

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2022
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 7:32 a.m.
- II. Roll Call:** Commissioners Jerry Nault, Marc Tremblay, and Pierre Morin were present.
- Others Present:** Chief Buteau, Captain Lemoine, Lt. Roy, Lt/Pros. Howry, and Jennifer Cloutier.
- Recorded by:** Kimberly Bijeau
- III. Acceptance of Minutes of February 3, 2022:** Correction made under “Old Business – Other” corrected spelling to the word interim. Minutes were unanimously accepted as amended on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.
- V. Monthly Financial Report:** The reports were reviewed: Overtime has slowed down but is still over. Reports were unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.
- VI. Old Business**
- A. Berlin EMS Contract Update:** Fire Chief Watkins is heading up the negotiations. Proposal was rejected but did get the point across with reference to an increased demand on the PD / Dispatch. Was viewed as a cross charge between departments. Still somewhat involved but appear to be close to a decision. Company is Butler.
- B. 2023 Budget Update:** Have had a couple of meetings. CM presented the budget this week. Significant changes to the CIP requests; decreases are across the board. Conversation with CM with reference to the CIP cuts. Body Cams and Tasers were cut. Only 3 were approved with 2 being at a lesser amount. Approved: Cates Hill Tower, Communications Equipment, and Cruisers. Meet with Council on March 30th.
- C. Retiree Program:** Sent out preliminary letter and was well received. Hoping to be an annual letter.
- D. Skate Event / Community Policing:** 80 plus people including employees and their families. There are a couple of events in the works including a hike and kick ball.
- E. COSSAP Grant:** 3 years ago the department was approached by the AG’s office in reference to this grant; (Comprehensive Stimulant, Substance Abuse Program). Grant is based on a program that originated out of Laconia PD. Fully funds an officer; including salary and benefits. Deadline was March 11th so should be hearing whether we were approved within the next couple of weeks. Grant is a 3 year program. Eric Adams out of Laconia PD is in charge of the program; would train the officer.

- F. **Renovation Project Update:** Lt Roy advised on the rooms finishing touches. Looking into the purchase of a Promethean board. Would be a big asset for the ERT. Moving on to renovate the Interview Room. Bid was awarded to Moe Croteau and should start in 4-5 weeks. Pope Security has already started running the wiring.
- G. **Training:** Utilizing online trainings: through Police One and Daigle. Month of January was set aside for the officers to utilize the online training. We have been impressed with the classes offered by Daigle. Other trainings have begun to ramp up. Will have a DRE officer; Noah Dumas is attending the training. 2-3,000 hours worth of training were lost with recent retirees.
- H. **Hiring Process Update:** Working on a background check and are hoping to have Morency's position filled early-mid April. Will still have the SRO position, a DTF position, and the COSSAP position to fill.
- I. **Grant Research:** Body Cam grant confirmed to be geared towards setting up new departments. Have put in for the F&G / OHRV grant. Looking into the PSN (Project Safe Neighborhood) Grant which utilizes mobile hot spots and is geared towards reducing violent crimes. Grant for new MDT's; sifting through the quotes and completing the application process.
- J. **Other:** Visited Beal and Silva who have reached their halfway point in the academy. Checked in with them and had dinner with them. Both are doing good and appear to be in good spirits.

VII. New Business

- A. **Use of Force Project:** Information packet had been provided to the Commission. Have been questioned and received 91a requests pertaining to same. Useful for the department to see any trends and provide information for needed additional training.
- B. **Revision FTO Program:** Lt Roy attended an FTO Supervisor course and there have been a number of changes. The department has a number of new FTO's. Planning an FTO training day to update the departments current FTO's with the changes.
- C. **First Net Changeover:** Department has decided to move to First Net. The monthly cost is similar to what the department is currently paying through Verizon. Have demoed the phones and have data from other agencies in the area that have already made the switch. Have put up numerous new towers; 200+ new towers in the state with a large number of them being in the North Country.
- D. **PSN Grant: (Project Safe Neighborhood)** Set-up to reduce violent crimes.
- E. **Milan / Dummer Stats:** Stats were included with the Commission packets. BEMS provided mutual aid with them but don't have a contract.
- F. **Award:** Present Dennis Cornish with a plaque. Worked FT for a number of years, filled in for maintenance, and has been on SE.

- G. Noteworthy Incidents:** Concerns with reference to ongoing investigations that may need to be moved to non-public. Mention the arson investigation that was in the paper. Overdoses: no deaths since the beginning of February but have still been responding to overdose calls. Have shown an increase with OD's in past six months in comparison to the prior six months.
- H. Statistics:** Statistics were discussed: Captain Lemoine: Juvenile incidents are still down and still believed to correspond with not having an SRO. JO/Detective Benjamin investigates juvenile incidents and then issues Juvenile Petitions that show as an arrest. OHRV complaints: up 500% with a significant amount being snowmobiles leaving from residence and not operating on a designated connector trail. Two noted as leaving from an Airbnb. Mud season has started and typically runs through May 23rd. Usually starts end of March beginning of April. Other reductions (in statistics) believed to be due to people not taking vacations and getting caught up with reports during the month of January. Plan to start annual K9 stats: reviewed same.
- I. Correspondence:** Chief Buteau highlighted several training opportunities and thank you letters.
- 207 East Mason St: Sinibaldi's? Liquor Commission notice reference liquor license.
 - Highway Safety: Additional monies; \$7,000. They have had several changes in personnel.
 - Randall / praise report. Laflamme good job on hit and run cfs near Gord's Store.
 - Appreciation letter for Sperlonga.
 - Appreciation letter for Priest out of Gorham PD.
 - Appreciation from Berlin FD for Priest. Great communication skills.
 - Widow of Roger Charest: plans to write a letter of appreciation. "Everyone that assisted made her life easier."
- K. Other:**
- PD barbeque at Heritage Park on June 12th.
 - Steve Arsenault: (not keeping up with certification) but may fill in for Danny to assist with vacations and when Danny is not available.
 - Inquiry with ref to a motorhome and dump truck on 2nd Ave. Ban ends April 1st. Couple of Lt's are following up on; number of unregistered vehicles and property line issues being looked into.

Public Comments: None

- VII. Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 08:44 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 9:02 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, April 7, 2022.**

