



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, OCT 21, 2015
MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST MEETING ROOM "A"

RECEIVED

2015 OCT 26 P 12: 07

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RICHARD BARTON

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

Because residents were in attendance, motion by Chairman Duff to consider "Oxford St" first under New Business; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - unanimous.

1. Public Input
Nick Ellis of 13 Fawn Rd expressed his displeasure on the Commission's approving dollar amounts without proof of expenditure. Chairman Duff stated the Commission never sees hard copies of any bills, they do ask to see copies and/or require explanations from the Chief when necessary.
2. Review of Past Minutes
Comm McCollam pointed out minutes of 9/16/15 Item 4, Judd Av should read "Motion by **Comm** McCollam to follow ----"
Motion by Chairman Duff to accept the amended minutes of 9/16/15; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.
3. Budget Report
 - a) Comptroller's Report
The Comptroller's Report was in the hands of the Commissioners. Commissioners questioned several line items.
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.
 - b) Overtime Report

Chief Finch noted short shift overtime as not being as bad as it could be. Overall year-to-date overtime is more than anticipated and this condition will continue into January and February until officers graduating from the Academy finish field training. Chairman Duff questioned extra duty fees and the presence on the street of unfamiliar officers. Chief Finch explained the fees and stated that when Bethel officers are not available, officers from Newtown and Brookfield are hired for these jobs.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the report as presented; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

4. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Chief Finch reported burglaries as being higher than usual. Comm McCollam questioned the discrepancy between the Department's crime numbers and those recently published by the newspaper using State generated data. Chief Finch explained that if two major felonies occur during the same incident, the Department counts only the worst in a hierarchy of crimes while the State would count both.

Motion by Comm McCollam to accept the Monthly Reports; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - unanimous

5. New Business

• Oxford St

In response to a complaint from residents of Oxford St concerning speeding cars using Oxford St as a shortcut both Lt Dickinson and Chief Finch inspected the area in question. Lt Dickinson reported the street as having low traffic volume and was accident free last year. The State Traffic Commission will not issue speed limits below 25mph as requested by residents. The STC also controls "No Through Truck" posting. The lieutenant pointed out the nuisance of speed bumps namely vibration to nearby dwellings, trucks dropping items on the road, braking noise, increased speed before and after the bumps, necessary signage. Chairman Duff suggested this item be tabled until the next meeting and an in-depth study be conducted by Lt Dickinson so that the Commission will be working on "solid information". Mr Pelaccio of 11 Oxford St addressed the Commission on this issue describing an incident where a cat was hit by a car which did not even slow down. Children, according to Mr Pelaccio and other residents in attendance, could easily be the next victims. Other residents spoke as well describing their concerns in the same language. A copy of the signed petition requesting speed bumps and signs was presented to Chairman Duff. While in favor of speed bumps, as a taxpayer with the right to use Bethel public roads, Nick Ellis bristled at the concept of limited access signs.

• Mansfield St – No Through Truck

Commissioner packets included copy of the First Selectman's request to the State for "No Through Truck" posting on Mansfield St. An answer from the State is expected.

• Cherry La Through Traffic

The First Selectman asks the Commission if something other than requested speed bumps can solve this complaint. Lt Dickinson described his past contact with the complainant and his solution that the site line be improved by brush cutting (which was done) and that the owner back in and pull out from his driveway rather than backing out

into traffic. Except for a single mechanical related accident, the road has been accident free the last few years. Timing of lights on Reservoir and South St have been revised to improve the flow of traffic which along with existing speed bumps has made traffic less inclined to use the route in question. Chairman Duff requested that other residents on the street be consulted before additional speed bumps are considered.

- McNeil Rd

In response to forwarded complaints from McNeil Rd residents concerning the road's use as a cut through, Comms Rubino and McCollam were annoyed that it was not already done, referred to minutes of 9/16/15 item 4 New Business motion that the Commission "---endorse the request of the First Selectman to make McNeil a cul-de-sac by closing off the southern end---". Since Commission approval was the last step in the process, the Commission advises the Board of Selectmen that they now have the authority to close the street and should do so.

- Rt53/Whitney/Fleetwood Light Upgrade

The State's inquiry as to the need for a public meeting concerning this light upgrade should according to Lt Dickinson be answered as "not needed". Chairman Duff and the Commission agreed for a minor upgrade item such as this.

