



POLICE COMMISSION

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

** AMENDED TO REFLECT CORRECT MONTH*

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2010

BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS ELLIS
COMMISSIONER DAN GROSSO
CHIEF JEFFREY W. FINCH
COMMISSIONER HUGO GRECO
COMMISSIONER CHRIS McCOLLAM

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER BILL OCHS

RECEIVED

2010 AUG 19 P 12: 19

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

1. General Public Comments:
None
2. Review of Past Minutes June 16, 2010
Motion by Comm Grosso to accept the minutes of the 6/16/10 meeting; seconded by Chairman Ellis – unanimous.
3. Budget Report:
Fiscal year ending report included in Commissioner's packets shows \$18,600 in unexpended funds. An overtime graph and an "Extra Work" report was also included. Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the current budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.
4. Old Business:
 - a) Monthly Reports
Comm McCollam pointed out that if the trend continues, criminal arrest totals will be significantly higher than last year. Comm Greco asked about the address field for the "Arrest by Name and Charge" report. Chief Finch stated that this report was still being worked on. Comm McCollam complimented Steven Shanley, assistant MACO, for the detail in his "Municipal Animal Control Officers Report" which in the past has been conspicuously lacking. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the Monthly Reports as presented; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.
 - b) Animal Control Officer
Chief Finch notified the Commission that he has been in conversation with Chief Fuchs of Redding, drafting agreements and

guidelines aimed at consolidating Redding's MACO function with Bethel's under the current Redding MACO officer, maintaining Bethel's part-time assistant MACO personnel. Just as Bethel's animal pound has been shared with Redding for years, so would the cost of this arrangement be split on an agreed-to basis.

5. New Business:

a) The Spot – Block Party

The request for the annual block party at The Spot came too late for the last commission meeting. Capt Cedergren coordinated assignments for this event which was held without problems or issues.

b) New Fiscal Year Goals

Chairman Ellis requested this item. Accreditation has required this be done for the last few years according to Chief Finch. Though not yet finalized, this year's goals are nearly the same as last year requiring only fine tuning. Certain goals are ongoing such as traffic enforcement, others include past practice research on duty sergeants, restructuring plans and schedules, reviewing the recently changed evaluation system, and in-house training. In its final form the goals will be put out as a directive policy. In addition to these in-house items Chairman Ellis asked about capital items such as police car needs, a new building and the like. Chief Finch will solicit additional goals from officers at next Monday's staff meeting. This item was left under Old Business for the next meeting's agenda.

6. Correspondence:

a) Nunzio Saso – Officer Cleary

Letter complimenting Off Cleary for assistance provided when stranded in the early hours of the morning with a dead battery.

b) Letter of Commendation

Letter from Chief Finch commending Sgt Rost, Cpt Pugner, Off Delohery, Off Morris and Off Christos for their competent and timely work in bringing to justice a Bethel resident allegedly involved in a recent hit and run fatality in New Milford.

7. Chief's Report

a) Training Report

Lt Kennedy's training report was in the hands of the Commission. A ten week legal training program was completed by Cpl Pugner. A grant writing workshop was completed by Sgt Libertini and Offs Zor and Burns attended an eight day supervisor leadership training course.

Capt Cedergren's letter to the Public Works Director inquired as to why janitorial services are completed only five days of the week in a facility which is open and running 24/7.

The command bus vehicle is currently undergoing modifications to make it useful for its intended purpose. The electric door, windshield and portable generator issues have been addressed. Still needed is emergency lighting which will cost \$2,500. This project has been done on a "shoestring budget" to keep costs low.

Off Holland is back from Iraq and following discharge and a vacation is expected back in early August.

The Captain's 2002 car was sold to Danbury Hospital for the trade-in price of \$650 which was returned to the police account.

8. Commissioner Comments:

Comm Grosso asked about the amount of time spent in addressing certain issues such as the recent Judd Ave school crossing issue. Chairman Ellis stated that taxpayers and residents have the right to complain, the officer assigned by the chief the duty to look into the complaint. According to Comm McCollam, compared to some issues the time spent on this one was not inordinately long. Improvements to the road at repaving may solve this and other potential issues. Lt Dickinson added that individual and community issues have to be addressed along with the overall goals of reducing the number and severity of accidents while promoting safe traffic flow. The Judd Ave issue provided a learning experience for future use in analyzing pedestrian crosswalk issues.

Chairman Ellis complimented the officers involved in the New Milford hit and run incident.

Comm Greco stressed the need to push for the construction of new Police Department building.

At 8:00 motion by Chairman Ellis to go into executive session and invite Chief Finch to attend; seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous.

Comm came out of executive session at 8:50.

At 8:51 motion by Comm Greco to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Ferdinand Miller Jr.



Secretary