

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

DATE: Friday, March 8, 2024
TIME: 7:30 A.M.
PLACE: BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Comm. Tremblay at 07:28 A.M.
- II. Roll Call:** Commissioner Tremblay, Comm. Morin, and Comm. Pivin were present.
- Others Present:** Chief Buteau, Deputy Chief Roy, and Jennifer Cloutier. Det. Sgt. Benjamin (@ 08:14)
- Recorded by:** Kimberly Bijeau
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Moment of Silence**
- V. Election of Commission Chairman:** Motion by Comm. Morin to elect Comm. Tremblay. 2nd by Comm. Pivin. The motion carried unanimously; so moved.
- VI. Acceptance of Minutes of February 8, 2024:** Comm. Morin had a question under New Business, section D: with ref to increased foot patrols and where they would be. Section G, Statistics: change the word contribute to attribute. Minutes were unanimously accepted as amended on a motion by Comm. Pivin, seconded by Comm. Morin.
- VII. Monthly Financial Report:** Financial report was reviewed and discussed. Currently 67.94% into FY'24 as of 03/05/2024. 2-3% ahead at this point. Patrol tracking high due to large number of officers not time-in-grade ready for promotions: likewise, Sergeants are down. A number of general ledger lines items are paid out early in the FY. Health insurance: less buyouts. Community Policing has a \$1,000 credit coming. Had the Skate Event and currently planning Fishing Derby. OT line: last couple years we have been at or around 100% spent this time of year / 5-year trend was 105% spent at year end. Investigations: voucher for Matthew Bender. The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Pivin.
- A. FY'25 Budget:** Mtg with CM. Few minor clarification questions were addressed. Monday CM presented as is to the council. PD budget presentation scheduled for April 8, 2024.
- B. Northern Border Alliance:** Patrol borders grant with State Police. Last three officers are in training today at Troop F (8 hours of training). Task force: similar to DTF working under AG's office. 9 officers will be participating. Scheduling and staffing still being worked out. May recommend that two officers work together due to remoteness of patrol areas. The Stonegarden grant had been similar in patrolling the borders.
- C. Solar Eclipse Planning:** Jenn's staying up-to-date and attending meetings. Opening up EOC at the PD. Meeting virtually every two weeks. Mtg in Pittsburg in a couple of weeks. Pittsburg and Colebrook ramping up for the event. This area 75% booked to date. Berlin/Gorham schools closed. WMRS still open along with Lancaster. Route 3 expected to get the bulk of traffic.

- D. Skate with Cops Event:** Det. Sgt. Benjamin 3rd annual event. A lot of appreciation passed along during and after the event. Officers have been wearing high vis vests so as to stand out. Mission is to build community relationship thru these type event. Large number of officers participated.
- E. PTR Meeting:** Gaining traction. Recovery center up and going. Video draft ref process. (video presentation). Discussion ref the message, the process, and providing support to people that don't have it.
- F. Other:** Polar plunge is this Sunday. Had been doing in Littleton. This year going to Meredith. LE Torch run. Winter/Summer games.

VIII. New Business

- A. Kelly Ayotte Visit:** Visited the PD along with a number of other locations in the North Country. Visited North Country Growers; question whether it is up and running. Justin Vien is the general manager. Hoping it brings jobs to the area. Walk-thru for security purposes planned for next couple months. Feb. 16th visit. Kelly is very supportive of LE and Public Safety in general.
- B. Letter to Mayor and Council:** Sent letter to the Mayor and Council in recognition of Comm. Nault. Chief Buteau read through the letter. Presented in council meeting on 20th of February.
- C. DCYF Meeting:** Mtg to go over policies and procedures. Chief Buteau and Det. Sgt. Benjamin met with the supervisor and attorney. Discussion pertaining to "Motion to Enter" orders. Will assist with same but won't be kicking down doors unless there is some exigency. Was a very good discussion and a lot of issues were ironed out. They have been invited to an upcoming patrol meeting to discuss same along with other paperwork service matters involving safety risks.
- D. USFS Agreement:** Received an additional \$3,000 on the 26th. Started with the Rainbow event. To date Carifio's position hasn't been filled. Initial grant amount was \$18,500 for dispatch and \$6,000 for patrols.
- E. Arson Conviction:** Successful case. Praise given to Det. Sgt. Benjamin. Arson cases are tough as evidence often times is burned. Outstanding job. Thank you letter read from the Chevarie's.
- F. Commendation:** Ref the department's handling of the recent homicide; including the dispatchers. Quick apprehension of the subject. Number of people worked around the clock. Major crimes handling the case and arrived to scene quickly.

DCYF praised Cpl. Pearson. Stating he was great and one of the best to work with when dealing with a recent home visit.

February 22nd: Officer Cusson ref his professional demeanor when handling a number of calls.

Jarod Beal thank you letter: thanked for how well subject was treated during a DWI arrest.

Jenn: NH Dispatch Association Conference: Jenn. nominated the entire dispatch for team of the year for their exceptional work during the Rainbow Event. They have been chosen as recipients and will be presented the award during conference in April.

- G. Training:** DC Roy provided an update: Panto now a certified ground fighting instructor. In-house training held twice a year for patrol officers. Sgt. Gale and Ofc. Panto are now both certified instructors. Newer program; started over the last year. Officers receive the basic training in the

academy. With recent events pertaining to “Use of force”. Gracie family geared training towards LE. Method/techniques reduce injuries. Open invite to the Commission to attend a training. Annual 4-hour liability block. CPR recert completed. Annual taser recert.

H. Statistics: January statistics were reviewed and discussed; tracking high on Milan still. CFS’s are high. There have been a couple of recent serious OHRV accidents. MV warnings over 300: averages out to 8-10 per day.

I. Hiring: Deputy Chief Roy advised on same. Currently 4 short in patrol. There are currently two conditional officers. MA candidate looking to start next couple of weeks. Det. Sgt. Benjamin is starting the background on the 2nd candidate. College fair: Plymouth State Job Fair and GMHS job fair. Discussion ref internships through WMCC.

J. Correspondence: Chief Buteau highlighted several training opportunities and thank you letters:

- Chamber: Journey to Jericho moving from Jericho Mtn. to downtown. Moving from Main St. to Pleasant St. Getting Gorham more involved with events on the common.
- DC Roy ref upcoming ground fighting training schedule
- Time extension for COSSAP grant.
- Additional DTF funding
- Cruiser set-up expenditures

K. OTHER: Commission guide book discussion. Goal for next meeting. Annual bike rodeo at the Rec. Center scheduled for May 11th from 9a-2p. Can share add on FB.

VII. Public Comments: None.

VIII. Adjournment of Public Meeting: At 09:08 a.m., the meeting adjourned unanimously on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay. At 09:11 a.m. moved back into public. The next monthly meeting will be held **Thursday, April 4, 2024 @ 07:30 a.m.**