**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018**

**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 Jerry Nault, Marc Tremblay, and Pierre Morin were present.

**Others Present:**  Chief Morency, Deputy Chief Buteau, Jenn Cloutier; Claire Stiles

**Recorded by:** Lisa Arguin

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of September 6 and 19, 2018:** Minutes of September 6 were unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay. An incorrect name was noted on the minutes of September 19 and will be corrected; the minutes were accepted as amended, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Nault.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Report:** The report was reviewed and unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Opioid Litigation:** The process is ongoing.

1. **Coös County Delegation Meeting**: The intent of the recent meeting with the Delegation and State officials was to address law enforcement needs. While the State is pleased with the work being done, the consensus is that more resources are needed for this area. The State will be looking to fund positions at 100%, but it is uncertain if funding is available.
2. **Firing Range:** City Council is in favor moving forward with a transfer of the range to the City, as well as maintaining a good working relationship with the Fish & Game Club. Chief Morency met with the club president, Bobby Rodrigue, to discuss the possibility of a long-term lease, future needs, and protection of lands. Discussion ensued; Comm. Morin questioned liability insurance for the range, and Comm. Tremblay suggested proper posting of “No Hunting” signs as well as public notice for low-light shooting events, in order to curb complaints. Chief Morency will follow-up on several issues and will provide an update at next month’s meeting.
3. **New Hires**: Two candidates were hired as of September 30: Noah Dumas and Dennis Gale. Dennis is a Marine Corps veteran who was working at the Berlin State Prison. Noah assisted the Department with training over the last two years and did an outstanding job. Both officers joined the meeting briefly and were welcomed aboard by the Commission. Both will be enrolled in the January academy. The third candidate was offered part-time work until another full-time opening became available, but he declined. Denis Micucci also recently joined the PD as a special enforcement officer; he is currently a full-time officer with Northumberland.
4. **Memorial Golf Tournament:** Not all bills have arrived, but this year’s event is slated to have raised approximately $10,000, which puts the scholarship/book fund at roughly $30,000.
5. **Other:** Cars have been ordered and should be here within 7-10 days. The delay is due to rail issues and manufacturing. Grappone was awarded the State bid this year.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Restorative Justice & SRO Agreements:** Both agreements have been signed. Officer Arsenault remains the SRO, and Det. Marsh remains in charge of the Restorative Justice Grant. The School Department has assured Chief Morency that they will be budgeting for the SRO position in order to continue the program once the grant ends.
2. **Black Jacks Hockey Meeting:**  The meeting went very well, and several concerns were addressed. Deputy Buteau will follow up to insure that the PD is notified if and when games will run beyond the anticipated schedule.
3. **CIP and Annual Reports:** Reports are due in two weeks, and the chief will have the completed reports for next month’s meeting.
4. **New England Chiefs Training:** Training was exceptional and included ERT classroom tactical training on special response and liability, as well as a debriefing on the Pulse night club shooting.
5. **91-A Request:** A recent request was declined, due to it being in regard to an on-going juvenile investigation. Redaction of video was also included in the request; by law, video cannot be redacted by law enforcement or third parties.
6. **MOU with Marshal Willard:** The MOU was signed and pertains to fugitives from justice.
7. **Statistics**: Statistics were reviewed.
8. **Correspondence**:
   * River Fire will be held October 13, 2018.
   * Lt. Lemoine will meet with police chiefs on October 23 to discuss the guidelines for participation under the Opioid Grant.
   * Mechanical Services recently serviced the PD furnace and advised that the tanks and lines are in need of replacement. $5,000 in CIP funds were provided towards the cost of furnace replacement, but this project may consume the bulk of that amount, as the lines currently run under concrete. The chief will look into the urgency of the project is and if there is any alternative.
   * Law Enforcement Against Drugs is a new program intended to pick up where DARE leaves off.
   * Senators Shaheen and Hassan have dedicated September 30 through October 6 as National Community Policing Week.
   * Effective October 27, Officer Jen Lemoine will resign as ILO to accept a full-time position as SRO in Whitefield. It is important to maintain ILO communications between all agencies, and the Department is in search of a replacement.
9. **Other**. Chief Morency applauded the Union Body for its understanding of the situation at hand; the Department is short-staffed, and members have been very accommodating in allowing certified part-time officers to assist by filling some of the overtime shifts.
   * Dick Poulin recently approached Comm. Morin as well as Councilor Higbee regarding use of the Bearcat. Chief Morency advised that its use is based on a threat assessment evaluation of high-risk situations; other than that, it is used strictly for training purposes and has been included in Touch-A-Truck events.
   * The Department is combining efforts with Border Control at their request, working under the Stonegarden Grant to assist with illegal fugitives who may be in the area.
   * A drone was purchased with federal forfeiture funds, under their guidelines, as a tool to assist in surveillance in areas that would be otherwise inaccessible. This is not a toy. Instructor operator training is six weeks; for the time being, one officer will be sent to the two-day operator training instead of instructor training.
   * Road Dedication: Chief Morency was invited to and spoke at the recent road dedication arranged by the City in memory of Tony Urban. Tony’s daughter and wife, however, were inadvertently overlooked; they did not receive an invitation and were rightfully upset. Tony was very civic minded and involved with several organizations in Berlin, and the City is working to rectify the oversight: a day of caring will be declared in his honor in the spring.
10. **Public Comments**: None.
11. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 8:55 a.m., Comm. Morin motioned to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II. (a); on a roll call vote, Commissioners Nault, Tremblay, and Morin voted in the affirmative. Public session reconvened at 9:25 a.m. There were no decisions made in non-public session, and minutes of the session were sealed unanimously by roll call vote pending review of forthcoming information, as the divulgence of information at the present time could adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board itself. Public session adjourned unanimously on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin. The next meeting will be held Thursday November 1, 2018 at 7:30 a.m.