



POLICE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, OCT 22, 2014
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

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

2014 OCT 24 A 11:18

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

1. Consideration of Police Sergeant Promotion
Chairman Duff stated that the Commission is to go into executive session to discuss promotion to sergeant.
2. Executive Session
At 6:02 motion by Comm Rubino to go into executive session: seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous
The Commission came out of executive session at 7:05. The meeting resumed.
Motion by Chairman Duff to promote Det George Bryce to the position of Sergeant; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.
3. Review of Past Minutes 9/17/14
Comm Kolwicz noted item 5f should have read “---install 2 hour parking limit signs at five parking spaces at the Municipal Center” rather than the “two” indicated.
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the amended minutes of 9/19/14; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.
4. Budget Report
 - a) Comptrollers Report & Overtime Reports
Commissioners considered the reports from their packets. Chief Finch noted that overtime has come down somewhat over the last month and a half. The new dispatcher is still on training and as yet not on their own. An “other” category was questioned by Comm Rubino. Chief Finch stated the category as a “compilation of many little items” too numerous to itemize.
Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the Budget Report as written; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

5. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Commissioners considered the reports from their packets without comment.

b) Parking – Greenwood Ave

Marking of some parking spots has been done by Bob Dibble but the actual painting has not as yet been done according to the Chief. Measuring miscalculation in some spots caused the State to as yet not approve the parking plan. A curb line cannot be painted until parking spaces are painted according to Lt Dickinson. Extent of designated parking areas and the parking congestion at the Burger King end of Greenwood was discussed. Chief Finch stated the issue as whether or not those spaces should be marked. Comm McCollam favored marking allowed parking spaces. Chairman Duff favored indicating where parking is not allowed. Chairman Duff stated the Commission's position as one of wanting the street marked, but waiting on the State for its approval in order to proceed.

Comm Rubino floated his idea that a follow-up plan is needed for signage and other traffic related motions passed by Commission vote. It reflects on the Commission when nothing gets done within a reasonable period of time. His suggestion was for a six month review. Comm Barton felt a three month review was better. While Highway Department related items are usually handled without delay, the State can take up to six months according to Lt Dickinson. The State has to send their own traffic engineer to make a study, the results of which has to go before a State commission. The need for a contact person was stressed by Comm McCollam, described by Lt Dickinson as likely being the Chairman of State Traffic Administration. A follow-up letter form will be drafted at the next Commission meeting according to Chairman Duff.

6. New Business

a) 5K Santa Run – November 29, 2014

No problems with the route or any traffic control issues were perceived, according to Chief Finch, for this Chamber of Commerce request.

Motion by Comm McCollam to grant the request to the Bethel Chamber of Commerce for the 5K Santa Run race; seconded by Comm Barton – unanimous.

b) Greenwood Av & Depot Place

Request from the First Selectman to prohibit large trucks turning from Greenwood Av onto Depot Pl. Tractor trailers are the problem according to the Chief, pickups and most box trucks do not have the problem. Several times a year the State has to repair or realign the traffic light on the corner when contacted by tractor trailers turning right onto Depot Pl. Lt Dickinson stated that pushing those trucks up another road would put them on Rector St which would create other problems. The lieutenant asked that he be allowed to confer with the State and have them come up with a signage solution.

Motion by Chairman Duff to concur with Lt Dickinson report on Greenwood Av and Depot Pl traffic issues, have him confer with the appropriate person at the State D.O.T. to evaluate this problem; seconded by Comm Barton – unanimous.

7. Correspondence

• Letters of Appreciation

Chairman Duff read a letter of appreciation for Chief Finch and Capt Bruckenthal in representing the Department's interest at the 10/15 Town Meeting concerning the need for the construction of a new police Station. Letters from the Commission to Chief Finch and Capt Bruckenthal are attached to these minutes as an addendum.

8. Chief's Report

• Training

Lt Dickinson's training report was in the hands of Commissioners.

Sergeant Wright's retirement created an opening. Chief Finch stated he will explore the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association testing process run every six months. This will be cheaper and give access to a larger base of candidates.

The new totally computer based accident report software will be implemented within a few weeks.

9. Commissioner Comments

Comm Kolwicz called for a solution for the safety of pedestrians using the crosswalk in front of Dolan Plaza. Drivers continue to speed past cars stopped for pedestrians in the process of crossing. The stopped car blocks the view of cars passing on the right, which could eventually lead to a serious or fatal accident. The wide road and speeding exacerbates the problem according to the Commissioner. Since this is a State road, the Commission designated Lt Dickinson to confer with State concerning this problem and ask for a solution.

At 7:58 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary

Addendum

POLICE COMMISSION, BETHEL, CONNECTICUT

TO : Chief Jeffery Finch

FROM: Bethel Police Commission

Subj: Letter of Appreciation

22 OCT. 2014

Dear Chief Jeffery Finch,

It is with great pleasure that the Bethel Police Commission commend and thank you for your active participation this past Wednesday Evening (15 Oct 2014). Your informative presentation to the community concerning the construction of a new Police Station was most impressive. Your presentation indicated that you properly prepared and your comprehensive research was evident.

You are to be commended for your precise well prepared documentation. Your professional articulation of this critical phase of this most important project has enabled the community to more fully understand the importance of this much needed infrastructure improvement.

Thank you for your help in this community project.

With sincere appreciation,

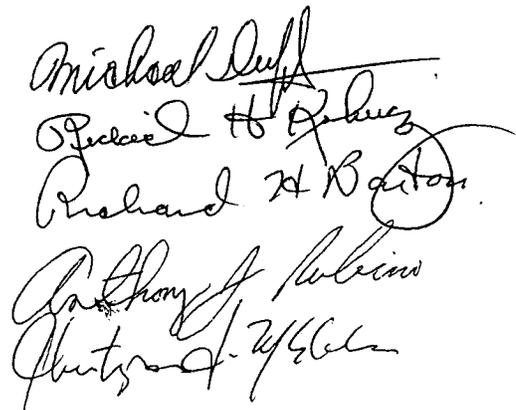
Commissioner Richard Barton

Commissioner Michael Duff, Chairman

Commissioner Richard Kolwicz, Vice Chairman

Commissioner Christopher McCollam

Commissioner Anthony Rubino



Handwritten signatures of the Bethel Police Commission members: Michael Duff, Richard H. Barton, Anthony J. Rubino, and Christopher J. McCollam.

POLICE COMMISSION, BETHEL, CONNECTICUT

TO : CAPT. David Brockenthal
FROM: Bethel Police Commission
Subj: Letter of Appreciation
22 OCT. 2014

Dear Capt. David Brockenthal,

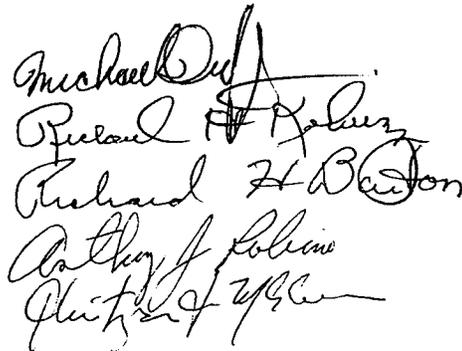
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With sincere appreciation,

Commissioner Richard Barton
Commissioner Michael Duff, Chairman
Commissioner Richard Kolwicz, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Christopher McCollam
Commissioner Anthony Rubino



Handwritten signatures of the Bethel Police Commission members: Michael Duff, Richard Kolwicz, Richard H. Barton, Anthony J. Rubino, and Christopher McCollam.