



POLICE COMMISSION

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

RECEIVED

FEB 20 2009

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

1. General Public Comments:
None
2. Review of Past Minutes Jan 21, 2009 & Feb 4, 2009
Motion by Comm Greco to accept the minutes of 1/21/09; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Chairman Ellis asked that his proposal and the ensuing discussion about a changed meeting time and place for easier public access be added to the minutes. Motion by Comm Ochs to accept the corrected minutes of 2/4/09; seconded by Comm Maturro – unanimous.

3. Budget Report:
Chief Finch noted that overtime expenses remain \$16K below last year-to-date. Large changes in overtime expense is often due to the presence or absence of one or two serious crimes according to the Chief. Chairman Ellis questioned a line item DUI grant credit in the expense report. Lt Dickinson, in attendance, stated that this represented an extension of last year's grant program rather than instituting a new program. Chairman Ellis asked about week-to-week overtime expense swings. Chief Finch reported one result of the recent staff meeting wherein officers are no longer required to complete reports on a given shift, except in the case of serious crimes or arrests or cases where paperwork has to be completed for court on the next day. Over the course of a year this could save and estimated \$5K to \$10K in overtime expense. This puts the

complete or not complete and follow-up burden on the shift sergeants. Motion by Comm Ochs to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

4. Old Business:

a) Monthly Reports

The Commission considered the reports. In reply to Comm Greco's question about the officer name field, Chief Finch replied that this is still to be done as it is necessary to work with the software supplier. Comm Ochs suggested a one-time cover page listing officer names with badge numbers as a reference. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the Monthly Reports as read; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

b) Main St noise complaint

Chief Finch read the results of a database search concerning noise complaints concerning events at the First Meeting Hall and VFW. The complaints were over noise and loud music in October, November and December 2008 on three Saturdays and a Sunday, requiring two or more visits by police officers. Saturday complaints were between 10 pm and 2 am, Sunday's beginning 5:54 in the afternoon. Chairman Ellis asked that this item be tabled to a future meeting and questioned the feasibility of a noise ordinance. Chief Finch stated that nothing more is needed from the Town in this regard, that a noise ordinance will not add anything to the resolution of this problem. Comm Ochs asked about the responsibility of those who rent out the premises to enforce their own rules. Motion by Chairman Ellis to send the police response information to the First Selectman for review including a letter received since the last meeting from a Hickok Ave resident; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous .

5. New Business:

Motion by Comm McCollam to add St Mary's Road Race to New Business as item a; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.

a) St Mary's Road Race May 16, 2009

The route for the requested 5K fundraiser foot race turns onto Wolfpits Rd and ends in the backyard of a Carriage Dr residence. In his letter Capt Cedergren recommends approving the race. Chief Finch and Capt Cedergren will represent the Department in the race. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept Capt Cedergren's report and approve the race; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

6. Correspondence:
- a) Administrative Report – Bias Based Profile for 2008
This was described as a required internal accreditation report.
 - b) Mrs Kretkowski – Ridgedale Rd
A \$5 Dunkin Donuts gift card sent by Mrs Kretkowski as a thank you for not issuing a selective enforcement ticket was returned with a letter of explanation.
 - c) Susan Gonzolez
A voice mail was received by Capt Cedergren, thanking the Department for selective enforcement on Old Hawleyville Rd.

7. Chief's Report
- a) Training Report
This report from Lt Kennedy details training currently taking place and training planned for the future. Chief Finch underscored the huge burden on the Department to ensure proper training of officers. Money has to be available for training, training records available for inspection by the Police Academy and a lieutenant put in charge of coordinating training. Chairman Ellis asked if this report could be included on a regular basis as part of the Commissioner packet. The Chief agreed it would.

- b) Motor Vehicle Enforcement Report
In recent months more has been done in the area of motor vehicle enforcement according to Chief Finch. Off Broad has been doing traffic enforcement in addition to his warrant duties. Off Broad's activity report was handed out to Commissioners.

Selective enforcement was done on Fleetwood, Grassy Plain, Route 6 at Benedict, Route 53 at South, Blackman at South, Rockwell at Plumtrees, Shelter Rock at Walnut Hill, radar Old Hawleyville, Walnut Hill at Route 6, Old Hawleyville and Hawleyville Rd, Wolfpit and Reservoir St.

8. Commissioner Comments:
Comm Maturro asked about the recent budget meeting. Those in attendance explained what transpired. A brief discussion followed.

Comm Ochs thanked everyone who worked on the budget.

Chairman Ellis explained his reason for not distributing Lt. Dickinson's letter during the meeting of February 4th. It was his desire that the evaluation come from Commission members themselves. The letter was available on the table after the meeting.

At 7:25 motion by Comm McCollam to adjourn; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ferd Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Ferdinand Miller Jr.

Secretary