



POLICE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAR 19, 2008
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

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

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER HUGO GRECO

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

1. General Public Comments:
None
2. Review of Past Minutes Feb 20, 2008
Motion by Comm Maturro to accept the minutes of 2/20/08 Regular Meeting; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.
3. Budget Report:
Chief Finch acknowledged that overtime was down from earlier this year. Commissioners questioned various expense line items. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Maturro – unanimous.
4. Old Business:
 - a) Monthly reports
Chief Finch noted that the monthly reports now include a motor vehicle accident and enforcement report. The hope is the new software will achieve greater accuracy and consistency of the numbers. Motion by Comm Maturro to accept the monthly reports as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.
5. New Business:
 - a) Half Marathon April 6th
This fourth annual marathon will be held Sunday April 6th. It will come through Bethel at 10:30 a.m. from Reservoir St and then onto Route 53. A Danbury Police vehicle will lead the runners with Bethel police on duty.

b) Grand St signage

Lt Dickinson left a letter in his absence describing the question of distance between the signs and the intersection raised by Chairman Ellis. A sketch by Chairman Ellis accompanied the report. The lieutenant does not object to the suggestions offered concerning the moving of signs. The distance should be 21 feet from the edge of the sidewalk back on Grand St. Currently the signs are 10 feet closer to the intersection. The reason for the change is to eliminate parking problems. The overall effect will be a net loss of one parking space. Motion by Comm Maturro to move the "No Parking Here To Corner" sign back from the intersection on Grand St and reposition "No Parking Here To Corner" on the opposite side; seconded by Comm Ochs – motion passed with Comm McCollam abstaining.

c) Site plan – Route 6

In his letter Capt Cedergren described this as a proposal for a 80 unit senior citizen assisted living complex on Route 6. The State will be handling traffic engineering on Route 6 based on the pending traffic study. The driveway will enter Route 6 across from Weed Rd creating a four-way intersection with McNeil Rd bordering the facility on the west side. What must be addressed, according to the Captain, is a rise in the road on Route 6 which creates poor visibility. Other than this sight line issue there are no police or traffic issues. Since the Stony Hill Inn is to the rear of the proposed facility, there is no rear exit other than through Stony Hill Inn property. Motion by Comm Maturro to accept Capt Cedergren's letter and forward it onto the Planning and Zoning Commission; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

6. Correspondence:

Copies of several letters were in the hands of commissioners. One concerning a dirty bomb drill to be held by the National Guard at Bethel High School, another a \$100 donation from Ronald Auriana, a third a letter from Tom Mason thanking Off Christos for his part in responding to an emergency medical call.

Chief Finch brought to the attention of the Commission the Muscular Dystrophy Bike Tour Sunday June 22nd. This is a duplicate of the event run for the past few years. No problems were encountered and police involvement was not requested.

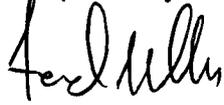
A letter was read complimenting Off Olmstead and Sgt Kaluta in their "professional response" to a silent alarm at a residence.

The Chief responded in writing to a citizen complaint concerning the Town Department's snow clearing efforts on Judd Av (see 2/20/08 minutes, item 5f). The Chief met with R. Dibble on this issue. Comm Matturro reported that a Town "low boy" truck will handle Judd in snow storms before its regular assignment.

7. Chief's Report
Chief Finch presented a report he created from various sources concerning officers injured and killed in the line of duty between 2002 and 2006 as well as the weapons involved.
8. Commissioner Comments:
None

At 6:10 motion by Chairman Ellis to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous

Respectfully Submitted



Ferdinand Miller Jr.

Secretary