**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017**

**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 Morency, Deputy Chief Buteau, and Jenn Cloutier

**Recorded by:** Lisa Arguin

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of February 2, 2017:** Comm. Nault requested that the location of Route 110 be added to the speed limit discussion under Old Business, B; Comm. Morin then moved to accept the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Comm. Tremblay and carried unanimously by Comm. Nault.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Reports:** The report was accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin, carried unanimously by Comm. Nault. Chief Morency noted that the balance remaining under Replacement of Equipment is misleading at this time because it includes reimbursement for the defective laser sights. Replacements will be purchased shortly.

**V. Old Business**

1. **COPsync:** The PD has had difficulty with COPsync’s support service. Recently by chance, Jenn discovered that COPsync sold this same software to CCFHS but never notified the PD for coordination of services and training. This provides a false sense of security to the customer and is misleading. The theory behind the program is good, but their service has been troubling.

1. **Milan Enforcement:** Everything is going well. The only real issue has been with movement in the schedule, but things have worked out so far.

1. **Bathroom Status:**  Work on the first floor bathroom is complete, and work is already in-process on second floor bathroom. The contractors have done a great job.
2. **Telephone System:** The city manager has the information, and a bid should be out shortly.
3. **Budget:** The PD’s budget meeting with Council has been moved to the 29th at 6:30 p.m. As anticipated, the budget will be tight.
4. **Building Project**: The project is wrapping up, and all funds have been expended. Chief Morency advised that Deputy Chief Buteau and Lt. Gendron did a great job managing the project, and the Building Trades students have done excellent work. This was an unusual job for them, and they saved the City a considerable amount of money on the project.
5. **“Call to Duty” Event**: The River Drivers game was very well attended. Family members of the fallen officers were very happy with the event, and several vendors also expressed their appreciation for being invited. This was a welcomed opportunity to thank everyone for their past support of the memorial and scholarship fund. The chief gave special thanks to Deputy Chief Buteau, Jenn Cloutier, Dispatcher Pauline Suitter, and Lisa Arguin for volunteering and helping with the event.
6. **State Police Authority:** The legislature is happy with the revised language. The NH Association of Chiefs of Police also voted in favor of the agreement. There was no vote taken in the North Country. The arrangement will provide more motor vehicle related powers and will be beneficial to small departments. NH Highway Safety is aware of the changes; the potential impact on grants is unknown at this point.
7. **Rifle Sight Reimbursement:** The PD received $9,400 in reimbursement for the defective sights. Lt. Godin is scheduled to meet with a new sight vendor to review potential replacements.
8. **Other**: Grants: The PD brought in approximately $3.3 million in grants over the past 15 years.
   * Burgess Street: The chief updated the Commission on events occurring in the area.
   * Promotional Exam: The test will be given on March 15.
   * Detective Sergeant: The bid was posted on March 1, and the detective bid will be posted next. Promotions are never easy, as all PD employees do a great job.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Snow Plowing Policy**: A recent snow plow complaint was heard by Council regarding road conditions during/after a snowstorm. The complaint was represented by the city manager as a miscommunication between the PD and PWD with shared responsibility. The chief does not agree with that representation and clarified that dispatch clearly told the PWD there were problems developing because of snow on the roads; there is also a recording of the call. The policy is that the PD will provide notification about road conditions whenever possible; however, the PD is not responsible for notification. Comm. Tremblay commented that years ago, notification was only given as a courtesy.
2. **Ford Lawsuit & Cruiser Issues**: There is a problem with the manifold in some Ford Explorer cruisers which causes exhaust fumes to leak into the cab after the vehicles accrue 37,000-40,000 miles. There is a patch for it, and the PWD is working on correcting the problem.
3. **Flaggers Policy:** The State is working on the RSA regulating flaggers, and the PD is awaiting the results.
4. **Highway Safety Grant Application:**  The deadline for applications is April 15; applications will be submitted on-line this year, which is a new process.

The Opioid Grant application is also up for renewal. Current grant funds were awarded based on population instead of need. WMUR will be here this week to conduct an interview on the opioid crisis.

1. **Primex:** Chief Morency met with Council and expressed his concerns regarding their intent to enter into a three year contract with Primex for risk management services. A follow-up meeting with Primex representatives is scheduled for March 20.
2. **Right to Carry/Pistol Permits:** NH residents can still get a permit; however, the only time a concealed weapons permit is now required is for carry in other states. The new law has been posted on the PD’s web page, as well as the law pertaining to citizen’s use of deadly force. The chief also intends to post drug laws on the website.
3. **Legislative Issues:** Chief Morency highlighted his concern with Senator Woodburn’s proposal for full legalization of marijuana.There are findings of increased amounts of toxins in marijuana and resulting increasing medical expenses, and the chief believes legalization sends the wrong message to young people.
4. **NHPSTC Meeting:**  The chief was pleased to report that he will be reappointed to the NH Police Standards & Training Council effective March 20. This is a three-year appointment which provides an opportunity to keep ahead of rules and law changes, as well as receive notification as to how changes will impact officers. It is important to have representation from the North Country.
5. **Capital Improvement Cuts:** The city manager asked the chief to cut the PD’s capital improvement request as much as possible; as a result, the chief postponed several items and cut his original request from $301,519 to $172,000. One of the remaining requests is for replacement windows which are greatly in need and would result in greater fuel efficiency.
6. **ATV Festival:** The ATV Festival will take place August 4-5. The Polaris RZR event is scheduled for September 22-23.
7. **Monthly Statistics**: Statistics were reviewed; there has been a reduction in crime, resulting in an increase in proactive activities.
8. **Correspondence**: Thank you notes were received from Northeast Credit Union and Angie Fortin for services rendered.
   * Invitations were received from the Boys & Girls Club of Salem; AVH Chamber of Commerce for their annual dinner; Blue Courage for their Leadership Workshop; NH Special Olympics for the Winter Games; NH Listens for the Blue & You event; Bridging the Gap for community policing training; and NECOP for their spring conference.
   * The Berlin Health Department is now officially closed.
   * A drug dog recently conducted a search at a local school; there was one hit, but it was old, and there were no findings.
   * The State bid is out, and two cruisers have been ordered per the PD’s CIP.
   * Five employees attended mental health training, and the PD will receive $500 for their attendance.
   * The Stand Up Androscoggin Valley Coalition is applying for a $125,000 per year grant for five years; this grant is intended to assist in educating youths on drug prevention as well as cover advertisement costs to educate youths on alternative activities in this area.
   * The PD received a request to do a TV show about a particular case; the request has been forwarded to the Coös County Attorney’s Office.
   * The PD was recently awarded approximately $200 in forfeiture funds.
   * The chief received a memo regarding training pertaining to threats to government officials, and a request from DES for ALICE training. Opioid training has stressed the importance of the PD having a deconfliction process in place
9. **Public Comments**: None.
10. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** Comm. Morin motioned to adjourn at 9:10 a.m. The motion was seconded by Comm. Tremblay and carried unanimously by Comm. Nault. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.