



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, OCT 19, 2016
MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST MEETING ROOM "B"

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
COMMISSIONER AMY MANNION
COMMISSIONER KEVIN CLEARY
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ATTENDANCE; Police Officers 2
Citizens 1

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.
The Commission welcomed Kevin Cleary as Police Commissioner

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

1. Public Input
None
2. Review of Past Minutes
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept minutes of 9/21/16; seconded by Comm Mannion – motion passed with Comm Cleary in abstention due to non-presence.
3. Budget Report
 - a) Comptrollers Report
None
 - b) Overtime Report
Chief Finch reported expenses continue to climb due to 20% missing personnel (3 at the Academy, 3 injured and out). Recent graduates are doing field training.
4. Old Business
 - a) Monthly Reports
Commissioners considered the reports. The Chief will follow up on one blank entry. The Chief commented on two year-to-date reports.

Two items were added to New Business, Traffic on Hickok and Nashville Rd.

5. New Business
 - School Complex – Whittlesey Dr.
The School Superintendent appeared neutral to the request for speed bumps arising from Mr Larry Crabas' request (see minutes 9/21/16 New Business). Lt Dickinson's

placing of the speed counter showed an 85 percentile speed of 26 mph on Whittlesey. Comm Mannion stated and Comm Kolwicz agreed that further analysis should wait until the Plumtrees-Whittlesey intersection is completed. Chief Finch favored an earlier decision while the weather still allows speed bump installation. Lt Dickinson's position is that anything which would put more traffic onto Judd Av is preferable.

Commissioners discussed options such as signs doubling fines and the when and where of the installation of speed bumps.

Motion by Chairman Duff to table this issue until construction is completed and evaluation made then; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

- Plumtrees & Whittlesey Bridge

In a letter the State is looking for Commission concurrence that the design is good. Photographs were presented to the Commissioners showing, with turnoffs, the bridge as appearing to be a four lane highway, two lanes in either direction.

Motion that the Commission endorses the State's recommendations concerning the bridge at the Plumtrees & Whittlesey intersection; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

- General Order Revisions

Changes to the following general orders were described by the Chief. Commissioners had copies in hand with changes highlighted.

Chapter 1, Section 2 "Code of Ethics"

Chapter 1, Section 4 "Mutual Aid"

Chapter 2, Section 7 "Extra Duty Work" (note not accepted)

Chapter 3, Section 2 "Dress Code"

Chapter 3, Section 4 "Sick Vacation Time"

Chapter 3, Section 5 "Civilian Complaint & Investigations"

Chapter 3, Section 11 "Evaluation Procedures"

Chapter 5, Section 1 "Use of Force & Less Lethal"

Chapter 6, Section 3 "Department Overtime and Ordering In"

Chapter 6, Section 4 "Criminal Investigations"

Chapter 7, Section 7 "Warrantless Searches"

Chapter 15, Section 3 "OSHA Hazardous Material"

Chapter 15, Section 4 "Respiratory Protection Program"

Motion by Comm Mannion to accept modifications to (above) general orders with the exception of Chapter 2, Section 7 "Extra Duty Work" for further consideration at the next meeting; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

- Traffic Signage- Stop-Ahead Signs

In a continued effort to remove the proliferation of road signs in Bethel, Chief Finch asked that "Stop-Ahead" signs be evaluated as to relevance and removed when deemed unnecessary because the stop sign itself is immediately visible ahead. Two were mentioned though others will be considered in the future. One below Hickok on Plumtrees and the other Nashville to Chestnut by Whaley's Flower. Lt Dickinson agreed that too many signs detract drivers' attention from those concerned with safety. Signs that are inappropriate or illegal need to be identified and removed. Chief Finch stated that unlike authorized signs, signs which the Commission never authorized can be removed without Commission approval. Comm Kolwicz asked why unauthorized

signs are being installed while others passed by motion in Commission meetings were not as well as guardrails. Chairman Duff asked Lt Dickinson to submit the work list of these items on a monthly basis so the Commission can "take issue with it".

Motion to authorize Chief Finch to remove those signs he feels should be removed and instruct Lt Dickinson to conduct an observation program to ascertain which signs are necessary or illegal and obsolete and should be removed; seconded by Comm Cleary – unanimous

- Truck Traffic on Hickok

The Commission considered a request from Bill McGillrath of 15 Hickok Av that truck traffic on that road be limited due to steep grades and tight "S" curves. Lt Dickinson stated that the STC controls "No Thru Trucks" (in transit from one town through requesting town to another town without stopping) posting on roads. The state would also approve when there is a physical need such as a too tight bridge. This will be tabled until the next meeting to allow Lt Dickinson to gather more information.

- Nashville Rd

In a letter Martin Laurian of 113 Nashville Rd complained about excessive speeding, especially trucks since the road was repaved and the loss of a sight line from the driveway in one direction since the road was straightened at that location. The percentage of truck traffic is much higher than on other roads because trucks do not want to risk going under the Turkey Plain Rd railroad bridge even if they could. Lt Dickinson recommends speed signage to start with, then curb lines to reduce the apparent width of the road with speed bumps as a last alternative.

Motion by Chairman Duff to install applicable speed signs at this time with the option of considering other solutions in the future; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous

6. Correspondence

Numerous complimentary correspondence as received during the month.

7. Police Building

Various possible construction cost cuts were weighed. A public meeting Tuesday 10/25/16 at the Municipal Center will interact with the architect and contractor to discuss potential cuts. Afterwards an acceptable plan will be made which will be sent out for bids.

8. Chief's Report

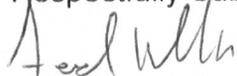
None

9. Commissioner Comments

Chairman Duff thanked all Commissioner members for their participation.

At 8:08 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary