



# POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, NOV 18, 2009  
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

**RECEIVED**

NOV 30 2009

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

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

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER CHRIS McCOLLAM

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

1. General Public Comments:  
Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill Rd read from a prepared statement, attached to minutes at request of Chairman Ellis (see addendum). Mrs Cleary also complained about past reports which she considered biased, inaccurate and missing information as well as lacking her input. Also mentioned were what Mrs Cleary alleged to be three missing citizen complaint forms she submitted. Chairman Ellis to set up a private meeting with himself and Chief Finch.
2. Review of Past Minutes Oct 21, 2009  
Motion by Comm Greco to accept the minutes of 10/21/09; seconded by Comm Maturro – unanimous.
3. Budget Report:  
Chief Finch distributed the budget report to Commission members. The Chief noted overtime as being below last year. Pistol carry permits are up even though the fees have doubled across the board. Motion by Comm Maturro to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.
4. Old Business:
  - a) Monthly Reports  
The Commission considered the reports which the Chief summarized as “routine” with no “alarming” numbers. Comm Greco noted missing addresses on arrest reports which Chief Finch

promised to address. Because of customer concerns, the software supplier is not willing to designate desired computer file fields as required. Motion by Comm Greco to accept the Monthly Reports as read; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.

b) No Thru Trucks Hawleyville Rd

Lt Dickinson reported repaving as being completed but the road as not yet lined. In spite of this the counter was put out and the findings indicate fairly high speeds. Truck traffic is less than July's sample. It appears that Hawleyville is not being used as a short cut for through trucks in any large numbers. Signs have to be repositioned for better driver recognition and raised to give the impression of a narrower road. Speed and not trucks is the major problem. We are still awaiting the speeds limit and review from the State. Lt Dickinson does not see the need to post "No Thru Truck" signs at this time. Motion by Comm Ochs to accept Lt Dickinson's recommendation to not post "No Thru Truck" signs at this time; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

c) Bethpage Dr

Chief Finch passed out the latest speed bump survey for Bethpage Dr. The survey addressed three questions. First is speed a problem? Second do you support the installation of speed bumps? And third would you want one in front of your house? The results indicate that 83% of the 41 responders consider speed a problem and support speed bumps. Cost quotes from private contractors, according to Chief Finch are about \$4,000 per bump. Comm Matturro asked if temporary bumps could be addressed. Better to try them first, according to the Commissioner, rather than spend \$4,000 per bump only to have them ripped up later if they fail in their intent. Snow plowing is a problem according to the Chief as temporary bumps can easily be torn up. Comm Greco pointed out additional costs arising from multiple signage designating speed bumps. Chairman Ellis polled Commission members concerning support or no support for speed bumps. Comm Greco would support bumps as long as everything is done properly. Comm Ochs would be in favor as long as the money can be found to do it. Concerning this, Chief Finch believes the money for bumps should be in the Highway Dept budget. Comm Matturro opposes speed bumps. Comm Matturro went on to state that to prevent their proliferation, guidelines are necessary for a road to qualify for consideration of speed bumps. Motion by Chairman Ellis to leave speed bumps under Old Business to enable the incoming administration to consider the money issue; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

5. New Business:

a) Codfish Hill Rd

Lt Dickinson addressed the Commission concerning the complaint from Josh Feldstein concerning the Codfish Hill Ext and Aunt Patty's La intersection. The road layout is the issue according to the lieutenant. Codfish Hill Rd Ext narrows to a "driveway size" road after the intersection. It is difficult for drivers to determine where the curve actually is located causing them to move briefly into the oncoming lane. In spite of this there is no accident history at this location and the proposed stop sign could increase the probability of collisions. The lieutenant sees a "strategically placed" segmented centerline at this location for two hundred feet as a solution. This would serve to better guide drivers through the intersection and allow turning drivers to see down the extension without interfering with traffic. Motion by Comm Ochs to accept Lt Dickinson's recommendation concerning the Codfish Hill Rd Ext/Aunt Patty's La intersection, and instruct the Highway Dept to work closely with Lt Dickinson concerning the placement of a centerline; seconded by Comm Matturro – unanimous.

