



# POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014  
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING:

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

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

Chairman Duff welcomed new commissioner Richard Barton

1. General Public Comments

None

2. Review of Past Minutes for 5/21/14

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the minutes of 5/21/14; seconded by Comm Barton – unanimous.

3. Budget Report

a) Comptrollers Report

Chief Finch stated that the end of the fiscal year is approaching and there are still some large balances to be spent. Chairman Duff questioned the \$61K shortfall in budgeted overtime. Chief Finch explained that annually the Finance Board budgets for less overtime than is traditionally spent. Both the Board of Finance and the Comptroller realize this. In the past excess in other accounts has covered this, other years not.

b) Overtime Report

\$65K less was spent this year for overtime than last year according to Chief Finch. \$30K of that is the result of grants which traditionally is reimbursed 75% to 100% to the Town.

c) 2014-2015 Budget Changes

Chief Finch explained budget cuts as a result of recent Town-side budget referendum defeats. On the first round \$9,800 was cut from the capital portion

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TOWN CLERK

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and \$10,000 from overtime of the police budget, on the second round nothing was cut. The Chief expressed hope that the budget will pass the next time.

4. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Commissioners considered the reports. The Chief described three additional reports, not part of the normal packet.

5. New Business

a) Building Committee Report

Sgt Jim Wright, Department representative to the Building Committee, introduced Jim Palmer and John Perna of the Building Committee, Charlie Van Zant of Hawley Construction working closely with the architect. Sgt Wright displayed blueprints of the floor plans and reoriented building and parking lots intended to save 50% of the site for other uses. Site borings have been completed and show good ground water levels. The building has been designed for 30+ years use into the future. The plan is for an August town meeting and a September referendum. Several public tours are planned to demonstrate the need for a new building. Energy options were discussed along with various roof materials. It was noted that the architect, Brian Humes specializes in public safety buildings. Chairman Duff addressed the public relations issue of presenting the building proposal to the public in such a way that the benefits of its eco-friendly design and the security provided by its location just adjacent to the educational complex can be made obvious. The importance of the attendance of Commission members at the various meetings and support for the Building Committee was stressed by Sgt Wright. Chairman Duff asked that time and place of these meetings be made known to Commission members. The placement of a future 3D rendering of the project throughout the town was discussed as well as the importance of getting the school system onboard. Utilizing the Town web site was also mentioned as a viable option.

Motion by Comm McCollam to add the Walnut Hill bridge to New Business as item 5b; seconded by Comm Barton – unanimous.

b) Walnut Hill Bridge

Chief Finch noted Lt Dickinson's concern over some existing signage near the reopened Walnut Hill bridge.

Motion by Chairman McCollam to approve a "No Left Turn" sign at the intersection of Shelter Rock at Walnut Hill; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous. There was also considerable discussion about road lines and a consensus for the need to keep a single center line over the bridge without any fog lines.

The Commission went on to discuss the State's request for dimensions of Greenwood Av parking in connection with the repaving of Greenwood in the near future. The need for Commission involvement was stressed. The presence of excess signs throughout the town was also discussed, especially "Stop Sign

Ahead" signs where a clear sight path 150 feet or more is available. Signs posted without Commission approval were considered by Chairman Duff as violating the Commission's mandate as being the primary traffic authority.

6. Correspondence

a) A copy of an Animal Shelter donation check for \$200 was displayed as received from a resident who likes dogs.

7. Chief's Report

▪ Training Report – Monthly

Lt Dickinson's monthly training report was in the hands of the Commissioners. A weeks worth of active shooter use of force training was completed.

Chief Finch described the dilemma facing officers when State law meets Federal law on such matters as drug laws, immigration and Federal highway jurisdiction. Sworn to uphold Connecticut law officers are generally not schooled in aspects of Federal law. Federal officers are called in for violations of Federal law.

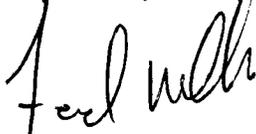
Informational: Per request, Chairman Duff authorized changing the July 2014 meeting date from 7/16/14 to 7/23/14 (Special Meeting) and the August 2014 meeting date from 8/20/14 to 8/27/14 (Special Meeting).

8. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners Duff, Rubino, McCollam and Kolwicz welcomed Richard Barton to the Commission.

At 7:40 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr  
Secretary