



# POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, NOV 17, 2010  
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

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

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER DAN GROSSO

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker was in attendance

1. General Public Comments:

Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill Rd read from a prepared statement expressing "disappointment and sadness" about what she perceived to be failures in the Department and the Commission over the past two years. She felt she was the victim in the middle of events beyond her control. Ms Cleary stated she has submitted three citizen complaints to date and promised more will be forthcoming. Hope springs from the change to a new First Selectman.

2. Review of Past Minutes Oct 20, 2010

Comm McCollam noted several corrections to the minutes of 10/20/10. General Public Comments line 1 should read "Robert Messert and daughter Dawn --". Line 24 should read "Lauren Messert of 35 Taylor ---". Page 4 Correspondence should read Ms Volpati – Judd Ave. Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the amended minutes of 10/20/10 meeting with correction; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

3. Budget Report:

The Commission considered the reports. Overtime is up for several weeks due to dispatchers taking time off, according to the Chief. Comm Ochs asked if being one dispatcher short exacerbates the problem. The Chief answered that it is a contributing problem. Comm McCollam questioned expenses for Utility. Lt Dickinson detailed the communication items involved. Motion by Comm Grosso to accept the current budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.

4. Old Business:

a) Monthly Reports

More reports will be added to the packet in the future according to the Chief. Comm McCollam noted that criminal custody arrests are poised to run over last

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year's numbers. Chief Finch gave the inclusion of 16 year olds as juveniles as of last January as one reason. The inclusion of 17 year olds will occur sometime in 2012. Motion by Comm Greco to accept the Monthly Reports as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

5. New Business:

a) Site Plan – Dunkin Donuts, Stony Hill & Old Hawleyville Rd.

The Commission studied the site plans in question for the corner of Rt6 and Old Hawleyville as well as a traffic survey by a private firm. In his letter Capt Cedergren mentioned that while Steve Palmer, Town Planner asked that the Commission review the plans for traffic issues, the State DOT traffic study has still not been received. Most traffic concerns mentioned in the Town study concern issues on the property itself rather than surrounding roads. Final Commission approval should await the final State study. To date, the main concern, according to the Chief, is cars potentially backing up from the drive-up window onto Route 6. Motion by Chairman Ellis to table Dunkin Donuts site plan under Old Business until the State traffic study comes in; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.

b) General Orders - policy

Chief Finch presented five policies to the Commission, explaining the changes and clarifications. Two are revisions to existing policies and three are new.

2007-15 "Training and Career Development" updating and reorganization of its structure. Comm McCollam noted that "MRT" has been changed to a different national nomenclature. Lt Dickinson will explore this. Motion by Comm McCollam to approve changes to 2007-15 "Training Within the Police Department" with the pending changes to "MRT"; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

2000-03 "Less-Lethal Force Weapons" concerning the taser to reflect a recent court decision concerning targeting and verbal commands. Motion by Comm Ochs to accept revised order 2000-03 "Less Lethal Force Weapons"; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

2010-03 "Notifications, Felony, Other & Call Outs" rescinds "Felony Notifications" 2006-05. While it includes much of 2006-05 it includes more than felony call outs and makes clear the order in which order notifications are to be given and be more easily read. Motion by Comm Ochs to accept general order 2010-03 "Notifications, Felony, Call Outs": seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

2010-02 "Photographic Identification" responds to courts and Chief States Attorney's request for guidelines concerning photo lineup identifications. Motion by Comm Greco to accept 2010-02 "Photo Identification"; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

2010-01 "Cold Case Investigation" required policy for accreditation. Puts the responsibility for marking old unsolved cases for future recall on the Detective Sergeant. Motion by Comm McCollam to accept 2010-01 "Cold Cases"; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.

c) Budget 2011-2012

Chief Finch asked that if it is to proceed as in the past, the Commission appoint a budget subcommittee and meet with him a week before the next meeting to review input from questionnaires put out to division commanders. Comm Greco and McCollam will form the sub committee.

6. Correspondence:

a) Pasquale Muraca – 30 Maple Ave

In his letter Mr Muraca requested a street light in front of his 30 Maple Ave property for his own and pedestrian safety. Lt Dickinson was consulted on this and did not see the benefits of adding the light at this spot. First Selectman Knickerbocker stated that the procedure in place involves his office which would in turn consult with CL&P. Motion by Chairman Ellis to have the Chief refer Mr Muraca's request to the First Selectman's Office; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

b) Ability Beyond Disability

In this letter gratitude was expressed for the 10/22 prompt response and for all the Department does complimenting its "professionalism, demeanor and team approach". Off Cordero responded to a missing person who was located in his own car outside.

7. Chief's Report

a) Training Report

Lt Kennedy's training reports were in the hands of the Commission. Recently a use of force training program was run using training guns in real life confrontational scenarios. The program was put together by Sgts Kaluta, MacKenzie, assisted by Det Zavatsky.

b) ACO Regionalization

ACO regionalization is still on hold, unfair labor practice having been filed with the State by the union, the hearing being put off until mid December.

Three officers are out, two with ankle injuries and one on short term disability. Another officer is in the Academy.

The Chief mentioned an incident this evening involving a citizen bringing in a fused cannonball. The State bomb squad responded and blew it in half with shaped charges.

8. Commissioner Comments:

Matt Knickerbocker promised to attend more meetings in the future. He thanked Commission members for the time they put in and also assured the Commission that one of his priorities as First Selectman is to provide the Department with the resources necessary to do the job when there is a public safety issue. Money will be found even if it has to go into the next budget.

The Chairman asked about the Bethpage speed bumps. Mr Knickerbocker stated that the Town is holding off on these until after the road is repaved in the spring as part of the road project.

At 7:05 motion by Comm Greco to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

Ferdinand Miller Jr.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ferdinand Miller Jr.', written in a cursive style.

Secretary