**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017**

**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 7:35 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 May 4, 2017:** Minutes were unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Reports:** The PD will meet the mayor’s expectation of turning back approximately $50,000 in benefits and $10,000 in RZR event savings at the end of this fiscal year. There are still several outstanding expenses, however, including a portable radio, one cruiser set-up, and a/c units. The chief also intends to cover the entire cost of the Hillside/Jericho crosswalk sign from this year’s budget, if possible.

Comm. Morin inquired about the over-expended AVRRDD line item. Chief Morency explained that AVRRDD requested additional services, and the expense is offset by the fee AVRRDD pays to the PD. The report was then unanimously accepted, on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

**V. Old Business**

1. **COPsync:** Deputy Chief Buteau and Jenn Cloutier met with the COPsync CEO to express their concerns. He advised that his company had prior personnel issues which have since been resolved. Since that meeting, the PD has received prompt responses from tech support. The deputy and Jenn are comfortable with recent interactions with the company, as well as the CEO’s assurances; and the PD will most likely remain with COPsync for another year. Comm. Nault suggested the possibility of having some type of interaction/event with the schools before the school year ends, to test the system.

1. **Body-Worn Cameras:** Chief Morency spoke with Ann Rice at the AG’s Office. She agreed with his dislike of the liability language but clarified that each situation will still require officer discretion, and the language is intended to apply to cases where body cameras are left on with malicious intent, not when they remain on unintentionally. The chief was comfortable with her explanation.
2. **Telephone System**: The city manager reviewed the city’s revamped phone contract and intends to move forward with the bid process.
3. **Budget:** The budget hearing went well, and there were no comments made in reference to the PD.
4. **Gorham Study for Police Services**: A committee was not established; instead, Chief Cyr was told to reach out to the Berlin PD to discuss needs and operations. Two meetings have since taken place, with the most recent including both chiefs and dispatch supervisors, Deputy Chief Buteau, and Lisa Arguin. Chief Morency intends to hold weekly follow-up meetings. Discussion ensued; preliminary figures were mentioned, liability concerns were raised, and Chief Morency will continue to fact-find. Gorham’s deadline for a proposal is October 1.
5. **Granite Hammer Meeting**: Approximately $5,000,000 in opioid grant funds will be awarded to the State, with the bulk going to State Police for a new unit. The remaining will be disbursed on a competitive basis, and the PD will apply for as much as possible.
6. **OHRV/Ordinance:** Berlin’s youth operator age requirement is 25 years; NH Fish and Game’s is 18, and the bill before the State is for 21.
7. **SAFER Grant:** The Fire Department is a year behind in drawing down on their grant. Since Lisa deals with PD grants, she was asked to meet with Chief Trull, Assistant Chief Soltys, and Jen Myers to offer assistance. After meeting and reviewing the process, Jen and the assistant chief are confident they will be able to file the reports.
8. **Concord Police Memorial:** Officers Pelletier and Marsh and Lt. Godin escorted family members for the memorial service.
9. **Highway Safety Grant Resolution:** Approximately $36,000 in funds has been requested for STEP, bike patrol, DWI, and equipment grants.
10. **Other:** Exculpatory evidence now includes mental health histories. The chief is reviewing the language; he is concerned it may make employees reluctant to seek help or counseling after a traumatic event for fear it will make a mark on their records.
    * **School Incident:** The subject involved was arrested.
    * **UTV:** At Paul Ingersoll’s suggestion, Chief Morency met with Dalton Mountain Motors to check into a program which would allow the PD use of a new UTV for one year, with the option to lease or purchase at the end of the trial period. A UTV would be very useful and has been in the PD’s CIP request for the last few years. The proposal sounds good, and the chief is awaiting official word from Bombardier.

**VI. New Business**

1. **DWI Roadblock**: Grant terms require the PD advertise its DWI roadblocks; the ads serve as reminders not to drink and drive, and the intent is also to deter people from doing so.
2. **Carfentanil & Protective Equipment:** 24 Trauma has provided the PD with protective supplies, and each vehicle is now equipped.
3. **Special Olympics Torch Run:** The May 20th event was one of the best. The federal prison participated and was a great partner. There were approximately 100 runners who raised $2,000. All funds remain local.
4. **DCYF Requests:** DCYF has taken a beating in the news recently, and they are trying to protect themselves. They now submit law letter requests to the PD for records/information on everything, which has JoAnn Therriault at wits end; she is having difficulty keeping up. The records position needs help, and that need may increase, if the structure of the PD changes. The chief is looking into the possibility of having someone cross-trained to assist. He also advised it is time to consider a succession plan, as there are several people eligible to retire within the next few years.
5. **Prison Memorial Service**: The federal prison service will be held June 20 at 1 p.m., and the BPD Honor Guard will present colors at the event.
6. **Statistics**: Statistics were reviews.
7. **Correspondence**: Water Works sent notification that the PD’s backflow preventer valve failed; it will be replaced.
   * The next North Country Interoperability meeting will be on June 14.
   * The IACP conference is upcoming and offers valuable training.
   * Acrylfentanyl is a new designer drug and problem. Comm. Nault inquired if the PD has noticed any change in the environment regarding drugs in general; the chief advised the PD is hearing less about overdoses.
   * The HOPE Center has changed hands, and the PD will have a conversation with the new manager.
   * Roland Pinette submitted a letter thanking Lt. Godin for providing training on Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events, stating it was very worthwhile.
   * Information received about a mobile forensic grant will be handled by Lt. Lemoine.
   * The PD was notified of a lithium ion battery lawsuit and will look into its inventory.
   * The Joint Loss Prevention Committee was revamped, and Lt. Theriault is now the PD representative.
   * The PD is now equipped with key cards that provide access to all Berlin school doors.
8. **Other**: The PD was scheduled for emergency drill training with the federal prison on May 11, but it was cut short due to an incident at the prison. Another drill will be scheduled.
   * Charlie Cotton is retiring; he has been a great ally and will be missed.
   * RZR meetings have started.
   * The US Attorney asked for the PD to host training with the ATF on enhanced gun penalties for law enforcement. It will be held on June 19 and will be open to all North Country law enforcement.
9. **Public Comments**: None.
10. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** Comm. Morin motioned to adjourn at 9:10 a.m. The motion was seconded by Comm. Tremblay and carried unanimously by Comm. Nault. To accommodate schedules, there will be no July meeting. Unless there is a need for an emergency meeting, the next meeting will be held Thursday, August 10, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.