**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 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 July 12, 2018:** Minutes were unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Report:** The report was reviewed. The sum of issued clothing allowances was charged to the general clothing allowance line item instead of the clothing payroll line item and will be corrected. The report as corrected was unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Phone & Monitoring Systems:** Both systems were installed and are running without issue. Since the new system records with a higher level of clarity, copies of recordings must now be issued on thumb drive instead of disk, due to the increase in file size.

1. **Opioid Litigation**: The law firm requested that Chief Morency meet with Council to request approval of a resolution which states opioids have been a destructive and costly burden to the community; he is scheduled for a meeting. The firm also provided a checklist for cost purposes.
2. **Dispatching for Fire Dept. Request:** The fire chief is very interested in having the PD dispatch fully for their department, and there would be many benefits to the Fire Department if the PD were to dispatch. The fire chief will gather statistics for Deputy Chief Buteau, and those will be reviewed in detail prior to any decisions. It is important not expand the PD’s overhead.
3. **Opioid Funding**: Funds have been released, and the PD can move forward with the grant details.
4. **Union Contract:** The contract was approved and includes a 1-1-1.5% increase. The chief is looking into firming-up additional language regarding the 12 hour shifts.
5. **Hiring Process:** The top three candidates passed their polygraph exams and will proceed with the psychological and pre-employment physicals. The PD is currently down two officers, in addition to two others out for injury. The chief asked for the Commission’s approval to move forward with the hiring of two candidates, provided they pass their upcoming tests. The Commission unanimously approved by consensus. The chief’s intention is to have both enrolled in the January academy.
6. **Firing Range**: Nancy Bell of the Conservation Fund has advised that they cannot transfer the range to the Fish & Game Club, as the club does not have non-profit status. She is looking at an alternative plan and will keep the PD informed.
7. **Other:** The memorial has been refurbished and looks great. The Memorial Golf Tournament will be held tomorrow.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Resignation:** Lt. Prosecutor Riendeau has tendered his resignation to accept the position of Prison Warden at Berlin’s State Prison. Chief Morency stated the Department was fortunate to have been involved with such a quality individual for the last thirteen years; he will be missed, and it is the Prison’s gain.
2. **Promotion:**  Cpl. Bill Daisey will be promoted to the position of Prosecutor. The chief took several factors into consideration when choosing a replacement prosecutor, and Cpl. Daisey’s experience and training made him most prepared for the position. He will move into the position as an administrative sergeant for a probationary period of six months, at which time his performance will assessed. He will not be given the additional administrative duties of a lieutenant until he is well-adjusted in his new role of prosecutor.
3. **ATV Festival:** The festival went well with no surprises. There were expected traffic delays due to the Hillside bridge closure.
4. **Class Requests:** Requests for classes offered by Lts. Godin and Gendron are gaining popularity. Lt. Godin has provided MOAB training to several organizations and feedback has always been positive.
5. **Coös Delegation Meeting on Drug Enforcement Collaboration:** Since the March meeting, the attorney general requested a follow-up with the Coös County Delegation. A meeting is scheduled for September 12 and now includes the governor, DEA, commissioner, and many others, in the hopes of acquiring support to increase enforcement in the North Country.
6. **Statistics**: Statistics were reviewed.
7. **Correspondence**:
   * The School Department and Opioid Grant MOUs have been signed.
   * The CAC’s Touch-A-Truck and Special Olympics’ Fueling for Dreams events are quickly approaching. The Department usually participates but may be unable, due to current lack of manpower and officer availability.
8. **Other**. **Highway Safety Grants**: The PD is slated to receive another 50% cut to its Highway Safety grant awards this year. This is very frustrating; the Department is and has been one of the only active participants in the North Country, and the decrease in awards is not proportional. The Department will continue to fight for these funds, as they are important to community safety.
   * Hockey: Managers of the Blackjack Team were also managers for the River Drivers’; they are already aware of the Berlin PD’s rules and procedures regarding security for their hockey games. They have not yet contacted the PD.
   * The Board of Education meeting regarding school funding will take place tonight.
   * AVH spent $60,000 last year for mental health details.
   * An intern from Groveton is currently shadowing Berlin PD officers, and a CJ program intern has also requested an internship with the BPD.
9. **Public Comments**: None.
10. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 9:25 a.m., it was determined that there was no longer a need for the scheduled non-public session. Public then session adjourned unanimously on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Nault. The next meeting will be held Thursday October 4, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.