**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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 7:30 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 November 7, 2019:** Minutes were unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Report:** The reports were reviewed and unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay. Comm. Nault complimented the chief, stating he is impressed that the Department’s budget is consistently maintained, especially given the nature of the business.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Armory Building:** (deferred to non-public session)
2. **NHPSTC:** Officers Pearson and Page have been accepted for the next Academy.

Director’s Position: The committee has narrowed down the selection to the top four of 53 applicants.

1. **Hiring Process:** There is currently a background investigation being conducted on one candidate. The polygraph and psychological tests will be conducted next week. The hiring process is ongoing in anticipation of an upcoming May retirement.
2. **Department Meeting:** The tentative agenda was reviewed and includes training on vicarious trauma and active shooter procedures. Employee and Officer of the Year Awards will be presented at the meeting, as well as two new awards for recognition of specific community services.
3. **Other:** DTF Grant: Milan selectmen are on board. The grant will cover five people: two full-time and two part-time positions, as well as one full-time position assigned to the Berlin PD.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Promotions:**  Cpls. White, Howry, and Priest have been promoted to sergeant. These positions are in charge of their shifts in the absence of a lieutenant.
2. **Capital Improvement Plan**: Chief Morency highlighted the list which includes the ongoing body camera and Taser programs; continued third floor renovations; two cruisers; a study for the movement of technology equipment; interview room; ongoing replacement of cruiser laptops; leather gear; paved parking area; radios/communications equipment; ramp extension; vests; K9 program; and firearms replacement. The K9 program was proposed by Officer Gale, in light of several recent cases where a dog would have been beneficial and was not immediately available from other agencies. He has done his research and found a $25,000 grant.
3. **Employee and Officer of the Year Awards**: This year’s Officer and Employee of the Year Awards will be presented to Sgt. Zach Howry and Detectives’ Secretary Hollie Walters, respectively. A Call to Duty Community Services Award will be presented to Lt. Kerry Theriault for his positive public image earned through involvement in community services; and a Call to Duty Crime Fighting Award will be presented to Sgt. Joe Priest for his motor vehicle stops, arrests, and ability to look beyond the stop. He is a good model of tempered aggressiveness.
4. **Opioid Grant**: A $26,000 grant was approved. The amount is reduced in comparison to last year’s.
5. **Statistics**: The report was reviewed. Calls to assist the Gorham PD have increased, and Deputy Chief Buteau has reiterated to the Gorham chief that Berlin cannot be the Town’s primary responders. The number of intersection accidents has also increased and can be attributed to the decrease in Highway Safety grant funds for designated patrols.
6. **Correspondence**: Thank you notes were received from the BHS Backers for assistance with Homecoming; Sheriff Valerino for Officer Imperial’s visits to local nursing homes to honor veterans on Veterans Day; WMCC for Officer Dumas’ talk to students in the Criminal Justice Program; and from a Groveton mother of a nine-year-old child with autism who walked out of the Learning Center and walked to Dunkin Donuts to call home. Her son was afraid of police prior to receiving help from Sgt. Howry and Officer Page; since then, his anxiety about police has been eased, and he is even unafraid to attend school.
7. **Other**: Chief Morency advised that former officers are sometimes called to court for older cases. As they are in court to represent Department, he recommends reimbursing the officers at the special enforcement rate. The Commission unanimously agreed by consensus.
   * HB 655 Disorderly Houses has been proposed and is similar to the City’s Nuisance Ordinance.
   * Auxiliary Officer Roland Gosselin submitted his letter or resignation this week. He has loyally served the Department since 1962, and the chief intends to recognize him at an upcoming meeting as well as in the press.
   * Chief Morency has been invited to attend an upcoming meeting of the Doorway Program on December 18.
   * Mr. Auto no longer wishes to provide towing services for the Department and will be removed from the wrecker list.
   * Officers were invited and recently play dodge ball with Gorham 5th grade students.
   * Special Enforcement Officer Karl Nelson’s daughter has been diagnosed with Stage IV Cancer. A spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held at the VFW on December 7 to assist with medical costs.

1. **Public Comments**: None.
2. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 9:15 a.m., Comm. Morin motioned, with a second by Comm. Tremblay, to move into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). The Commission entered non-public session by roll call vote with all members voting in the affirmative. Public session reconvened at 9:40 a.m. There were no decisions made in non-public session, and minutes were sealed on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin, 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, January 2, 2020.