POLICE COMMISSION

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

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAR 19, 2014
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO
COMMISSIONER CHRIS MCCOLLAM
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: VICE CHAIRMAN HUGO GRECO

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. General Public Comments
Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill Rd spoke to three items of concern to herself. Chairman Duff accepted the 19 page packet from Ms Cleary for review.

2. Review of Past Minutes for 2/15/14
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the amended minutes of 2/15/14; seconded by Comm Rubino – motion passed with Comm McCollam abstaining due to absence at said meeting

3. Budget Report
a) Comptrollers Report
While there were no significant items to point out, Chief Finch stated that any under spending fiscal year-to-date, merely reflects the fact that some bills for budgeted items do not come due until April, May or June. Unlike traditional business, cash flow cannot be projected month-to-month.

b) Overtime Report
Commissioners considered the reports. Comm Kolwicz asked if a part time dispatcher could be hired to fill in for full time dispatchers. Chief Finch explained knowledge of the software and dispatch protocols require dispatchers be full time. The exception is the assistant records clerk who transferred from dispatch and occasionally fills in.
Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the Comptrollers report; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - unanimous

4. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Commissioners considered the reports. Chairman Duff asked for increased vigilance concerning speeding with the coming of Spring. Chief Finch reported selective enforcement as already in progress. The Chairman also asked about and received a favorable report concerning the new police dog.

b) 2014-2015 Budget Review

Chief Finch reminded Commissioners the budget approval process is ongoing. To-date only one vehicle has been cut by the Board of Selectmen. The Finance Board had yet to look at the budget.

c) Kristy Dr

Chief Finch stated he has received no report from the Highway Dept as yet concerning Kristy Dr (see minutes of 1/15/14 item 1a). The Chief repeated that though the tops of approaching cars can be seen, the road surface cannot thus compromising one's ability to estimate distance. This item was tabled pending information from Lt Dickinson.

5. New Business

a) Chestnut Ridge Motor Vehicle Signage

In his letter, Lt Dickinson advises the repositioning of several signs on Chestnut Ridge Rd, one example being a sign partially hidden behind a tree which needs to be moved for better visibility.

b) South St R/R Crossing

Notification has been received from Metro North that the railroad crossing on South St will be worked on for five to seven days starting 3/28/14 requiring that this section of South St be closed. Traffic problems are anticipated.

c) 5K Tribute Run – May 17th 2014

This event, held by the American Legion, has been run the past few years without incident. Volunteers, including several police officers will be in place.

7. Correspondence

a) Letter from Fire Chiefs and Fire Marshal

In this letter signed by Fire Chief Ingram, Fire Chief Parciasepe and Fire Marshal Galliford, a request was made for a change in Police Department Fire and EMS dispatching policy. Comm Rubino (a former Fire Chief) suggested a joint meeting between the signatories to the letter along with Capt Bruckenthal (Communications supervisor) and Chief Finch to iron out perceived problems with dispatch protocol. Comm McCollam sees the problem as a procedural matter. Chairman Duff asked for more details and particulars concerning "significant time delays". First Selectman Knickerbocker asked that which is questionable be quantified. The aforementioned meeting was agreed upon by the Commissioners

8. Chief's Report

▪ Training Report – Monthly

Lt Dickinson's monthly training report was in the hands of the Commissioners. Chief Finch noted Lt Dickinson's attachment of questions at the end of and pertaining to training videos officers are required to review. The hope is to add similar questions to other training videos, possibly town-wide.

▪ Tablet

Chief Finch displayed a Samsung Android tablet on which could be loaded all policies and general orders and other pertinent information, eventually for the use of officers in the field. The tablet displayed can easily be held in one hand.

▪ Building Committee

Chief Finch reported the Building Committee as approving plans and placing the structure in a position a little further back on the property. Comm McCollam asked if another entrance could be made directly into the school complex. First Selectman Knickerbocker said this was being looked into and may be possible on an emergency basis. Comm McCollam suggested a joint meeting with the Building Committee.

9. Commissioner Comments

Comm McCollam asked that Commission members keep the recovery of Hugo Greco in their thoughts. Road patching was discussed along with the eventual State repairs from Rt53 all the way to Rt25 in Newtown.

At 7:15 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary