



POLICE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING:

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

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

1. General Public Comments

Leonard Summa of 11 Hearthstone Dr spoke on behalf of a recent petition of Sky Edge Dr residents recently mailed to the Department. The request was for speed bumps to slow speeding traffic on that road. Mr Summa noted speeding cars, especially on the upper (Chimney Dr) end of Sky Edge as he helps dispatch his son's children to school.

Edger Amaya of 13 Sky Edge Dr also spoke in favor of speed bumps aimed at slowing traffic.

Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill Rd stated she was misquoted in the 4/16/14 Police Commission minutes. Ms Cleary asked that the word complained be changed to "commented".

2. Review of Past Minutes for 4/16/14

Chairman Duff noted that per Ms Ann Cleary's request the word "complained" in General Public Comments (minutes 4/16/14) be changed to "commented".

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the amended minutes of 4/16/14; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

3. Budget Report

a) Comptrollers Report

Commissioners considered the reports and noted nothing out of the ordinary. Chief Finch noted for Commissioners the meal reimbursements paid to officers attending training sessions.

b) Overtime Report

Commissioners considered the reports. Chief Finch stated year-to-date overtime is \$64K less than last year. The Department is short one dispatcher at this time but plans are to hire another dispatcher within 3 weeks. Being already certified

this candidate need only to learn the computer operating system. Other categories such as sick time and prisoner watch are also lower than last year.

4. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Commissioners considered the reports. Bicycle riding safety and abuses were briefly discussed.

5. New Business

Chief Finch noted the new numbering system for general orders and the printing of a running book, better organization and the ability to be indexed onto a CD.

a) General Orders

Chapter 3/Section 15, Early Warning System. Reviewed.

Chapter 6/Section 7, Missing Persons. Reviewed.

Chapter 11/Section 1, Dispatching. Reviewed

Chapter 15/Section 6, Drug Drop Box. Describes the system currently utilized twice a year, whereby residents can dispose of unwanted, outdated or no longer needed medications. Chief Finch stated the installation of a permanent box is being planned.

Motion by Comm McCollam that the following General Orders for revisions dated 5/21/14 be accepted as presented: Chapter 3/Section 15, Early Warning System; Chapter 6/Section 7, Missing Persons; Chapter 11/Section 1, Dispatching; Chapter 15/Section 6, Drug Drop Box; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

b) Multiple Sclerosis Bike Ride – June 8th

The Multiple Sclerosis Society has run this race for the past eight years.

Lt Dickinson described the course. The participants, according to the lieutenant quickly get so strung out that the ride poses no traffic issues

c) Speed Bumps – Sky Edge (pre-notice)

Lt Dickinson responded to a petition by Sky Edge Dr residents requesting speed bumps to slow traffic on their street. A traffic analysis was conducted which determined the mean average speed to be 27 mph with low truck traffic and a peak vehicle count of 202 per hour. Going back 6 ½ years the road shows a safe, extremely low collision history for both frequency and severity. The area is residential in nature with many pull-in and back-out driveways. Sight lines have a restricted view because the road is basically a hill and many yards have views of the road obstructed by bushes. Pedestrians and cyclists find walking or biking on the road difficult because there are no sidewalks and cars passing one another leave even less room for these activities. Two solutions would be clearing roadside obstructions for a better view exiting driveways and safer pedestrian use and that cars should pull out rather than having to back out, change gears and get up to speed. Selective enforcement by the police would also help.

Also the Walnut Hill bridge project has diverted a lot of traffic onto secondary roads such as Sky Edge which normally had lower traffic volume. When completed, drivers using alternate routes will revert to this more direct route lessening traffic volume on roads such as Sky Edge Dr. Chairman Duff noted Sky Edge's problem as being typical for New England, namely roads designed for volume and speed existing 100 years or more ago. The report from the State and a traffic analysis done after the bridge is open may lead to a solution. The Chairman stated that this matter will be looked at again.

d) Summer Festival – July 12 & 13 (pre-notice)

Capt Bruckenthal described the plans for this year's Summer Festival have been changed from last year. The plan is to close School St from noon Saturday 7/12 through 5 pm Sunday so vendors can maintain their set ups in the street. Two officers will be needed Saturday noon to 9pm, one officer overnight 9pm to 9am and two officers Sunday 9am to 5pm. In addition 2 officers will be needed at a Friday night beer tasting festival (pre-sold wrist bands) 5:30 to 9:30. Parking will be accommodated behind the Municipal Center, the lot to be opened at both ends. Comm Kolwicz asked that blinking lights be used at the road closure barriers. Comm McCollam asked if signs can be posted a week in advance warning drivers of the upcoming road closure.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to grant approval for the Summer Festival based on Capt Bruckenthal's road closure recommendations from noon Saturday to 5 pm Sunday; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

e) Rt53, Francis Clarke Park State Light Upgrades

Chairman Duff noted this is Traffic Commission information only to be forwarded onto the responsible parties.

f) School Signs, State Sign-Off

Chairman Duff noted this Traffic Authority document is to be forwarded onto the responsible parties.

g) Site Plan – 22 Stony Hill Rd

This proposal for a gas station, convenience store and doughnut shop was determined by the Commission to result in a "complicated" site plan which had the potential to bottle-neck traffic. Planning and Zoning is having a traffic engineering firm review and report on the proposed plan on the Town's behalf. Chairman Duff recommended tabling this matter.

Motion by Comm McCollam to table the site plan for 22 Stony Hill Rd pending the receipt of the traffic report; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

h) Site Plan – Hickok

Removed from agenda.

6. Correspondence

a) Animal Shelter donation letter from family of deceased resident. Comm Kolwicz asked that a thank you letter be drafted. Chief Finch will attend to this.

b) Letter from First Selectman notifying of a new ordinance under consideration concerning overnight parking on Town property.

c) Letter notifying the Department of a marijuana dispensary (for medical purposes only) to be opened in the Garella Rd area. A Town Hall meeting will be held 5/27 concerning this matter from 4:30 to 6:00 and 6:00 to 9:00.

7. Chief's Report

▪ Training Report – Monthly

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

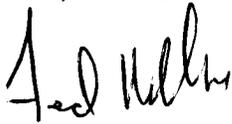
8. Commissioner Comments

Comm McCollam asked about Greenwood Av repaving. Lt Dickinson stated that while the Town will paint the parking spaces, the State will repaint the center line, cross walks, railroad markings and stop bars. The missing mid-block crosswalk mentioned at the last Commission meeting (minutes 4/16/14 item 5b) has been taken care of. The State now requires "to-scale" drawings of the markings approved by the Police Commission, the local traffic authority. Comm McCollam asked that the Town Engineer appear before the Commission at that meeting along with the plans.

Chairman Duff complimented Chief Finch and Capt Bruckenthal for the overall appearance of officers at the Memorial Day parade

At 7:45 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary