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker to the meeting.

Chief Finch welcomed Richard Verdi to the meeting and thanked him again for his latest generous donation toward the purchase of Bishop, the new Department canine. Group photos were taken of Mr and Mrs Verdi, Bishop, and canine officer Adam Cleary.

1. General Public Comments

Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill asked that her statement "--welcomed the commission back" be corrected in the 11/20/13 minutes. Ms Cleary also read from an itemized list of complaints directed toward the Department, Chief Finch and Chairman Duff. Ms Cleary also stated her credentials as definitely being a member of the Safe School Climate committee.

Donna Rooney of 20 Christy Dr informed the Commission of what she and her neighbors perceive as a dangerous situation, namely the limited site line in turning from Christy Dr onto Old Hawleyville Rd. "Bad" in normal weather it is even worse in winter when plowed piles of snow further restrict the view. Digital photos of the area were shown to the Commission. Chairman Duff asked that they be e-mailed to him with a list of Ms Rooney's solution suggestions. Ms Rooney thanked First Selectman Knickerbocker for his initial involvement. Mr Knickerbocker stated that the Town now has a snow blower for knocking down offending snow drifts when they get too high.

2. Review of Past Minutes for 11/20/13

Chairman Duff asked that Ms Cleary's statement (see General Public Comments above) be corrected in the 11/20/13 minutes.

Motion by Comm Greco to accept the amended minutes of 11/20/13; seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous

3. Budget Report

a) Comptroller's Report

Chief Finch stated expense reports are for November and year-to-date 2013. Comm Kolwicz questioned two canine related expenses. Chairman Duff questioned a sign related expense. Comm McCollam asked if all expenses could be identified and detailed in the text field.

b) Overtime Reports

Overtime should go down with the addition of the new dispatcher, but it would not show until January because of the vacation time used in December according to Chief Finch. In response to questions by Comm Greco and Rubino, the Chief explained overtime arising from military leave, short shift and acting sergeant overtime

Motion by Comm Greco to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the overtime reports; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

4. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

UCR (Unified Crime Report) shows 1 burglary for November. Cell phone use violations are noticeably higher due to grants and increased enforcement. Applications for gun permits are nearly double that of last year.

5. New Business

a) Correspondence Protocol

Motion by Comm Duff to table Correspondence Protocol until next month's meeting; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

Motion by Comm McCollam to add Construction at Stony Hill Rd work site to New Business as item 5c; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous

b) 2014 – 2015 Budget, Pre-preparation

Chief Finch stated he is beginning the budget preparation process for next year. The Chief will have budget recommendations in writing for the next meeting. In addition to new mandates from the State, the "Increasing pressure of technology" requires that certain items will need to be upgraded or replaced.

c) Construction at the Stony Hill Rd Work Site.

Lt Dickinson presented the State's revised draft proposal intended to alleviate concern over traffic on the Rt7 corridor. The Town hired its own traffic engineer and meetings have been held at the State level. The STC is asking that the Commission concur with the site plan changes and offer recommendations. So that traffic lights would not be needed, three driveways are now included from McNeil Rd to the east end of the property along with a sidewalk and overhead lighting. The widened road will allow left turn only traffic for the main driveway.

The lieutenant sees no impact on traffic as a result of the changes. The State will be financially responsible for design changes in the event of unanticipated future negative traffic impact. Because conflict of interest prevents him from commenting, Comm Rubino introduced Attorney Peter Olsen. Attorney Olsen representing RMS Construction and Tony's Restaurant described the original bypass proposal for Rt7 and decision to go with the main driveway left turn only solution. Attorney Olsen recommends accepting the draft report and to provide the State with written communication that the plan was reviewed and that the Commission concurs with the written recommendations. Lt Dickinson agrees with the State's new proposal as well.

Motion by Comm McCollam that the Commission follow Lt Dickinson's recommendation to accept the proposal as submitted by the State; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - passed 4 to 0 with Comm Rubino abstaining.

6. Correspondence

Chief Finch noted besides being brought to the attention of the Commission, copies of letters received from the public are placed in officer's files and given to the officer as well.

a) Letter from Gerald Brooker

Letter concerns speeding cars on Rockwell Rd. Lt Dickinson ordered selective enforcement in the section newly paved. Comm McCollam asked if other issues than speeding are being addressed. Sight line and signage issues are also being studied according to the Lieutenant. Comm Rubino suggested speed lights as being more effective than speed limit signs. Chairman Duff asked that Lt Dickinson come up with his recommendations for road at the next meeting.

b) Letter from Richard Spann

This letter commends Det Bryce and Off Delaney for going out of their way to help this victim of internet fraud.

c) Letter from Dale Carbonier

Even though stopped for an unregistered motor vehicle, Mr Carbonier thanked Off Lajoie for his professionalism in making him aware that his registration was only for two months, not the permanent registration the dealer led him to believe.

d) Letter from Carol Modzelewski

Ms Modzelewski thanked numerous members of the Department for their help in a harassment situation, obtaining a protection order and the ultimate arrest of the individual involved.

e) Letter from Diane Farnell

This letter thanked Off O'Farrell for helping in dealing with her son suffering emotionally. Off O'Farrell was "polite, kind and firm" toward the son at each call.

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. Chief Finch mentioned a one day leadership training seminar held in Waterbury and attended by several of the staff. The Chief requested and received input from the attendees which he will summarize and bring to a future supervisor meeting. Chief Finch stated that Off Chapman has a

Cooper Test certification and can now administer a precertification test to Academy standards.

8. Commissioner Comments
Comm McCollam wished all a Merry Christmas

At 7:07 motion by Comm Kolwicz 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