



POLICE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAR 16, 2011
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

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

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER CHRIS McCOLLAM
COMMISSIONER BILL OCHS

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

1. General Public Comments:

Union President George Bryce asked that the grievance, item 5a, be moved to executive session because an officer's medical information is involved. Chairman Ellis agreed to do so.

First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker wanted to confirm that HEVCO, local accident reduction grant opportunities information had been received. The First Selectman promised to pursue any "hot spots" which can be identified. Also in reference to the insurance issue discussed as a grievance at the last meeting (2/16/11 item 5a), Mr Knickerbocker stated that no action needs be taken by the Commission as it has moved to step 3 with the State. In an "exhaustive review", the current Anthem policy was compared line by line with attorneys to the two previous policies with Aetna and Boston Mutual Life. The coverages are "exactly the same with no change whatsoever". Any misunderstanding and confusion arose from the "boiler plate language" traditionally used by insurance companies as opposed to the language which customizes the policy for the insured. Accidental Death and Personal Loss section includes boiler plate exclusions for accidental death and dismemberment, no self inflicted injury while sane and the like. As with most customers, the Town buys both policies, life insurance as well as accidental death and dismemberment. Both policies must be considered as the language of the life insurance policy "trumps" the exclusions of the accidental death and dismemberment policy. "Actively at work" means employed full time and not being on a leave of absence or suspended without pay. Being on vacation does not affect coverage. George Bryce stated he will withdraw the Union's grievance when he receives either a copy of the life policy or a confirming letter from the CEO of Anthem. Mr Knickerbocker will obtain this letter and forward it to the Union.

2. Review of Past Minutes Feb 16, 2011
Motion by Comm Greco to accept the minutes of the 2/16/11 meeting; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.
3. Budget Report:
The report was considered by Commission members. Comm Grosso asked if the report could be received somewhat earlier so it can be adequately digested. This will be done according to Chairman Ellis and Chief Finch. Motion by Comm Greco to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.
4. Old Business:
 - a) Monthly Reports
Chief Finch stated that the excess overtime expense was due to the missing dispatcher. The new hire will not be able to be on her own for a few more weeks. The annual fluctuation in number of tickets and motor vehicle stops is normal according to Chief Finch, replying to a question from Comm Grosso. Motion by Comm Grosso to accept the Monthly Reports as presented; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.
5. New Business:
 - a) Grievance
Because an officer's medical records are involved, this discussion was moved to executive session.
6. Correspondence:
 - a) Link Hurgin Jr.
This letter thanked the Department for its recent response.
 - b) Donation – rug, Nick Mazzo – Henry St Rug with police emblem donation.
7. Chief's Report
 - a) Training Report
Lt Kennedy's training reports were in the hands of the Commission.
 - b) Academy Opening.
Off Whaley, at the academy is scheduled to graduate the first week of April.
 - c) Awards Ceremony is 3/25/11, 7:00 at Cappalero's Grove.
8. Commissioner Comments:
None

At 6:25 motion by Chairman Ellis to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and invite Chief Finch and Lt Dickinson to attend; seconded by Comm Grosso – unanimous.

At 7:45 the Commission came out of executive session. No decision was made pending the receipt of more information. A special meeting will be held at that time.

9. Site Plan – Berkshire Industrial Park

Captain Cedergren in his letter, called this an addition to an existing building, and in consultation with P&Z's Beth Cavagna, stated there is no problem with the proposal as sufficient parking exists. There will be no impact on traffic or "negative implications" for police or EMS response. The recommendation is to accept the proposal as submitted.

At 7:55 motion by Comm Grosso to adjourn; seconded by Chairman Ellis – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted

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

Ferdinand Miller Jr.

Secretary