



# POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008  
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

**RECEIVED**

MAY 27 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

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

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

1. General Public Comments:  
William McIlrath of 15 Hickok Ave complained about his road being used as a commuter shortcut to and from Newtown. This situation began when Milwaukee was realigned with Hickok and has been continually getting worse according to Mr McIlrath. A complete traffic and safety study of Hickok and surrounding roads is requested by residents of Hickok and Golden Hill via a fifty five signature petition presented to the Commission. Several solutions are offered including a traffic sign at the intersection with Golden Hill for westbound traffic; sidewalks for Hickok; widening of the road; making Hickok one-way in part or in total; making Hickok "one way do not enter" on Hickok at Maple. A moratorium on new construction is required until the requested safety study is finished and improvements as determined, completed.  
Chairman Ellis stated this matter will be added to the agenda.
2. Review of Past Minutes Apr 16, 2008  
Motion by Comm Matturro to accept the minutes of 4/16/08 Regular Meeting; seconded by Chairman Ellis – unanimous.
3. Budget Report:  
Several extra reports concerning expenditures and intake of monies were added by the Chief for the edification of the Commission. Notable was communication staffing at \$74K to date. The Chief responded to questions on a few line items. Motion by Comm Matturro to accept the budget report as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

4. Old Business:  
Motion by Chairman Ellis to add Durant Ave back under Old Business as item 4b; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

a) Monthly reports

The Commission considered the reports. A new motor vehicle report was mentioned by the Chief as addressing many concerns including the race of those stopped. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the monthly reports as presented; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

b) Durant Ave

The Chief presented a sketched map of proposed parking rule changes he and Lt Dickinson constructed in a study of the area of Durant Ave. Items discussed were time limits, parking space striping, cross hatching at intersections, emergency vehicle parking, areas of no parking and the number of cars which could park in designated areas. Chairman Ellis' interest is in accommodating additional railroad station parking permits which would cause permit holders to overflow onto the street. One possible solution is "2 hour OR permit parking". Comm McCollam asked for a clarification on parking permit rights before making a decision. In order to obtain necessary information, motion by Chairman Ellis to table expanded Durant Ave parking; seconded by Comm Maturro – unanimous.

5. New Business:

Motion by Comm McCollam to add Verdi Properties, 80 South St under New Business as item 5e to clarify crosswalk location and specification.

a) Code Red software demonstration

Cancelled since Code Red representatives could not appear.

b) Traffic Signage Plumtrees and Whittlesey

Chief Finch, on the basis of a letter from Capt Cedergren, requested that a "right turn only" sign be posted at the intersection of the driveway of the parking lot with Plumtrees Rd. Problems arise with exiting traffic turning against the light at the offset intersection with Whittlesey and Walnut Hill, a light which many feel does not apply to them, or shooting across the intersection onto Whittlesey. Cars cannot always pull out and get in line with traffic. Safety will not be restored until the bridge project is complete and the intersection realigned according to Chief Finch. Chairman Ellis asked about the impact when games are over at night or school is out for the summer. The Chief noted that the comings and goings of Parks and Rec will also be a concern when they occupy their

new facility. Lt Dickinson does not feel a sign is necessary as this already falls under a law requiring traffic exiting a driveway to yield to all traffic. Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the Chief's and Captain's idea of a "right turn only" sign for a ninety day trial period; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

c) Site plan – 80 Wooster St

In his letter Capt Cedergren described this new two family home subdivision of an existing residential lot. The driveway at the intersection of Durant and Wooster will be shared and has adequate sight lines in spite of its location. The Captain recommends approval as long as a "yield to street traffic" sign be erected at the end of the driveway. Motion by Comm Maturro to accept Capt Cedergren's letter as long as the contractor pays for the requested sign and forward the letter onto the Planning and Zoning Commission; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous.

d) Specials pay Rate

Chief Finch requested that he be allowed to raise special pay for extra jobs working for the Town to second step patrolman pay. Currently they are receiving first step pay. Specials have ten to fifteen years experience and are deserving of a rate higher than which an officer just out of the Academy would receive. Motion by Comm Greco to allow Chief Finch to pay specials second step pay levels for extra Town jobs; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.

e) 80 South St Crosswalks

Comm McCollam read a letter to Chairman Ellis submitted by Verdi Property manager Kenneth Carvell just before the meeting concerning P&Z approved application for 80 South St, the application subject to stipulations. The item concerned, #11 in the P&Z letter, addressed crosswalks at the intersection of Taylor Av and South St for which the applicant has to apply for review to the Police Commission. The request is for this item to be put on the next meeting's agenda. Motion by Chairman Ellis to add 80 South St crosswalks to Old Business to be carried over to the next Commission meeting; seconded by Comm Maturro – unanimous. Lt Dickinson will look into this.

Motion by Chairman Ellis to add Petition for Hickok Ave and Golden Hill St to New Business as item 5f; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

f) Petition Hickok Ave and Golden Hill St

Motion by Chairman Ellis to table discussion of the Hickok and Golden Hill petition to the June meeting and in the meantime have Lt Dickinson look into this request (see General Public Comments);

seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous. P&Z should receive a copy according to Comm McCollam. Chairman Ellis concurred.

6. Correspondence:  
None

7. Chief's Report

a) 2007 Year End Report

This report in the hands of Commissioners is according to Chief Finch more appropriate than the Annual Report.

b) Crime Prevention

Off Heather Burnes and off Lynn Morris attended community crime prevention classes at WestConn because of their expressed interest. These officers set up a booth at the recent sidewalk sales handing out literature and offering advice.

c) CIS Software

In-house training in the new software will take place June 10<sup>th</sup> through June 18<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to go live with this new product on June 19<sup>th</sup>. A lot of work has already been done by Sgts Libertini with laptops in cars and Bruckenthal from the administrative end finalizing lists and tables. The holdup to date was because the development of the State's data access program "fell apart". CIS was required to write a temporary program to access the State database to be used until such time as the State's program is fully operational.

d) Status of New Officers

Chief Finch mentioned the two officers currently attending the Academy and the one serving in Iraq. The potential of summer season officer shortages was briefly discussed necessitating overtime hiring.

Selective enforcement occurred on Walnut Hill at Farmview, Wine Sap at Appletree, Rockwell at Walnut Hill and on Mansfield.

Commissioner Comments:

Comm Matturro asked about the letter to the State concerning the reevaluation of the Grassy Plain Terrace and Route 53 intersection. Lt Dickinson stated that he has been in contact with three traffic engineers concerning this and will follow up with another letter. The problem is that it is not apparent a second lane exists. The lane separation line should be moved back where it can be seen by someone making the turn as well as a straight through arrow. Comm Matturro also asked about the DARE car replacement. Unless a "cost affordable" option comes up the car will not be

replaced according to Chief Finch. Logic over the past few years questions seizing drug dealer cars and converting them into DARE cars. Often the wrong message is being sent by doing this. Currently the DARE officer is using a patrol car which is probably more effective in the opinion of the Chairman.

Comm McCollam asked about the new crosswalk on Durant and asked if Lt Dickinson could look at it to see if a parking space needs to be removed.

Comm Maturro mentioned the frequent replacement of stop signs in the Stony Hill area due to "tagging" or defacing. Chief Finch asked if a list of those replacements can be obtained to be passed onto the patrol division. Comm Maturro will obtain this list.

At 6:44 motion by Chairman Ellis to adjourn; seconded by Comm McCollam - unanimous

Respectfully Submitted



Ferdinand Miller Jr.

Secretary