**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018**

**TIME: 7:30 A.M.**

**PLACE: BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM**

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Comm. Nault at 7:30 a.m.

**II. Roll Call:** Commissioners Jerry Nault, Marc Tremblay, and Pierre Morin were present.

**Others Present:**  Chief Morency, Deputy Chief Buteau, and Jenn Cloutier

**Recorded by:** Lisa Arguin

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of January 3, 2018:** Minutes were unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Reports:** The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin. There are several equipment and training related expenses, such as ammunition, that will impact the budget before the end of the fiscal year. There will also be an unexpected vehicle expense, an officer hit a deer on I-93. The estimated damage is over $10,000, and an adjuster will look at the vehicle soon.

The Commission digressed from the regular order of business to present awards for Officer & Employee of the Year.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Phone System & Bid:** The bid award should be chosen by the end of this week.

1. **Opioid Crisis:** Numerous state officials have responded to the invitation and plan to attend the March 6 meeting. As space in the PD’s conference room is limited, the meeting will be held at the T&C.
2. **Police Officer Training Process**: An oral board is scheduled for April 10, and it is anticipated that five candidates will participate.
3. **Budget**: The budget meeting with the Council is scheduled for March 28 at 6:30 p.m. The city manager contacted the chief to ask if there are any possible areas to cut; other than the possibility of postponing capital improvements, the budget is already bare bones.
4. **Meeting with State Officials March 6, 2018:** (refer to Old Business B.)
5. **Other:**  **Hawkers & Peddlers License:** In the interest of not pushing vendors away, the Council is considering having all vendors fall under the coverage of one license for each major City event.
   * Copsync filed bankruptcy and is now under new management. They were a sole-sourced agency for the State and have been asked by the State to explain their position.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Officer & Employee of the Year:** Chief Morency explained that the selection process is based on evaluations and peer recommendations, and it is always a difficult choice. Every PD employee goes above and beyond, and to stand out among them is commendable. The 2017 Officer of the Year is Det. Sgt. Wade Goulet, and Employee of the Year is Dan Arguin.

Wade was promoted to detective sergeant several months ago and exceeded to the point where employees recognized his tremendous efforts in his new role. Dan has been full-time maintenance with the Department for just over a year; it is rare that a new employee be nominated, but he has done a lot for the agency in a short time, and his efforts did not go unnoticed. Chief Morency and the Commission congratulated both recipients and thanked them for their work.

1. **Opioid Litigation:** Two agencies have approached the City regarding potential opioid litigation; one is a large New York firm that is looking for summary judgment, has already filed claims for other New Hampshire communities, and has representatives in New Hampshire ready to handle a claim. The other is a smaller agency that still has a lot of homework to do, especially with justification of the costs associated with negligence. Both agencies are willing to speak with the City.

Chief Morency distributed informational packets to the Commission. Based on work and research already completed on opioid litigation by the larger agency, it is his recommendation to consider the possibility of retaining the larger firm. Discussion ensued, and it was agreed that a meeting with the company representative is in order. Comm. Tremblay moved to submit a letter to Mayor and Council recommending a meeting with the larger firm; the motion was seconded by Comm. Morin and carried unanimously.

1. **February Granite Shield Event:** The recent event went well, resulting in the seizure of 70g of heroin and five arrests. Other Shield-related events in the state totaled 151 arrests and the seizure of 500g of heroin. Granite Shield is a cooperative effort throughout the state.
2. **Liability Training & CPR:** All officers must complete liability training yearly; most of the full-time officers have already completed it, and the remaining have been scheduled. Lt. Godin does an excellent job instructing and remains up to date on practices and procedures. CPR training has been completed, and dispatchers are trained in this area as well.
3. **Restorative Justice Accreditation:** Officer Marsh is off and running with the program and accreditation process. The PD building had a couple minor issues but has already received the Certificate of Occupancy. Officer Marsh has prepared a Power Point presentation for the Council, as they expressed an interest in seeing what is involved with the process.
4. **Take-Back Program:**  There are several ways to destroy drugs that are dropped off at the PD, including the use of cat litter, special bags, and incineration. The most cost-effective way is incineration, and PD is currently looking into having an incineration box made.
5. **Statistics**: Statistics were reviewed.
6. **Correspondence**: An anonymous card was received, thanking the PD for keeping the city safe.
   * Cpl. Josh White submitted a thank you note for allowing him to attend clandestine lab training.
   * Special Olympics Winter Games take place March 2-4.
   * The AV Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner takes place March 9.
   * The Groveton PD intends to provide information on how to identify clandestine labs. This is part of the ongoing cooperative effort to address the opioid issue in any way possible with whatever resources are available.
   * The Primex Domestic Violence Conference will be held in Manchester this year.
   * The AV Chamber of Commerce has scheduled their Rally Race and Poker Run, and they are also looking into the possibility of a big winter event.
   * There is a Medicare scam going around where callers claim that a person’s Medicare card has expired, and they ask for information to update it.
7. **Other**:
   * The supervisors test will be held on March 29.
   * Criminal justice students are requesting to job shadow officers; the program lasts 13 weeks, and students would shadow the officers for one day each week. This is a popular program, and students sign waivers releasing the Department from any liability.
   * The new fire chief met with the deputy and has a refreshing approach which includes coordinating some training between departments.
   * The need for a table-top drill for nursing homes is being reviewed.
   * The PD is working with the School Department on additional ways to protect our schools.

1. **Public Comments**: None.
2. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 8:50 a.m., Comm. Morin motioned, with a second from Comm. Tremblay, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting will be held Thursday April 5, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.