- New England Bikeway

This bike path from the Canadian border to Norwalk CT uses Bethel for a portion of its route from Brookfield to Old Hawleyville to Hawleyville crosses Rt6 to Benedict, left on Walnut, right on Rockwell, Plumtrees into Bethel, Maple Ave to Nashville out to Rt53. Lt Dickinson biked the Bethel portion to determine if any problems exist. No safety issues exist according to the lieutenant although a couple of route marker signs need to be changed.

Motion by Chairman Duff to accept the proposal; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

- 5K Santa Race 11/28/15 Chamber of Commerce

This 5K race starting at 8:30 am should last 1hr 15min. It took place last year without issues and the organizing body requests approval for this year. Five police officers and 16 volunteers will provide security.

Motion by Chairman Duff to accept the 5K Santa Race; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

- Site Plan 46 Taylor Av

Lt Dickinson described this as an 8 unit multi family development. The only problem is insufficient sight lines in both directions between a sharp curve and an incline for pull-in back-out parking.

Motion by Chairman Duff to table this item until the next meeting in order that the Commission can more closely inspect the site; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

- Bad Checks

Chief Finch described the 8 day letter law as giving the individual writing the bad check 8 days to make good on the amount. Writing checks on closed accounts is larceny but

there are still necessary procedural steps to be taken. The Department's part in this is to make the procedure known to merchants and educate them as to the law.

•SROMOU Board of Education

Chief Finch reported the final draft of his MOU (memorandum of understanding) concerning SRO (school resource officer) operations is complete. Chairman Duff noted one name correction which needs to be made.

Motion by Chairman Duff to accept the draft of the SROMOU with correction; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

•General Orders

Largely arising by direction of the CALEA inspector, changes to the following General Orders were described by the Chief:

Ch2 Sec 1	Command Structure	Ch5 Sec 2	Taser
Ch2 Sec 2	Written Communications	Ch5 Sec 3	Department Firearms
Ch2 Sec 10	Fiscal Management	Ch6 Sec 4	Criminal Investigations
Ch2 Sec 14	Goals and Objectives (new)	Ch6 Sec 5	Police Response
Ch3 Sec 4	Sick Vacation Benefit Time	Ch6 Sec 9	Mentally Ill
Ch3 Sec 5	Citizen Complaints	Ch7 Sec 1	Active Shooters
Ch3 Sec 7	Disciplinary Policy	Ch8 Sec 6	Traffic Direction & Signage
Ch3 Sec 11	Evaluation Procedure	Ch9 Sec 2	Criminal Intelligence
Ch4 Sec 1	Arrest	Ch9 Sec 6	Vise, Drugs
Ch4 Sec 2	Warrants, Arrest & Search	Ch9 Sec 7	Informants
Ch4 Sec 5	Prisoner Processing	Ch10 Sec 1	Evidence Collection
Ch4 Sec 6	Holding Facility	Ch10 Sec 2	Property Room
Ch5 Sec 1	Use of Force	Ch11 Sec 1	Dispatching
		Ch12 Sec 1	Training

Motion by Comm McCollam that the following new General Order be accepted as presented Ch2 Sec 14 Goals and Objectives; seconded by Comm Kolwicz - unanimous

Motion by Comm McCollam that the following General Orders (as listed above less Ch2 Sec14) with revisions dated 10/21/15 be accepted; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

6. Promotion

Town Clerk Lisa Bergh performed the swearing in procedure.

Motion by Chairman Duff that James Christos be promoted to Sergeant effective immediately (7:00 pm 10/21/15); seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

7. Correspondence

Thank you letter Det Zavetsky. Copy in personnel file.

8. Police Building

The Commission discussed issues connected with the proposed police building.

9. Chief's Report
The next Police Commission meeting will be 11/16/15 (special meeting) with the scheduled 11/18/15 (regular meeting) cancelled because Chief Finch will be in Miami for CALEA accreditation.
Chief Finch will consult with Commissioners to set a separate date for police candidate interviews.
10. Commissioner Comments
None
11. Executive Session
At 8:12 motion by Comm Kolwicz to go into executive session on a personnel issue and invite Chief Finch to attend ; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.
- At 8:30 pm the Commission came out of executive session
- At 8:31 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary