



POLICE COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, NOV 19, 2008
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT-CONFERENCE ROOM

RECEIVED

NOV 26 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

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

Chairman Nicholas Ellis opened the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

1. General Public Comments:
Ann Cleary of 2 Eagle Rock Hill Rd read a prepared statement establishing her concern over a lack of police response to a complaint for being excluded from the Plumtree Heights Condo pool because of a lost pool pass. Ms Cleary considers this a pattern of behavior including past incidents which should be reopened to include her input. Ms Cleary asked that this complaint be addressed by the Commission and that a copy of her prepared statement be forwarded to First Selectman Burke. Chairman Ellis promised to do so.
2. Review of Past Minutes Sept 17, 2008
For the record there was no Police Commission meeting in October. Motion by Comm Maturro to accept the minutes of 9/17/08; seconded by Comm Ochs – unanimous.
3. Budget Report:
The Commission considered two budget reports, for September and October. Chief Finch noted overtime as being \$22K less than last year-to-date. The Department will soon be up to full staff with two recent graduations from the Academy and another back from Iraq. Two are currently in field training. Comm Maturro asked about reimbursement for EMS supplies since patients are now being billed for ambulance service. Motion by Comm Ochs to accept the September budget report as presented; seconded by Comm Greco – unanimous. Motion by Comm Maturro to accept

the October budget report as presented; seconded by Comm McCollam – unanimous.

4. Old Business:

a) Monthly Reports

Software format changes are still a problem according to Chief Finch as well as difficulties in finalizing exact numbers for the officer activity report. Final call assignment should be addressed by dispatch or by the sergeant and corrected if necessary at shift end.

Motion by Chairman Ellis to accept the Monthly Reports; seconded by Comm Maturro – unanimous.

b) Department Policy

An additional policy, General Order 2008-07 Crime Analysis was handed out to the Commission by Chief Finch for inclusion in each member's binder. It was determined at recent meetings that town charter required that the Commission approve policies drafted by the Chief. Accreditation standards required modification of past policies and the inclusion of new policies, a task Chief Finch and the accreditation group have been actively involved in. All officers have computer access to the policies and have updated hard copies as mandated by the State. After having reviewed the entire set of policies over the past ten weeks, the Commission members were individually poled for comments and questions. Motion by Chairman Ellis that having read them, Commissioners approve all policies in place including General Order 2008-07; seconded by Comm McCollam – passed by three with Comm Maturro abstaining because of not having finished reading and the Chairman agreeing having made the motion.

5. New Business:

a) Site Plan – 74 South St

This plan is for the construction of an on-site greenhouse adjacent to Agway. Capt Cedergren's letter recommends approval as submitted. The existing entrance/exit will remain as is. Motion by Comm Maturro to accept Capt Cedergren's letter on 74 South St and forward it onto the Planning and Zoning Commission; seconded by Comm Ochs

6. Correspondence:

a) Lt. Dickinson – University of Connecticut

Chief Finch read a letter concerning the four course certificate traffic program attended by Lt. Dickinson. The Lieutenant described the course as stressing traffic engineering, implementing highway improvements for safety and flow and influencing driver behavior by roadway design through signs and markings. The goal is safer driving without solely relying on enforcement.

b) St Mary's School

This letter thanks the Department for its part in the blue ribbon award parade.

c) Mike Perrone – signage Rt53

This letter requests a speed sign on Rt53. Lt Dickinson is working with the State on this.

7. Chief's Report

A grant had been received for DUI enforcement. The total expenditure is to be \$20,000, \$5,000 of which is Bethel's responsibility. This will be shared with adjoining towns.

The computer server will be moved into the classroom.

The command bus is being set up and painted at Smitty's Auto Body.

8. Commissioner Comments:

Comm Matturro asked about the Grassy Plain/Grassy Plain Terrace intersection improvement. Lt Dickinson stated that the passing line has been extended. This has significantly reduced the accident rate. Comm Matturro also wants the public to know that the winter parking ban is in effect and runs from 11/15/08 through 4/15/09. No overnight parking from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. on all public streets. Comm McCollam mentioned the crosswalk at Grassy Plain and Greenwood in front of Village Lights. 1/3 of it has been paved over and the State has not yet restriped it.

The Nashville/Chestnut intersection shows zero accidents year-to-date after the modifications.

Chairman Ellis thanked the Department for the support given his family after the passing away of his mother.

At 6:23 Motion by Chairman Ellis to adjourn; seconded by Comm Matturro – unanimous

Respectfully Submitted



Ferdinand Miller Jr.

Secretary