

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

DATE: Thursday, November 2, 2023
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 07:36 A.M.

II. Roll Call: Commissioner Nault, Comm. Tremblay, and Comm. Morin were present.

Others Present: Chief Buteau, Deputy Chief Roy, Lt. Pros. Zachary Howry, and Officer Josh Cusson.

Recorded by: Kimberly Bijeau

III. Acceptance of Minutes of October 12, 2023: Old Business paragraph #5 group should have an apostrophe. Minutes were unanimously accepted as amended on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

IV. Monthly Financial Report: Financial report was reviewed and discussed. Currently 33.7% into FY'24. Question with reference to payment to Town of Campton. Has been paid out. Currently down three Sgt.'s as Priest was promoted to Lt. The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

V. Old Business

A. New Hire: The Commission extended their welcome to Officer Cusson. Josh spoke about his employment history and family life. Served 6 years in the Army and was an E4.

B. PTR Focus Group: Chief Buteau provided an update with ref to the groups progress. Had recovery center grand opening last night. Went very well with a number of different speakers. Open Monday – Friday 9a-5p and is not a residential treatment center or detox program. More of a peer support resource center. Believe there was approx. 100 people at the opening.

C. Riverfire: Possibly the busiest event yet. No issues. Could use more vendors and more space. Ran out of handicapped parking. Lines for vendors were very long and some ran out of food.

D. PD Email Change: November 8th is the date the .gov email goes into effect. Switch was per cyber security recommendation.

E. Other: Nothing.

VI. New Business

A. PSTC Academy Change: expanding to 18 weeks as of January 1, 2024. Potentially going to 20 weeks in the next couple of years.

B. Parking Area Upgrade: Public Works laid down pavement grindings in lot off Gilbert Street.

C. Border Alliance Meeting: Have been getting communications ref task force being put together for Coos County. Run by the AG's office. Similar to the Drug task force to patrol the border area on an OT basis. Team will work under the AG's office so can work outside their jurisdiction. Will require a

daylong training. List of available officers will be sent to Troop F to compile a schedule. Trainings available in December for patrols to start in January. Cote is the POC through Troop F.

- D. Grants:** Working on usual grants: ILO, DTF, Highway Safety, LE Substance Abuse, and Homeland Security Search and Rescue.
- E. FY'25 CIP's:** Deadline is November 28th. Deputy Chief Roy has been working on updating the CIP's. DC Roy advised on same including: **Public Safety Agency Software:** \$125,000. **Impound carport** roof covering and fencing: \$30,000. **Firearms** to replace ERT rifles; 8 fully equipped: \$12,000. **Police vehicles;** formerly cruisers but renamed due to replace quads. \$147,000. **Cruiser radios;** \$14,000. **Communications Equipment:** \$20,000. **Radio Communications System Upgrade:** \$360,627. **Cellbrite:** \$20,000 startup cost. **Cates Hill Communications Tower:** \$25,000. **Building Renovations:** \$75,000 to replace holding cells. **Building Renovations – General:** \$15,000. **Body-worn Cameras & Tasers:** \$21,031.05. **Ballistic Vest / Shields.** \$30,000. **AED's** \$11,400. (time 33.20)
- F. Training:** Deputy Chief Roy advised on upcoming expenditures on training and travel. K9 training – 4 weeks left. Drug school is next April: 8-week long program. Plan to send two to Roger Williams – 2-week supervisor school next month.
- G. Statistics:** September statistics were reviewed and discussed. Went from 17 to 24 in the negative. Good to see numbers going down. OHRV stops increasing with complaints going down. Juvenile incidents and arrests concerning.
- H. Hiring:** Deputy Chief Roy advised on one coming in today for testing. Still down 4 officers. Few applicants follow through. Still a nationwide issue/topic. Discussion with ref to hiring civilian/not certified employee(s). Southern part of the state and across the country departments filling the ranks with not certified employees. Recruitment and retention; having a take home cruiser was the biggest thing. Including money and time off. Night shifts / scheduling is an issue.
- I. Correspondence:** Chief Buteau highlighted several training opportunities and thank you letters:
- Northern border alliance
 - Justice department report on recruitment and retention
 - Solar eclipse for April. Bringing in crowd to Colebrook / Pittsburg area.
- J. OTHER:** DC Roy came across a vehicle going in the wrong direction. Subject was having a severe allergic reaction. DC Roy assisted with getting subject through the Riverfire traffic and saved her life as her airway was closing up. DC Roy had been running the event. Female was from Salt Lake City, Utah.

VII. Public Comments: None.

VIII. Adjournment of Public Meeting: At 8:26 a.m., Comm. Morin motioned, with a second by Comm. Tremblay, to move into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (b), and (e). The Commission entered non-public session by roll call vote with all members voting in the affirmative. Public session reconvened at 09:00 a.m. There were no decisions made in non-public session, and minutes were sealed on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin, carried unanimously by Comm. Nault, as their release could adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the Commission.

Comm. Morin then motioned, with a second by Comm. Tremblay, to adjourn the public meeting; so moved. The next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, **December 7, 2023, 07:30 hrs.**