b) Old Dodgingtown Rd

Lt Dickinson described this half mile long paved road as connecting with the intersection of Codfish Hill Rd Ext and Poor House Rd (Newtown). In years past, as a dirt road, it continued on to Huntington Park eventually connecting with Sunset Hill Rd. A problem with a culvert has shut the road down. The paved road ends at Mr Shriver's house. The State owned closed road is not well marked and there is no turn-around area causing drivers to use Mr. Shriver's property for this purpose. Private signs have been posted on the road and a Highway Dept "Dead End" sign is posted on a street sign. Improvements should include repositioning the "Dead End" sign on its own post, properly angled so drivers both on Codfish Hill Rd Ext and Poor House Rd can see it; adding a "No Turnaround" sign beneath the "Dead End" sign and removing the second "Dead End" sign on the left side of the road; adding a new "Road End" sign opposite of the existing sign just before the end of the paved section; removing the homeowner's 10 mph sign. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the recommendations of Lt Dickinson concerning Old Dodgingtown Rd ; seconded by Comm Greco - unanimous.

Motion by Chairman Ellis to add Eaton Corp as New Business item 5c; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.

c) Eaton Corp

A call was made to the Chief from Tony Acromon, Environmental Health and Safety Director of Eaton Corp. The concern is over the sight line for trucks pulling out onto Durant Ave from Eaton's loading dock. The view is obstructed according to the Chief by normal employee parking. Their pull-in on-site parking had previously been eliminated by the streetscape project.

Lt Dickinson's recommendation is the removal of two parking spaces on the left side of the driveway exit to improve sight lines. It is best to wait and see if this solution works before removing the parking space to the right of the driveway. Eaton Corp offered to pay for any signage involved. Motion by Comm Greco to accept Lt Dickinson's recommendation concerning Eaton Corp parking;; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.

6. Correspondence:

a) Speeding – Chimney Dr

A letter was received last month. Now that paving is complete, selective enforcement of speeding will be required on Chimney Dr

7. Chief's Report

a) Training Report

The training report was in the hands of the Commissioners.

b) Chief Finch notified the Commission that Capt Cedergren earned a Municipal Legal Traffic Authority certificate from the University of Connecticut.

c) Tow-Man Award

For this award at a convention of wreckers who tow cars, Chief Finch nominated John Kennedy from Smitty's Auto Body.

8. Commissioner Comments:

Comm Ochs thanked Andy Maturro for his contribution to the Commission over his term. Chairman Ellis thanked Comm Maturro for his four years of service. Comm Greco expressed his appreciation as well.

At 7:35 motion by Chairman Ellis to go into executive session and invite Chief Finch to attend; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

At 7:55 the Commission came out of executive session.

At 7:56 motion by Chairman Ellis to adjourn; seconded by Comm Maturro - unanimous





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he refused, but would review 2 specific incidents, and provide a report to BPC Chairman Nick Ellis,

I received the report in September. Reminder BPC chairman Nick Ellis asked me to wait until Nov 09.

My review of, "B.P.D. chief Jeffrey W. Finch's report was grossly bias, unfair, and inaccurate, based upon officer Olmstead #68 interview, and case report, that was supervised and approved before, by officer Charles Kupp #44.

Also, the same for the report on the other incident, different case, and officer.

Officer Conway was involved in this case.

My interview, input, proof, evidential, photos and so on, was excluded, ignored by the chief

I will address the chief's report, verbally, and in writing, with proof, with full response, after the BPC finally responds to the missing/poor citizen complaint forms, and follow-up letters because, these 2 incidents were involved, a long time ago. I was not the procrastinator. I'm very anxious to find out what the B.P.C. will do about this!