



# POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, FEB 20, 2008  
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS ELLIS  
COMMISSIONER ANDREW MATTURRO  
COMMISSIONER CHRIS McCOLLAM  
COMMISSIONER HUGO GRECO  
COMMISSIONER BILL OCHS  
CHIEF JEFFREY W. FINCH

**RECEIVED**

FEB 27 2008

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

1. General Public Comments:  
In attendance was Paul Glorioso, owner of the Wine Lovers Shop at PT Barnum Square. The two hour limit on PT Barnum and one hour limit on Main St, next to the store is too long according to Mr Glorioso and even this is abused. Most transactions with businesses in the square can be accomplished in five to ten minutes. Mr Glorioso's request was for an 'after 4:00' 15 minute parking limit for the three spaces on the Main St side of the store. Currently customers have to continue to circle before a space opens. An additional request was for a stop sign at this intersection as some traffic treat this turn like a super speedway. Comm McCollam asked if other business owners were in sympathy with this request. Mr Glorioso answered in the affirmative.
2. Review of Past Minutes Jan 16, 2008 and Feb 7, 2008:  
Motion by Comm Greco to accept the minutes of 1/16/08 Regular Meeting; seconded by Comm Maturro – unanimous.  
Motion by Comm Maturro to accept the minutes of 2/7/08 Special Meeting; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.
3. Budget Report:  
Overtime dropped somewhat in January through mid February according to Chief Finch. Commissioners questioned Chief Finch and Lt Dickinson concerning certain expense and reimbursement items. Comm McCollam asked if large expenses and reimbursements can be indicated on the report as to what they were for. Since the report comes from the Comptrollers office the request will be made there. Motion by Comm Maturro to accept the budget report; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

4. Old Business:

a) Monthly reports

Chief Finch noted that the Criminal Arrest Report now includes data from past years. A new print-out of arrests is now included. The DUI Report may be phased out and the data added to the new motor vehicle accident report. This report will eventually include fatal accidents and include the four or five major intersections where most accidents occur. Much of this data gathering will hopefully be more automatic when the new computer system is installed.

Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the monthly reports as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

5. New Business:

a) Main St Parking

Chief Finch is receptive to the 15 minute parking on the three Main St parking spaces adjacent to the Wine Lovers Shop between the hours of 4 pm and 9 pm. There is more than enough parking, not only in PT Barnum Sq but also on Greenwood Av and School St according to Chief Finch. There is also off-street parking according to Comm McCollam for the restaurant and other businesses.

Comm Greco wondered if similar requests will be made by other businesses as a result. Initial enforcement will be necessary and other business owners will have to be notified according to Chief Finch. Comm Maturro suggested a trial period to see how it works and the response it generates. Motion by Comm Maturro to install signs limiting parking to 15 minutes between the hours of 4 pm and 9 pm for a three month trial time period on the three Main St parking spaces at the intersection with PT Barnum Sq; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous. The results can be reviewed at the May commission meeting.

b) Crosswalk at Bethel Cinema

In response to a resident's call about the danger of crossing Greenwood Av at Bethel Cinema, Chief Finch assigned Lt Dickinson to study the crosswalk at that location. The crosswalk is well positioned and marked according to the lieutenant. The only addition will be a portable crosswalk sign. The Town is scheduled to add crosshatching and parking space markings to the road at the point where Greenwood widens to create a lane reduction which will better focus driver attention to the center of the road and reduce crossing distance.

c) Speed Limit Signs

Lt Dickinson's request for establishing speed limits as a legal posting on Codfish Hill – 25mph; Wolfpits Rd - 25mph; Old Hawleyville Rd from Route 6 to Brookfield town line -25mph; Old

Hawleyville Rd from Route 6 to Route 302 – 30mph; Sunset Hill Rd - 25mph; Plumtrees Rd from Maple Av to Old Hawleyville Rd - 30mph; Plumtrees Rd from Old Hawleyville Rd to the Newtown town line – 25mph. New signs will also be placed where needed. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept Lt Dickinson's list of recommended roads for establishing speed limits; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

d) Shelter Rock Rd Stop Sign

In response to a recent bad accident with injuries at Shelter Rock and Payne Rd, Lt Dickinson was assigned to study the intersection. To improve perception of the stop sign it could be moved closer to the road and a "Stop Sign Ahead" sign posted. Motion by Comm McCollam to approve a "Stop Sign Ahead" sign eastbound on Shelter Rock; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

e) Plumtrees 20mph Sign

Chief Finch requested that the Slow 20mph warning sign at Plumtrees and Taylor be replaced by an intersection sign with the flashers left in place and the old intersection and "Slow Children" signs be removed. Motion by Comm McCollam that Lt Dickinson's recommendation for signage in the area of Plumtrees and Taylor be approved; seconded by Chairman Ellis – unanimous.

Motion by Chairman Ellis to add Judd Av to New Business as item (f); seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

f) A letter from the resident of 39 Judd Av described the many accidents on the hill and resulting damage to her property over the years. Five to six accidents over the past two plus years were during the winter. The complaint is that the road becomes very dangerous during storms and the Town Department's effort to clear and sand the road is inadequate. The request is that the road be closed during snow storms until the road can be plowed and sanded. Chief Finch feels certain intersections in Town need to be plowed and sanded first and consider closing Judd at the top during the start of a snow storm. The Commission discussed available resources needed to close this and other similar roads and determine when it is safe to open them again. Comm McCollam stressed the need to contact residents of Reynolds Ridge to use the main entrance and not use the emergency exit during snow storms which feeds out onto Judd. Chief Finch stressed the need to concentrate on similar roads in town and the need to plow and sand them first. The Chief will confer with Bob Dibble on this.

Motion by Chairman Ellis to add "No Thru Trucks" on Farnum and High St to New Business as item (g).; seconded by Comm McCollam.

g) According to Chief Finch a request for "No Thru Trucks" on Farnum and Grand and High Streets was filed with the State. The Chief asks that the Commission appeal the request to Farnum and High St. Motion by Chairman Ellis to appeal Farnum and High St to the State to reconsider "No Thru Trucks"; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

6. Correspondence:  
A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Dickin Brown of 21 Midway Dr thanked Det George Bryce for his efforts on an identity theft case.

Chief's Report:

The awards dinner is scheduled for 6:30, the evening of March 7<sup>th</sup> at Stony Hill Inn and Commission members are encouraged to attend.

Chief Finch brought to the attention of the Commission his discussion with the Police Union on their request for the creation of another sergeants position to help with shift supervision which often relies on a corporal working as an acting sergeant. Corporal is a temporary appointment within the Department.

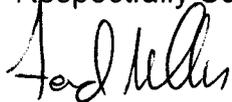
Selective enforcement on Old Hawleyville, Chestnut Ridge, Plumtrees east of Old Hawleyville, Ridgedale and Wooster.

Comm McCollam complimented Off Christos in aiding in a medical emergency with a past commissioner.

8. Commissioner Comments:  
None

At 6:48 motion by Chairman Ellis to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous

Respectfully Submitted



Ferdinand Miller Jr.

Secretary