**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 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 7:30 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 October 6, 2017:** Minutes were unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

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

**V. Old Business**

1. **Gorham Police & Dispatch Services:** The Town of Gorham approached the Berlin PD for police services; the selectmen are now in possession of the Berlin PD’s proposal which was prepared in accordance with terms specified by Chief Cyr in his RFP. Chief Morency and members of the Commission and BPD staff attended a Gorham public meeting to field questions about the proposal. It is anticipated that Gorham will contact Berlin if they remain interested.

1. **Drug Task Force:** The PD received a $120,000 grant for a position with the NH Drug Task Force; the position will cover the North Country, and the grant funds $60,000 per year for two years. In light of the ongoing drug crisis and limited area resources, City Council is in favor of the PD’s participation in the Task Force and has agreed to commit additional funding. The Coös County Sheriff’s Department and County Commission are also in support, as well as six of the eight members of the Coös County Delegation, and it is anticipated that they will provide up to $20,000 for each grant year as well. The Council’s next step is to pass a resolution appropriating funds.
2. **New Hire**: The Gorham officer who applied to and was hired by Berlin has since opted to remain with Gorham. There are other qualified and certified candidates interested, and they will be contacted. In the meantime, an ad for the hiring process will be placed.

(Commissioner Morin exited at 8 a.m., due to a previous appointment.)

1. **Firing Range Mitigation:** A plan was developed and has been submitted to the Conservation Fund. They are satisfied with it and pleased that the PD will continue using the land.
2. **Highway Safety Grants**: Over the years, the PD’s grant awards have been fairly consistent; this year, however, they were cut by approximately 45%. As a result, the PD will not have the ability to be as proactive with traffic-related patrols.
3. **Granite Shield Funding**: The PD received authorization to begin work under the Granite Shield grant (previously Granite Hammer); $20,000 was allocated for Coös County, while $4.5 million went to the southern part of the state.
4. **Other:** Phone System: A meeting with vendors will take place on December 5.
   * The Stand-Up Androscoggin Valley 10k race went well; the organization raises funds to educate children about drug prevention.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Storm & Emergency Operations**: The PD serves as the command center for the EOC. A meeting was assembled during the storm on the 30th and recessed once conditions began to improve.
2. **Capital Improvement Projects:** The chief presented his CIP plan. As no additions or changes were made, the plan will be forwarded to the city manager.
3. **LAP Lethality Assessment:** This is an assessment tool used in domestic violence screening, and there will be an upcoming presentation on the process.
4. **IACP Training Conference:** The conference provides exceptional training as well as the opportunity to network and stay current on issues, trends, and liability concerns impacting law enforcement. The information and training is invaluable, and the chief thanked the Commission for their support of employee participation.

1. **Hands of Hope:** The CAC will honor Sgt. Hollie Dube with the Hands of Hope Award this Friday, in recognition of her support of child victims and work to keep them safe.
2. **Statistics**: Statistics were reviewed. Calls for service have increased; drug overdose occurrences remain steady but are not receiving as much publicity.
3. **Correspondence:** The chief advised of numerous invitations, including the annual Highway Safety Luncheon which will take place on November 20.
   * Cpl. Priest submitted a letter of interest in attending Roger Williams Command Training series.
   * Thank you notes were received from the BHS Backers for the PD’s assistance with Homecoming and from Milan’s assistant fire chief for the dispatchers’ phenomenal work during the storm.
   * The BFD is requesting assistance with background investigations. While the PD assists as much as possible, the FD may need to have a member of their staff trained to do backgrounds, as they are extensive and time consuming.
   * The annual Department meeting will take place on December 8 at Heritage Park.
   * The WMCC has established a task force on sexual assaults and domestic violence, and they have reached out to the PD for assistance in developing a policy.
4. **Other**: Lt. Theriault represented the PD at the recent job fair.
5. **Public Comments**: None.
6. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 9:00 a.m., Comm. Tremblay motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried by Comm. Nault; so moved. The next meeting will be held Thursday, December 7, 2017.