

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

DATE: Thursday, February 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 07:30 A.M.

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

Others Present: Chief Buteau, Deputy Chief Roy, Lt. Wade Goulet, and Jenn Cloutier.

Recorded by: Kimberly Bijeau

III. Acceptance of Minutes of January 12, 2023: Minutes were unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

IV. Monthly Financial Report: Discussion with reference to a DTF SE question. Discussion ref vehicle repairs and a recent accident. The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

V. Old Business

A. FAITH COMMUNITY MEETING: 2nd annual meeting led by Lt Howry.

B. BUDGET FY'24: City Hall review is in April. Discussion pertaining to holding off on discussion on the budget until a later date closer to April. Chief presents to City Hall next Wednesday. Couple quick highlights: Budgeted for the 4% and 3% wage increase but didn't change to the new insurance with higher projection. Numbers will decrease \$50-\$60,000 if new contract is approved and new insurance goes into effect. Discussion ref training and having stats available when budget goes before the council. Motion to submit the budget as presented today to the City Council.

C. CYBER SECURITY MEETING: Met with Primex and CISA (Federal Agency) went over cyber security within the city and a few vulnerabilities and came up with a plan to move forward.

D. 2022 AWARDS: Mentioned during January meeting; the awards were peer picked: Sgt. Benjamin received the officer of the year. Employee of the year went to Randi Estabrooks. The Call to Duty Crime Fighting Award went to Noah Dumas and the Call to Duty Community Policing Award went to Adam Sperlonga. Discussion ensued with reference to the sled race during the Nansen Ski Club winter carnival.

E. TOWER LEASE COST: Received bill from AVH and it was approx. \$5,000. Lease conversation continues to move forward.

- F. **ACTIVE SHOOTER MEETING:** 1st of several meetings involving the School Dept., BFD, PWD, and EMS. Reviewed the emergency activation plan. Hope to finalize by Fall.
- G. **CITY EVENTS:** Nansen Ski Club Winter Carnival event was February 28th and 29th. Went very well with no known issues. Upcoming ski jumping events this month.
- H. **Other:** Nothing

VI. New Business

- A. **PREVENTION, TREATMENT, & RECOVERY MEETING:** Continuing discussion. Have created a vision and have a goal/mission.
- B. **FILE STORAGE OPTIONS:** Discussion with the City and options at City Hall or a conex. Have looked at a new server. Discussion with reference to Axon and cloud storage options that come at a cost.
- C. **CRUISERS:** Deputy Chief Roy has been attempting to find new cruisers since July and has preordered next years; currently have two 2022 model Explorers on order. One setup for summer and other will receive without setup. Chevy Tahoe's are now cheaper than an Explorer. Equipment / current setup won't fit in new cruisers. Picking up Tahoe and Explorer on Monday. Discussion with reference to Tahoe options pertaining to PPV vs SSV. Another Explorer potentially available this summer.
- D. **USE OF FORCE STATS:** (presented handout) DC discussion on stats and trend changes between '21 and '22. Chemical sedation: EMS use of ketamine sedation. Dry stuns not permitted. With darts / prongs incapacitate where dry stuns just provide pain. Gracie Jiu Jitsu training: all officers scheduled for training before April. Discussion on stats ref contributing factors including mental illness. De-escalation through use of display of taser: 36%.
- E. **PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING:** 2nd meeting with Fire Chief Watkins. Discussion ref opening EOC.
- F. **EMPLOYEE WELLNESS COORDINATOR:** Postpone for next month when Lt. White is able to participate.
- G. **HOSTED DEPT. HEAD MEETING:** Tuesday the monthly Dept. Head meeting was held here at the PD. Topics of discussion included homelessness plans and the new BS&A software. Discussion ensued with ref to options for the homeless and the cold temperatures. Meeting scheduled for later today to fund program for the homeless. Discussion ensued with ref to empty buildings, taxes, and City involvement.
- H. **CITY SOFTWARE UPDATE:** New BS&A software went live as of January 30th.
- I. **TRAINING:** 4-hour liability block held last week. Lt. White going to CA in March for a week-long international Crisis Intervention mental health training. Hope to have two attending mental health training in the spring and two in the fall. Offered through the academy so will have minimal cost. List of recert classes. Supervisor school teaching liability. Discussion on qualified immunity and a case that set a precedent.

- J. STATISTICS:** Lt Goulet advised 4 reported OD in month of January with one death. Suspect a spike this month. Granite Shield grant 11% used. 46% increase in MV warnings. OHRV stops 69% increase; possibly due to fact '22 had an ATV festival where there wasn't one in '21. Violations are down. The department lost 6 officers in '21: new officers may contribute to an increase in mv stops.
- K. HIRING:** Down two officers on regular roster. Have DTF, SRO, and COSSAP position openings. Have one conditional officer; candidate moved from CA and is currently working at the prison. Have one going to the academy at the end of February and hoping to have a second. Fitness test tomorrow will determine same. Interview in two weeks; very encouraging. Candidate is a retired Lt. Colonel in Marines from Presque Isle, Maine. He has 2 kids in school, one accepted to Norwich. Another candidate putting himself through academy in PA and has been on the Randolph Mtn. Club. Lt Dube still in healing process and it unknown whether the SRO grant has been approved through school.
- L. CORRESPONDENCE:** Chief Buteau highlighted several thank you notes and cards.
- Memo in ref to City implementation of new software process
 - CA article provided view from an addict in recovery pertaining to the syringe exchange program
- M. OTHER: None.**

VII. Public Comments: None.

VIII. Adjournment of Public Meeting: At 8:38 a.m., Comm. Nault 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 08:41 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 meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 07:30 a.m.**