



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
THURSDAY, AUG 16, 2007
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS ELLIS
COMMISSIONER ANDREW MATTURRO
COMMISSIONER HUGO GRECO
COMMISSIONER CHRIS McCOLLAM
COMMISSIONER EDWARD ROBINSON
CHIEF JEFFREY W. FINCH

RECEIVED

AUG 20 2007

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

1. General Public Comments:
None.
2. Review of Past Minutes July 18, 2007:
Motion by Comm Robinson to accept the minutes of 7/18/07;
seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.
3. Budget Report:
As requested as part of a motion in the July meeting, Chief Finch presented a copy of last year's budget. The Chief also reported that nothing was returned last fiscal year because of excess expenditures caused by overtime. \$36,000 was allotted and \$120,000 was expended. Overall the budget was \$39,000 short. This is unusual. Normally something is turned back to the Town. July's expenditure was also presented. Motion by Comm Matturro to accept the budget report; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.
4. Old Business:
 - a) Officer of the Year Award
The Awards Committee selected Matt Zavatsky as Officer-Of-The-Year for 2006. In a letter to the Chief the Committee highlighted his teamwork and professionalism in dealing with fellow officers and the public. Also noted was off Zavataky's delivery of three babies on two separate occasions. Several arrests were made on the midnight shift because of "proactive patrol work". Subsequently assigned to the Detective Bureau to assist in the string of Stony Hill

burglaries. Off Zavatsky's involvement was instrumental in making the arrests. He had the highest number of DWI arrests for 2006. With several officers and family in attendance, Chief Finch presented officer Zavatsky with a plaque honoring him as 2006 Officer-Of-The-Year. First Selectman Bob Burke commended Officer Burke noting his active participation in the recent South St gas line explosion. In The most memorable accolade "Good Job Daddy" was loudly voiced by Kelly, Officer Zavatsky's three year old daughter.

b) Monthly Reports

In the last month efforts have been made to improve the accuracy of the Uniform Crime Report. Chief Finch expressed confidence in the new numbers. Totals went from 38 to 62. Additional non standard reports were included in the packet: overtime, alarms, extra work, officer activity by month and by officer. Motion by Comm Greco to accept the monthly reports as presented; seconded by Comm Robinson – unanimous.

5. New Business:

a) Site Plan – 232 Old Hawleyville

In his letter, Capt Cedergren noted this as a vacant lot between two existing houses on the west side just north of Hawleyville Rd. There are no police or traffic issues and the recommendation is that the Commission approve the proposal. The Commission considered the blueprint. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept Capt Cedergren's letter and forward it to Planning and Zoning; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

b) Elizabeth St Parking

This potential problem, raised at the July meeting New Business item 5c, was assigned to Lt Dickinson. The lieutenant, in attendance, recommended changes in front of Village Square. On-street parking occurs because of the overflow from the parking lot. Parking right up to the driveway on the west side of the business development causes sight line problems and because the road is narrow, necessitates pulling into the oncoming lane in order to effect a turn. The recommendation is for "no parking" ground markings for one space either side of the west driveway. The east driveway, closest to the railroad tracks, is no problem since parking is prohibited within 21 feet of the stop sign. Chairman Ellis asked if half space ground markings would be better since only one full parking space would be lost. Lt Dickinson had no problem with this. Additional and better "No Parking" signs on the other side of Elizabeth St are also required. Comm Greco believes there should be a separate entrance and exit. Chairman Ellis asked that Chief Finch send a letter to Planning and Zoning asking if the original site

approval required this. Delivery truck turning would be impossible with a one-way driveway according to Lt Dickinson. Motion by Comm McCollam to mark the half car length "No Parking" on the entrance farthest from Front St and mark the 21 feet "No Parking" on the entrance closest to Front St; seconded by Comm Robinson – unanimous.

c) Crosswalks on Main St – Signage & Painting

In her letter to the Commission, Sara Wade of 9 Golden Hill St asked that the faded crosswalk across Main St to Seeley St be repainted. Chief Finch agreed and believes signage should be added as well. The Town Highway Dept should evaluate the condition of other crosswalks in town. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept Chief Finch's recommendation that the Main St and other crosswalks be repainted to State specifications; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

d) Dead End Sign – Edmond Rd

A resident letter requested a "Dead End" sign. Many trucks mistake the Bethel Edmond Rd for the Edmond Rd in Newtown which serves an industrial area. Because it is a dead end, trucks have to turn around causing property damage. Lt Dickinson recommends a "Dead End" sign which is the same size as the street sign and is posted just above it. Motion by Chairman Ellis to put a dead end sign on Edmond Rd; seconded by Comm Robinson – unanimous.

Motion by Comm McCollam to add Big Y Crosswalk to New Business as item e; seconded by Comm Robinson – unanimous.

e) Big Y Crosswalk

The commission questioned the lack of crosswalk road markings at Route 6 and Old Hawleyville Rd. Lt. Dickinson, in attendance, explained that there are few pedestrians that use the crossing and there are no sidewalks in the area except on the corner with the new construction. A Federal study shows that at intersections like this, when you mark the crosswalks at roads with over 12,000 cars a day, pedestrian collisions increase over unmarked intersections. Also if the crosswalks are marked, design standards call for all traffic from both Rt6 and Old Hawleyville to be completely stopped for the full duration of the pedestrian cycle. Currently there are buttons to allow pedestrians to cross with traffic if traffic doesn't activate the light. Marking the crosswalks would cost money with very little benefit, would make the intersection less safe, and would impede traffic flow. Lt Dickinson agrees with the State design decisions given the information currently at hand.

6. Correspondence:

a) Sgt Libertini

In his letter Sgt Libertini commended officers Holland and Zavatsky for their part while working in Brookfield Center, in saving the life of a two year old at Brookfield Center who was not breathing.

b) Sgt Kaluta

In this letter Sgt Kaluta complimented officer Pugner concerning a sex complaint, his determined and thorough investigation resulted in a confession and arrest.

c) Target

Representatives of the Department were at hand at Target's public safety night.

Chief's Report:

a) Payne Rd Sewers

The sewer project is about to begin on Payne Rd.

b) Oak Ridge Signage

Signage on Oak Ridge is now correct.

c) Accreditation

Inspection is scheduled for the week after next. Chairman Ellis reminded the Commission about the 8/27 CALEA open public hearing at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Center.

Chief Finch presented copies of thank you letters sent to donors including the Lions Club which annually donates \$200.

A letter was received concerning the National Multiple Sclerosis Society fund raising bike tour scheduled to go through Bethel on 9/16 at 10:30.

A letter from Bill Scolon of 64 Reservoir St mentioned Danbury speed bumps as a solution to speeding in Bethel. Chief Finch stated his belief that even with all the signage, only an officer issuing tickets or speed bumps can slow cars. Speed Bumps are not suitable on all streets such as those with high volume. On selected streets they can be effective.

A selective enforcement list was in hands of the Commissioners.

A storage container has been put in place for bicycles.

8. Commissioner Comments:
Comm Maturro passed around a plaque awarded by the Connecticut United Ride, a motorcycle ride that has been held for the past seven years. This year it will be on Sunday 8/26. All the towns that have helped out received similar plaques.

At 6:07 motion by Chairman Ellis to adjourn; seconded by Comm Maturro – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted



Ferdinand Miller Jr.

Secretary