**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020**

**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; Lt. Nathan Roy and Officer Dennis Gale (8:10)

**Recorded by:** Lisa Arguin

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of December 4, 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.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Department Meeting:** The meeting was positive and training outstanding. Chief Morency extended kudos to the Coös County Sheriff’s Department for providing coverage during the meeting.
2. **Opioid Grant:** All Memorandums of Agreement have been signed; the grant application was submitted, and the grant has been approved. Northumberland is the only agency to opt-out of participation this year.
3. **DTF Interviews:** Commander Scott Sweet and members of his staff conducted interviews for the DTF positions. Border Patrol is also considering placing someone on the Force. Chief Morency will contact the NHRS for clarification of all guidelines.
4. **Hiring Process:** One non-certified candidate successfully completed the process and will meet with PD administration. Another position will become available due to retirement, and a potential candidate for that position is now proceeding with a polygraph. Chief Morency requested authorization to hire the candidates he sees fit for the positions, and the Commission unanimously gave approval by consensus. Hired candidates will meet the Commission at a later date.
5. **CIP K9 && Weapons Presentations**: The PD’s weapons are six years old and will be due for replacement. Lt. Roy, the PD’s firearms instructor, gave a presentation on the Glock 17 in comparison to the PD’s current Sig P227. The Glock renders less recoil, more consistent pull, better accuracy, an easier platform to teach, and a greater ammo capacity. There is a 90-day turnaround time for orders.

**K-9**: Officer Dennis Gale arrived with Kodiak, his two-year old Belgian Malinois, for presentation. The Malinois is an alert, hard-working dog known for its temperament and tracking ability, and it is often sought after for police and military work. Officer Gale breeds them for police agencies. Given that the BPD dealt with four missing individuals during the last year, and area law enforcement agencies that have dogs were not able to provide them to assist when needed, he would be willing to donate Kodiak for training and use by the Berlin PD.

Immediate availability is crucial for tracking and drastically increases the ability to successfully locate someone. Tracking is not only relevant to suspects but to lost children/adults and memory impaired individuals as well. The dog would serve a dual purpose: detecting drugs/narcotics and tracking. Use of a work dog is considered a less-lethal method of force, similar to Taser use, and follows a threat matrix assessment. Working dog use is also a service already covered by the City’s insurance. Officer Gale distributed a breakdown of costs and grant availability, highlighting several areas where the PD would save on expenses because he would be providing his own dog. The actual cost will be narrowed down for budgeting purposes.

1. **Doorway Program**: Deputy Chief Buteau met with Christine Fortin, and she will come to the PD to speak with the officers about the program.
2. **Other: Fundraiser:** The fundraiser for Karl Nelson’s daughter went well, and there was a strong show of support.
   * **Dummer Tower:** The tower light is burnt, and Skywire/TCC Communications will change it.
   * **Dispatch Desks:** A vendor has been chosen, and the design proposal is being reviewed.
   * **3rd Floor Renovations:** The cost for revamping the paneling and new carpeting is being researched.
   * **Overdose Response & Follow-up:** Grant funding did not go through, but the DEA is looking into a different program and has asked the PD to participate.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Budget:**  The draft document will be reviewed after this meeting. (Non-meeting per RSA 91-A:2, I Circulation of Draft Documents)

1. **Cloud-Based Email**: The PD’s server will need to be replaced, as the operating system is no longer supported. SNS proposed the City-wide use of Office 365, a pay-per-user cloud-based system, and the City agreed.
2. **Rapid SOS GPS Locator**: Through the New England Dispatchers Association, Jenn Cloutier learned that software sponsored by corporate partners is available free of charge. It can accurately detect 911 callers’ locations when their cell numbers are entered into the system. Instead of satellite triangulation, the software uses GPS, which is more accurate.
3. **IMC Discussion**: Over the years, IMC—records management software used by many law enforcement agencies including the PD—has been bought out by larger companies. There is now a rumor that it may soon be a thing of the past. This will be closely monitored, and available alternatives are being researched.
4. **Evaluations & Supervisors Test**: The test is scheduled for February 20, and evaluations will be scheduled for February as well.
5. **Court Time – Civil Cases**: The number of requests for officer attendance at civil trials is increasing, raising concern for associated expenses incurred when officers are taken off-shift. The chief would like to develop a policy. Discussion ensued; Comm. Tremblay recommended the chief contact other agencies to see how they are handling the issue. Comm. Morin recommended contacting the legislature to suggest drafting of a bill.
6. **Statistics:** A breakdown of Milan calls is now included. Statistics were discussed, as well as the possibility of including a location breakdown of the areas where statistics have increased significantly. Statistics reflect that the decrease in Highway Safety grant awards has had an unfortunate impact; the PD is becoming a reactive rather than proactive department, due to lack of funds for designated patrols.
7. **Correspondence**: The chief highlighted training opportunities.
   * The Princess Theater will soon be taken down by the City.
   * New drivers’ licenses no longer require drivers to identify their sex.
   * Interpretation of the Bail Statute is changing.
   * The AG’s Office has issued new protocol for hate crimes.
8. **Other**: Tim Merrill, Acting Director of NHPSTC, has passed and will be sorely missed. Major David Parenteau has been appointed as interim director through March 4.
   * Former Commissioner Tony Urban has been inducted into the Umpire Hall of Fame.
   * The annual Occupational Health Services Agreement with AVH has been renewed.

1. **Public Comments**: None.
2. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 10:05 a.m., Comm. Tremblay motioned, with a second by Comm. Morin, 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 10:20 a.m., at which time Comm. Tremblay motioned, with a second by Comm. Morin, to seal minutes of the non-public session, as their release could adversely affect the reputation of a person(s) other than a member of the Commission; so moved. There were no decisions made in non-public session. The meeting then adjourned to non-meeting per RSA 91-A:2, I Circulation of Draft Documents.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, February 6, 2020. Due to a scheduling conflict, the June meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, June 3.