

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION
ZOOM MTG ID: 202 358 429**

DATE: THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 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:** Commissioner Tremblay was present at the PD; Commissioners Nault participated via conference call from his office, and Comm. Morin participated via conference call from his home. (All motions and decisions are hereby noted to be made from these respective locations.)

Others Present: Chief Morency and Deputy Chief Buteau; Reporter Edith Tucker attended via Zoom.

Recorded by: Lisa Arguin

- III. Acceptance of Minutes of March 5, 2020:** Comm. Morin noted a correction of the word legislature to legislation; minutes were then unanimously accepted as amended, on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.
- IV. Monthly Financial Report:** The budget is running ahead, in part due to approximately \$40,000 in benefit savings related to changes in personnel. Reports were reviewed and unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay. The PD is tracking Covid-19 related expenses, and many of those are not yet reflected in the reports.

V. Old Business

- A. Budget:** The PD budget presentation took place via Zoom. Council was pleased with the PD's conservative request; it includes the 1.5% contractual wage increase and an additional \$5,000 for increased crossing guard hours, yet it came in at less than originally projected at the time the contract was approved. Comm. Nault commended the staff for presenting such a budget.
- B. Drug Task Force:** Milan voted by warrant article to move forward with the DTF program. What started off as a small grant and \$20,000 from each Coös County and the City of Berlin for one officer has now developed into a half-million dollar grant and a five-person team devoted to the North County. Provided funds have not been frozen by the State, it is the hope that the team will be in place by June 1.
- C. New Guns & Qualifications:** New weapons are in, and qualifications are scheduled for May 19.
- D. Hiring Process:** One candidate currently going through the background phase is in place to fill the vacancy that will be created by Lt. Theriault's retirement. Whenever the PD becomes aware of a worthwhile candidate, another hiring process begins. There are also two officers currently in line to attend the Academy.

- E. **Other: Grant Resolution:** City Council did not have any reservation with the police chief signing-off on PD grant applications. The City's attorney, however, believes there may be a conflict with the City Charter; therefore, the authority will remain with the city manager.
- Stonegarden Grant: The PD has received a grant award of \$13,426.

VI. New Business

- A. **Phone Contract:** The full maintenance plan cost is \$165/mo. This item will be reconsidered prior to the end of the fiscal year, when more information is available.
- B. **Novel Coronavirus:** The last several weeks have been spent dealing with the virus. A task force has been established and a master operations plan, flowchart, and draft handbook for procedures and policies on reporting have been developed. All City departments are working together to determine what is best for the community. The community is also doing a great job and needs to stay the course.
- C. **NHEDA Dispatch Week:** Next week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. Chief Morency stated their services are greatly appreciated, and Berlin's will be recognized. Jenn Cloutier, Berlin's Dispatch Supervisor, recently received the NHEDA Exceptional Service Award. Jenn was nominated several times by her peers, but as a NHEDA board member, she put her nominations aside. The Commission extended their best to Jenn and the PD's dispatchers.
- D. **"Call to Duty" Scholarships:** Several applications have been received. In light of the virus, the Memorial Committee will not meet. Applications will instead be forwarded to Comm. Morin for initial review.

The annual golf tournament is being considered for September, but the PD will not solicit for community resources, as they have been hard-hit this year.

- E. **NHPSTC Training:** Due to virus concerns, PSTC is conducting regimented training on-line. Officer Pearson participates from the PD, and at this point, his physical training is scheduled for July. If this situation perpetuates beyond July, new candidates will begin their training on-line as well.
- F. **Stonegarden Grant:** On a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay, the Commission unanimously confirmed the Stonegarden Grant overtime rate of \$47.75, which is equivalent to the PD's lieutenant's rate at time-and-one-half. So moved. On a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay, the Commission also unanimously authorized the chief to apply for and accept funds from the NH Department of Fish & Game for OHRV patrols; so moved.
- G. **On-Line Forms:** SNS is working to assist the PD in making submittable PDF forms available on the PD's webpage.
- H. **Statistics:** Statistics were reviewed. Chief Morency noted that 65,000 people died in this country from drugs, and departments are still fighting for resources to combat the problem.
- I. **Correspondence:** The BPD was involved in a recent drug bust in Ossipee, but newspapers failed to include mention of Berlin.
- Several training classes have been postponed.
 - Several Executive Orders have been issued.

- Officer Imperial is an Army Reserve Medic and has been deployed.
- First responder personnel in the National Guard have been placed at the bottom of the Guard's call-list, due to the hardship communities are facing with recent shortages of personnel.
- The May 18 Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Service has been canceled.
- Health Trust is offering an Employee Assistance Program.
- Nathan Noyse is the new State Police Colonel.
- All PD hours and equipment purchases pertaining to COVID-19 are being tracked.
- The AG's Conference on Domestic Violence is scheduled for September 9-10.

J. Other: Restorative Justice: The program customarily involves a detective, and one will be assigned in the future.

- Parents and members of the School Department wanted to hold a parade for the athletes involved in the Championships. Due to current circumstances, the chief believed the risk to the community's health would be too great, and it was determined that t-shirts will instead be printed and delivered at a later date. A parade or other event can also be scheduled in the future.
- Jericho Power has donated \$5,000 to the BPD. The chief is hoping to use these funds, along with forfeiture funds, for the dog program. Combined, there would be enough to fund the program for two years.
- Lt. Kerry Theriault joined the meeting, stating his decision to retire as of May 1 is not one he made lightly. He thanked the Department, administration, and Commission for their support. Chief Morency presented a retirement badge, stating Kerry will retire after more than twenty years of service. The chief commended Kerry for being a fine role model and exceptional officer. Comm. Nault added that the PD, City of Berlin, and its citizens at large hold him in extremely high regard. Comm. Morin thanked Kerry for his service and wished him the best of luck. Comm. Tremblay reiterated the commissioners' sentiments, adding that Kerry is a friend as well, and he will be dearly missed.

VII. Public Comments: None.

VIII. Adjournment of Public Meeting: At 8:55 a.m., the meeting adjourned to Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (e), by roll call vote on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay. Public Session reconvened at 9:00 a.m.; there were no decisions made in Non-Public Session. The meeting adjourned unanimously on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Nault. The next meeting will be held on May 7 at 7:30 a.m.