**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2019**

**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 7:40 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

The Commission digressed from the regular order to address New Business, A.

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of September 4, 2019:** Comm. Tremblay noted a typo which will be corrected. Amended minutes were unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Report:** The reports were reviewed, and over-expended accounts were discussed. On a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay, the reports were unanimously accepted as printed.

**V. Old Business**

1. **“Call to Duty” Memorial Golf Tournament:** The tournament went well. The fund balance is currently $46,800, which excludes outstanding invoices.
2. **Septic Drain Issues:** The issue is not yet resolved, but the PWD intends to repair the line soon. Chief Morency made special mention of Mt. Washington Sewer & Drain for locating the source of the problem; they responded to three calls from the PD and refused to accept payment for their first two visits.
3. **New AFIS Machine:** The digital fingerprint machine is up and running, and training has been completed.
4. **Furnace & Windows:** Furnace installation has been completed, and windows have been ordered.
5. **Armory Building:** Chief Morency met with City Council to present facts, good and bad. Council has decided to move ahead with acquiring the building, given its evaluation, several potential uses, and that the opportunity for the City to obtain such a good building under current conditions may never happen again. First preference for use will be given to the PD. Comm. Morin expressed his concerns regarding access. Discussion ensued, and the chief advised that this is the initial stage of a very long process. Needs will first be assessed, and a study will be completed afterwards. At this time, he is looking into the availability of grant funds to assist with the study.
6. **NHPSTC & WMCC on CJ Program**: A board of directors has been organized. A meeting will take place at NHPSTC on October 22 for further discussion on the potential intertwining of college course credits and certification.
7. **Other:** The Roger Dana case has concluded; he has been sentenced for life.

**VI. New Business**

1. **New Hires:** Officer Candidates Ben Page and Mike Pearson, Part-Time Dispatcher Spenser Laflamme, and Officer Mike Micucci joined the meeting for introductions. The commissioners welcomed the new employees, with Comm. Nault stating the Commission is very proud of the professionalism of the Department, its leadership, and dispatchers. Chief Morency added that the Department is fortunate to have a fair and supportive Commission that recognizes and understands what the Department and its employees do.
2. **Hiring Process:**  The process is ongoing in anticipation of upcoming retirements and potential vacancies. Three applicants passed the physical and written exams and will be scheduled for an oral board.
   * **Grants:**  The ILO grant application has been completed, and the StoneGarden grant application has been submitted.
   * The PD’s grant award from Highway Safety is $10,000 less than last year’s. Highway Safety grants provide for extra designated patrols which allow the PD to be more proactive. The decrease has had an impact, as evidenced by Department statistics.
3. **Annual Report Request:** The report has been requested by the city manager, and a copy will be available at next month’s meeting.
4. **NEACOP Training:** This year’s event included outstanding training by Eric Daigle on the subjects of social media and varying interpretations of the 1st Amendment; communications and tactics training from an ATF officer who debriefed the 2016 Dallas shooting incident; and training on the benefits of the LEAD program.
5. **Statistics**: Statistics were reviewed. While on the subject of intersection-related accidents, Chief Morency mentioned that he and Ed Solar met to discuss left turns on red. Mr. Solar maintains that 37 states currently support the rule, and he suggests left turns be allowed at the Dunkin’ Donuts intersection. As this is a Safety Committee issue, the chief referred Mr. Solar to the Committee. Discussion ensued. Comm. Tremblay stated left turns on red are not allowed state-wide, and doing so at one intersection would confuse the issue; he does not see any benefit but potentially more problems. Comm. Morin cited additional pedestrian safety concerns at such a busy intersection. By consensus, the commissioners were unanimously opposed to the suggestion. Chief Morency stated he is also not inclined to support the idea, given the number of accidents and tickets given at that location.
6. **Correspondence**: Chief Morency highlighted training opportunities, invitations, and thank you notes including:
   * A letter to the PD from the Town of Lancaster for sending the Emergency Rescue Vehicle and Response Team to assist with an armed, barricaded individual.
   * A letter from Major Crimes thanking the PD for the great job on the Dana case.
   * The PD is due to receive $2,800 in seizure funds.
7. **Other**: The PD was involved with Wingzilla, Touch-a-Truck, Fueling Dreams, and Homecoming. All events went well.
   * Senator Starr was contacted and voted against the Grow Your Own Bill; it was defeated.
   * Traffic Safety Meeting: Several signs have been requested and will need committee approval. .
   * The PD, School, and PW Departments will meet to review the Jasper Street connector to determine if it should be one-way.

1. **Public Comments**: None.
2. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 8:50 a.m., Comm. Tremblay motioned, with a second by Comm. Morin, to move into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a), (c), and (e). The Commission entered non-public session by roll call vote with all members voting in the affirmative. Public session reconvened at 9:25 a.m. There were no decisions made in non-public session, and minutes were sealed on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay, carried unanimously by Comm. Nault, as their release could adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the Commission.

Comm. Tremblay then motioned, with a second by Comm. Morin, to adjourn the public meeting; so moved. The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, November 7, 2019.