**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 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, Jenn Cloutier, Officer Rachel O’Connell, Dispatcher Pauline Suitter, Auxiliary Officer Roland Gosselin, and Ann Gosselin

**Recorded by:** Lisa Arguin

The Commission digressed from their regular order of business to address Old Business A & C.

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of January 2, 2020:** Minutes were unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Report:** The budget had been tight with the shortage of officers but has finally leveled off. Chief Morency is now considering purchases which had been temporarily postponed, such as weapons. Given their capacity and potential for savings on ammunition, the PD is now in a position to consider the changeover. Comm. Nault commended the Department for doing an admiral job with the budget while offsetting shortages. The reports were reviewed and unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Retirements:** Officer Roland Gosselin has resigned after 57 years of service to the BPD as an auxiliary officer. Considering it more a retirement than resignation, Chief Morency presented a plaque to Officer Gosselin, thanking him for his service, dedication, and devotion to the Department and citizens. The Commission extended their appreciation and best wishes as well. Roland graciously agreed to remain on the roster as fill-in crossing guard.

Dispatcher Pauline Suitter is retiring after 15 years of service. She is the first full-time dispatcher to retire from the BPD. Chief Morency thanked her for her service, stating she epitomizes the sense of family at the PD and has done a tremendous job over the years. He presented Pauline with a clock, and the Commission extended their congratulations and best wishes as well.

1. **Resignation:** Officer Ben Page has resigned, citing he has had a change of heart since being at the academy and in light of the death of a friend who was recently killed in the line of duty in Virginia. Chief Morency respects him for doing so now while still in the initial training stage. Another hiring process is underway with five applicants.
2. **Hiring Process:** Officer Rachel O’Connell was present to meet the Commission. She was hired to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Adam Marsh. She did very well throughout the hiring process, is a member of the USAF Reserve, and is already doing well at the BPD. The Commission welcomed her aboard.

Chris Cass has been hired to fill Ben Page’s vacancy. He will begin February 9 and will be scheduled to attend the Commission’s next monthly meeting.

1. **Armory:** Deferred to Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II. (d) Land Matters.
2. **Other:** Nine out of ten people didn’t appear for their court hearings yesterday.
   * There has been a fuel oil savings of approximately 700 gallons, compared to this same time frame last year.
   * Evaluations are in-process.
   * The new wrecker policy has been completed.
   * The firing range transfer has finally been completed. Follow-up discussion to last month’s weapons presentation ensued, including discussion about CIPs and current budget. As the budget is now in good shape, the chief intends to move forward with purchasing needed items now instead of later, including changeover of the PD’s weapons to Glocks. The Commission unanimously supported the Chief’s plan by consensus.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Budget:**  The proposed budget has been submitted to the City Manager at a projected increase of 0.6%. A meeting with Council is scheduled for March 25, 2020.

1. **Ten-Year OHRV Stats**: Statistics were reviewed and presented no surprises: most issues occur with the influx of people during the ATV Festival, and they occur on the trails rather than on the streets. ATV issues have been and will continue to be closely monitored, with adjustments made as needed. Comm. Nault commended the Department for continuing to directly and indirectly support the festival.
2. **Promotional Process**: The next promotions will be for corporal positions, and the test is scheduled for February 20, 2020.
3. **PSTC Director**: John Scippa has been given a conditional offer. He is a former NHPSTC employee and chief of police, has good foresight, and ran a police academy in Massachusetts.
4. **Sick Time Usage Review**: The BPD’s average use of sick leave by officers is 3.1 days; country-wide average is 8.8 days.
5. **Statistics:**  Statistics were reviewed.
6. **Correspondence**:
   * Letters of resignation from Ben Page and Roland Gosselin
   * Several training opportunities were highlighted.
   * The School Department received a subpoena regarding COPSYNC, and the PD will work with them to provide whatever information is needed.
7. **Other**: Chief Morency distributed Public Comments Rules of Conduct for meetings which City Council will be adopting. For consistency and in order to have clear procedure, Chief Morency recommended the Commission adopt the same. The rules were reviewed and unanimously adopted by the Commission on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.
   * The annual contract regarding reporting of assaults has been signed with the White Mountains Community College.
   * Regarding evaluations, Chief Morency requested that the Commission please bring to his attention anything they believe needs to be changed.

1. **Public Comments**: None.
2. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 9:02 a.m., Comm. Tremblay motioned, with a second by Comm. Morin, to move into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II (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 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. The meeting then adjourned on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, March 5, 2020.