



# POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, DEC 19, 2007  
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

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

**RECEIVED**

DEC 21 2007

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 5:02 p.m.  
The Chairman extended the Commission's welcome to Bill Ochs.

1. General Public Comments:  
Jim Leonard of 7 Blackman Ave read a letter from himself and Bill Shannon, on behalf of the neighborhood, thanking the Commission and the Police Department for their part in having "No Thru Truck" signs approved by the STC and installed on Blackman Ave.
2. Review of Past Minutes Nov 19, 2007:  
Motion by Comm Maturro to accept the minutes of 11/19/07; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.
3. Budget Report:  
Overtime is down slightly according to Chief Finch. Comm McCollam asked for a master list of vendors which includes items supplied as a reference item. Lt Dickinson will supply said list.  
Motion by Comm Maturro to accept the budget report; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.
4. Old Business:
  - a) Monthly reports  
The Major Crime report has additional categories according to Chief Finch. Burglary is now broken down into three categories to include automobiles as well as residential and commercial. Manslaughter has also been added. Chairman Ellis questioned officer activity numbers. Also noted were DWI arrests which are down from last year. Motion by Comm Maturro to accept the monthly reports as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

b) Traffic light at Whittlesey and Plumtrees  
There was no discussion of this agenda item. Plans of this project, which is expected to be completed within the next two years, are posted at the Town Hall.

5. New Business:

a) Site Plan 33 Adams Dr

Because this proposed plan could not be included in the last "Special" meeting and a ruling was required, Chief Finch and Capt Cedergren gave their approval to this subdivision for a second family dwelling at 33 Adams Dr, with the plans to be presented at this, the next meeting. In his letter Capt Cedergren notes the required clearing of a 200 ft sight line because the driveway meets the road at a curve. The Captain sees no additional traffic problems and recommends approval. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept Capt Cedergren's letter and forward it to Planning and Zoning; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

b) Chairman Election for 2008

Motion by Comm McCollam to retain Nicholas Ellis in the position of Police Commission Chairman for 2008; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous. Motion by Comm Maturro to close nominations; seconded by Comm McCollam; election by voice vote – unanimous.

c) Commission Dates for 2008

Comm McCollam created a proposed list of meeting dates for the third Wednesday of each month. Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the list as presented, January 2008 through January 2009; seconded by Comm Maturro – unanimous. The list is as follows:

January 16 <sup>th</sup>	July 16th
February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Aug 20th
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sep 17th
April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 15th
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	Nov 19th
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 17th
	Jan 21 <sup>st</sup> (2009)

6. Correspondence:

a) Donations. The Department received three donations, two from Charles Steck for the Bethel Police Dept and one from Mr Imundo of Shelter Rock Rd for the P.B.A.

b) Letter from Jim Leonard (see General Public Item 1)

Chief's Report:

a) Staffing

The Chief produced a staffing report which included numbers by shift and the percentage of time at minimum manpower and above. The Commission discussed staffing levels and personnel search for uniform and dispatch. Comm Maturro asked about using specials for regular patrol. Comm Ochs asked if specials can cover dispatch shortages. Technical requirements and experience are the main problems according to Chief Finch.

b) Officer Test

The test has been administered to applicants and the eleven selected candidates need to be interviewed by the Commission. Comm Greco asked if a detailed list of candidates and their qualifications can be produced for Commissioners to peruse before the interviews. This meeting will have to be scheduled for January in order to pick a candidate for either the Feb 4<sup>th</sup> or Mar 31<sup>st</sup> Academy seat.

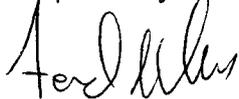
Other items discussed were a \$1,000 asset forfeiture, a successful POST audit and medical benefits available for Frank O'Farrell's dependants while he is posted to Iraq

8. Commissioner Comments:

Comm Maturro complimented the Department for enforcing the winter snow ban (no on-street parking between 2am and 6am from 11/15 to 4/15) by ticketing cars during the recent snow storm. This enforcement should have been continued during the days after the storm according to the Commissioner. Commissioner Maturro also asked if some sort of enforcement can be applied to private contractors whose snow removal efforts often leave piles of snow in the road which freeze, posing a hazard to traffic and Town plows. Comm McCollam stated that homeowners also create a problem pushing and blowing snow onto cleared streets

At 6:20 motion by Comm Greco to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted



Ferdinand Miller Jr.

Secretary