



POLICE COMMISSION

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

- Minutes -
Bethel Police Commission
June 17, 2009, 6:30pm, Wednesday

Bethel Police Department

Attending:

Chairman Nicholas Ellis
V. Chairman Commissioner Christopher McCollam
Commissioner Hugo Greco
Commissioner Bill Ochs - absent
Commissioner Andrew Matturro

Chairman Ellis opened the meeting at 6:35pm

First item on the agenda was Public Comment.

Ms Ann Cleary, 2 Eagle Rock Rd., addressed the Commission, read a brief note reporting her concerns over past minutes of past Commission meetings. Ms Cleary left a package of papers for the Chief to review with the Chairman.

Review of Past minutes: Minutes were reviewed, **Motion by** Commissioner Greco to accept the minutes of May 20th, 2009, as written, second by Commissioner McCollam – Vote unanimous.

Budget Report: The Comptrollers monthly report was reviewed with questions asked about vehicle expenses. The Chief and Lt. Dickinson explained the expenses. Chairman Ellis questioned the large transfers of funds from one account to another. The Chief explained that this was a normal end of year transfer that the Comptroller does to balance accounts. The Chief noted that overtime for the year is some \$32,000 less spent than last year at this time.

Motion by Commission Ellis to accept the budget report, second by Commissioner Greco, vote unanimous.

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**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

Old Business:

Motion by Chairman Ellis to add to the agenda as item **B** Traffic issues concerning bridge signage and speed limits. Second by Commissioner McCollam, vote unanimous.

A. Policy & Procedure: The Chief submitted for review Policy 2003-05 on Benefit Time. Changes were necessitated in this policy in two areas; compensatory time and military time. The changes were discussed and comparisons made to the previous language.

Motion by Commissioner Greco to accept and approve the policy, second by Commissioner McCollam, vote unanimous.

B. Bridge signage and speed limits.

Lt Dickinson spoke of receiving notification from Conn. Department of Transportation concerning the weight limits on the Walnut Hill bridge at the corner of Taylor being reduced to 8 tons and that new posting was immediately required, and that new signage is already in place. Discussion ensued concerning the 8 ton limit and the impact it would have on traffic as well as large emergency fire vehicles.

Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the report of DOT and accept the new 8 ton limit and to enforce the new weight limits, second by Commissioner McCollam, vote unanimous.

Lt Dickinson submitted a list of Roads that he wished be submitted to the State DOT for evaluation and the setting of speed limits. The list was reviewed and discussed

Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the list and forward it to DOT, second by Commissioner Greco, vote unanimous.

Correspondence:

The Chief presented a letter was received from the Redding Police Department concerning their new advanced life support agreement with Bethel. Questions and discussion ensued with concerns on how it would work, if it did, to the benefit of Bethel. Questions were raised about its cost and off-setting income.

The Chief informed the Commission concerning a \$30,000 grant that the Police Department was designated to receive as part of the Federal stimulus money. No clear plans are yet known on when the department will receive the money or on how it may be spent.

Chief Report:

The Chief spoke of the monthly training report submitted by Lt. Kennedy.

The Chief spoke of the Police Department Medic vehicles and how he has received some complaints that they were marked as Police vehicles. The Chief reported that plans are in place and have been in place to have the medic vehicle repainted and remarked, unknown as to a specific time-line as it is being handled by Captain Cedergren.

The Medic is being relocated on the midnight shift to the Emergency Management Center 4-12 shift from 20 Stony Hill.

The Chief also spoke about past monthly selective enforcement that has been ongoing in Town.

Executive Session:

Motion by Chairman Ellis to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and invite Chief Finch, 7:53pm, second by Commissioner McCollam, vote unanimous.

9:16pm out of executive Session.

Motion by Chairman Ellis That being that this Police Commission has not been consulted by the Board of Selectman and as a result of a 6month employment contract being offered to Chief Finch by the Board of Selectman, we the Police Commission feel that it is unacceptable and we recommend that a one year contract be given to Chief Finch. Second by Commissioner Greco, vote unanimous.

Motion by Chairman Ellis to adjourn 9:18pm, second by McCollam, vote unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Complied by J. Finch