**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**ZOOM MTG ID: 897 1571 3993**

**DATE: THURSDAY, JULY 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:** Commissioners Nault, Tremblay, and Morin were present.

**Others Present:**  Chief Morency and Deputy Chief Buteau. There were no participants via Zoom.

**Recorded by:** Lisa Arguin

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of June 3, 2020:**  Minutes were unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay. A correction was noted that the day on today’s agenda should be Thursday.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Report:** The PD will turn back approximately $200,000 to the City this year. Approximately $100,000 is a result of savings in benefits, with additional savings in-part due to exigent circumstances and employee sacrifices throughout the year. A turn-back of this size is exceptional and cannot be expected every year. The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Budget:** Addressed under Financial Report above.
2. **Drug Task Force:** Chief Morency met with Milan selectmen, and grant paperwork was signed and submitted. Since then, while reviewing their policy, Milan noticed an error on the number of hours. They are in the process of seeking an amendment to increase the number from 30 to 35, and at this time, the Team is operational to a certain extent.
3. **Hiring Process:**  There are presently no openings at the PD, but the hiring process is ongoing to establish a hiring pool. The most recent ads resulted in one application and one letter of interest.
4. **COVID-19 Task Force:** The Task Force continues to meet every other week, and new cases in Berlin are currently being monitored. The public has been very responsible and good at complying with the rules.
5. **K9 Status:** Officer Gale, Kodiak, and the dog trainer from Hillsboro gave a presentation to City Council on Monday, and it was very well received. Council is unanimously in favor of the K9 program and complimented the PD on finding funds to support it. Kodiak will serve for search and rescue as well as drugs searches. He was officially sworn-in on Tuesday, and he and Officer Gale will attend their first day of training on July 20.
6. **Other:** Chief Morency advised that given recent events, the response from this community in support of law enforcement has been outstanding. People have been great, and their kindness is very much appreciated by everyone at the PD.

**VI. New Business**

1. **IACP Training & Use of Force Summit:**  The IACP provides exceptional training at their annual conferences, but this year’s has been canceled. As an alternative, PD members will attend two-day NEACP training in December by Eric Daigle, a law enforcement attorney. He is a great speaker and will provide a pulse on what is going on in the country.

1. **Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability**: The governor’s commission is in place and includes a member from the ACLU, Black Lives Matter, Attorney General’s Office, and Supreme Court. They will be reviewing several processes, including de-escalation and the force continuum. Chief Morency noted that BPD officers follow a force continuum, and although they are instructed not to argue at a call with a supervisor, the oath they take when sworn-in to protect this community also means they better intervene when they see any officer doing something wrong.
2. **91-A & FOIA Requests**: Requests for statistical information continue to increase, especially from agencies conducting studies. Recent requests include one from NHPR and one from the University of Chicago.
3. **NHPSTC Audit Status**: The audit is nearly complete. There is a possibility that the NHPSTC may change from issuing certifications to instead issuing licenses.
4. **City Hall Cameras:** The PD was in a good year-end financial position to be able to assist City by purchasing an upgraded camera system for City Hall. The system has been ordered and will be installed soon.
5. **Parking Ticket Collection**: The city clerk advised that if the City were to adopt a special ordinance, people would be mandated to pay their parking ticket fines prior to registering their vehicles. This would be a great assistance to the PD. The issue is currently on-hold until the City hires a replacement for the finance director.

1. **Death-In-Custody Reporting**: The Attorney General’s Office has distributed new protocol for death-in-custody reporting. It has been several years since the procedure was updated, and this one should prevent allegations of impropriety.
2. **Grants**: NH Highway Safety found extra money and awarded the BPD an additional grant of $8,000 for pro-active patrols. The PD has also filed an alcohol compliance grant application.
   * Covid-19 Grants: There are three grant opportunities. The city manager has filed for reimbursement under one grant, using one group claim covering all City departments.
3. **Statistics:**  Statistics were reviewed and discussed.
4. **Correspondence**: The chief highlighted several thank you notes and cards, including one from the 100 Club, Warden Riendeau, and one for Lt. Valliere.
   * The Chamber’s ribbon cutting ceremony for the Outreach Clinic will be held on July 16.
   * Asst. Safety Commissioner Perry Plumber has resigned, and the governor will appoint a replacement.
   * Scott Mason has been nominated for the position of Executive Director for NH Fish & Game.
   * Chief Morency received word that the lights on the Dummer Tower have been changed.
   * The upcoming school year will be Steve Arsenault’s last as SRO.
5. **Other**: Vehicles: Officer Pearson recently struck a moose with a PD vehicle. Estimated damage is $11,000, and the vehicle is an older model valued at $15,000. It will be repaired and used as the K9 vehicle.

The new cruisers ordered months ago are still not available. As the PD is now short four vehicles, the chief’s plan is to take the detectives vehicles and suit them up for the streets; in turn, two pick-up trucks will be purchased for use by the detectives. The trucks will eventually be turned over to the City/PWD which will take care of the PD’s short-term problem and will help the City in the future with their long-term problem of a shortage of PWD trucks.

(Commissioner Morin exited at 8:32 a.m.)

1. **Public Comments**: None.
2. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 8:40 a.m., the meeting adjourned unanimously on a motion by Comm. Nault, seconded by Comm. Tremblay. Due to scheduling conflicts, there will be no August meeting unless an emergency arises. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3 at 7:30 a.m.