



# POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING  
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, SEP 17, 2014  
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

2014 SEP 19 P 12: 32

RECEIVED

ATTENDING:

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

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. General Public Comments  
None
2. Review of Past Minutes  
Motion by Comm Barton to accept minutes of 8/27/14; seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous
3. Budget Report
  - a) Comptrollers Report & Overtime Reports  
Commissioners considered the reports. Overtime continues to increase, according to Chief Finch, because of vacation time taken and, until recently, the shortage of two dispatchers.
4. Old Business
  - a) Monthly Reports  
Commissioners considered the reports from their packets.
  - b) Greenwood Av – Parking & Crosswalk  
Chief Finch noted that parking spaces and crosswalks are still an issue. Off. Jason Broad working with Lt Dickinson in his absence, stated that State DOT is still waiting for the Town to install a compliant ramps (with dimple pads) on Greenwood Av. There is an issue with parking spaces across from Rector St and the bus stop in front of Dolan Plaza has yet to be moved.
5. New Business
  - a) John Menti: Building Committee  
John Menti Chairman of the Police Department Building Committee assisted by Co-Chair Nancy Ryan addressed the Commission concerning progress to-date.

As part of the presentation the Commission was informed that a public hearing will be held at Bethel High School on Wed October 15<sup>th</sup>. A video and Power-Point presentation concerning the project is planned to be added to the Town website. Informational displays will also be placed at the Municipal Center, the Library and possibly the Chamber of Commerce. The Commission thanked the Chairman and Cochairman and Building Committee as a whole for their dedication in the effort to make a new Police Department building a reality.

b) V. Hoch – 20 Highview Ter

One of several requests for speed bumps was denied by Off. Broad and Lt Dickinson as being unjustified. Speed monitoring determined the average (80<sup>th</sup> percentile) speed to be 23mph.

Motion by Chairman Duff to post 20mph signs in appropriate places on Lindberg St and Highview Ter; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous

c) A.M. Bagley – 14 Granite Dr

This request for speed bumps was denied. As part of their study Off. Broad and Lt Dickinson noted no speed limit signs posted on Granite Dr.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept Off. Broad's recommendation to install two 25 mph signs on Granite Dr; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous

d) J. Spak – 54 Chestnut St

This request for speed bumps was denied in favor of repositioning existing speed limit signs and adding selective enforcement. Also an obsolete school bus sign is to be removed.

Motion by Comm McCollam to better position speed limit signs on Chestnut St, remove the obsolete school bus sign and perform selective enforcement on Chestnut St; seconded by Comm Barton – unanimous.

e) Speed Limits: Farnam, Long Hill, Lindberg, Highview Ter

Chief Finch presented this request for approval of speed limits on Farnam Hill from Rt302 to Diamond Av (20mph), Long Hill Rd from Vail Rd to Ridge Rd (25mph), Lindberg St from Fleetwood Av to Bonnette Dr (20mph) and Highview Ter from Lindberg St to Grassy Plain Ter(20mph).

Motion by Comm McCollam to approve requested speed limit changes on Farnam Hill, Long Hill Rd, LindbergSt and Highview Ter and forward the same onto the proper State traffic authority; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous

f) Parking – Municipal Center

Three unmarked parking spaces are being used by commuters, parking all day.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to install 2 hour parking limit signs at three parking spaces at the Municipal Center; seconded by Comm Barton – unanimous.

g) Parking – South St, Bethel Fire

The Commission considered a Fire Dept request for “Fire Dept Work Zone” signs either side of their South St location on an already narrow road. Comm McCollam noted the difficulty of backing a ladder truck into the station when the road was partially blocked by parked cars. The Commission opted instead in

favor of "No Parking" signs. The Commission discussed other fire department related signs in the vicinity.

Motion by Comm Rubino to put "No Parking" signs across from the South St fire station; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous

Amended Motion by Comm Rubino to post "No Parking" signs 100 feet east and west of the South St fire station; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous

Motion by Comm McCollam to replace an old "Fire Dept" sign with an updated version and place an additional sign at the Nashville Rd side; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

h) Fleetwood & Mansfield

This request encompassed striping a stop bar on the road and repairing the flashing warning lights. The Highway Dept is responsible for the flashing light repair.

Motion by Comm McCollam to add a stop bar as recommended; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous

i) Bethel Sand & Gravel – Site Plan

This proposal for a 71 single family home development on the site of Bethel Sand & Gravel was studied in detail by Commission members. A pond will remain and the hairpin intersection rounded and improved. One question was whether the internal roads would be private or transferred to the Town. Emergency vehicle access would become an issue if parking is allowed on the narrow roads. Also no sidewalks are indicated on the site plans outside of the development. Safe-route-to-school sidewalks are on the other side of Plumtrees Rd.

Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the recommendations of Off. Broad with additional Commission addressed concerns and forward onto the Planning & Zoning Commission; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

j) St Mary's Road Race – Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

Chief Finch reported no issues in the past in this well managed road race

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to approve the St Mary's road race; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

k) General Orders

The following existing general orders included changes indicated by the Chief and discussed by the Commission. Interagency agreement, where needed, was requested by Comm McCollam.

(1) Chapter 6, Section 6 - Police Reports

(2) Chapter 11, Section 2 - Emergency & Code

(3) Chapter 2, Section 2 - Written Communications

(4) Chapter 11, Section 1- Dispatching

(5) Chapter 3, Section 9 - Promotion

Motion by Comm McCollam that the Following General Orders for revisions dated 9/17/14 be accepted as presented: Chapter 6, Section 6 Police Reports; Chapter 11, Section 2 Emergency & Code; Chapter 2, Section 2 Written Communications; Chapter 11, Section 1 Dispatching; Chapter 3, Section 9 Promotion; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - unanimous

5. Correspondence

a) Mr Dibble – Highway Dept, Walnut Hill Rd  
Letter mentioning work on intersection of Walnut Hill Rd and Shelter Rock Rd, requesting minor changes in signage which will be brought before the Commission in a future meeting.

6. Chief's Report

• Retirement – Sgt J Wright, effective Oct 1st

Chief Finch reported on the honor accorded retiring Det Sgt J Wright as he left for the airport with a midnight shift escort from his home. The balance of his remaining time was taken as owed vacation.

• New Dispatcher

A new dispatcher has been hired, Jake Barriere, bringing Dispatch up to full staff

• Rt58 Closed Sept 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>

Noted by the Chief

7. Commissioner Comments

Comm Barton noted a problem with the St Thomas church one-way access. Lt Dickinson to review this for a future meeting.

Comm Rubino noted a pedestrian access problem with the cross walk at St Mary's Church. The crosswalk is probably not needed according to the commissioner.

Comm McCollam noted the crosswalk on Rt302 & Judd Av does not have a landing. The Commissioner also added that he wishes Jim Wright well in retirement

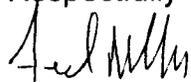
Chairman Duff addressed the firearm safety training proposed for the police range as part of a process from training to the issuing of licenses. He asked that no less than 5 and no more than 10 be in training at the same time and that there be only 1 live shooter on the line at a time. Obtaining signed liability releases from students and licensed instructors will be necessary so the Department and Town face no potential legal issues. Comm McCollam strongly recommended that each instructor carry their own personal liability insurance.

At 8:45 motion by Comm Kolwicz to go into executive session for purpose of discussing safety and security assessments and invite Chief Finch to attend; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous

At 9:15 the Commission came out of executive session

At 9:16 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr  
Secretary