**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**ZOOM MTG ID: 831-9580 6749**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2020**

**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 Nault, Tremblay, and Morin were present.

 **Others Present:**  Chief Morency and Deputy Chief Buteau; Jenn Cloutier participated via Zoom.

**Recorded by:** Lisa Arguin

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of May 7, 2020:**  Minutes were unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Report:** Chief Morency explained that this is customarily the time of year when equipment purchases take place, but in light of uncertain times, several purchases were put on hold until recently. Some of the purchases included: ammunition, camera lens, phone contract, replacement body cameras and vests, and a projector due to required in-house training. The front door will also be replaced. CARES Act hazard pay is reflected in the reports, and that expense will be reimbursed by the State. The chief also advised that Councilor Théberge inquired about the expense for a chair, and he was provided with an explanation that the chair is a 24/7 task chair designed for dispatchers, intended for intensive use, and ergonomically correct as recommended by Primex. Discussion ensued, and the reports were unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Budget:** There were no issues or comments made about the PD at the public hearing for the City budget. The Council will hold another meeting to discuss the tax rate.
2. **Drug Task Force:** Chief Morency has been assured that grant funds are in place, and paperwork will be forwarded to the Town of Milan. The team will be specific to Coös County, and the Milan member will hopefully be in place for July 1.
3. **Hiring Process:**  There are two applications on file; one applicant may be a good prospect for a part-time position. The PD’s newest full-time officer is scheduled to start on June 14.
4. **COVID-19 Task Force:** There are daily communications, and Zoom meetings are held 2x/week. Discussions mainly surround the governor’s orders.
5. **NHPSTC Changes:** Training is being reintroduced at the NHPSTC facility, and the PD has two officer candidates who will attend their last five weeks of their training at the Academy.

In light of recent events in the news regarding Mr. George Floyd, Chief Morency gave special thanks to the Commission for their support of the PD’s overall budget, especially for training. While it may seem expensive, it is extremely important. Comm. Nault stated he believes it is not an option, it is a necessity, and Comm. Morin stated lack of training can create liability down the road. Discussion ensued as to how one person’s actions can have nation-wide impact and unfortunately reflect negatively on an entire profession—the majority of which signed-up because they want to do good for their community.

1. **Other:** The WMCC is hoping to have an informational fair at the Middle School in the future.
	* **Call to Duty Scholarships:** There will be three book awards this year; two are for $750, and the third is for $500.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Submission for Opioid Liaison Position:**  Paperwork has been submitted. The opioid problem and statistics are not getting any better, they are just being talked about less often.

1. **Psychological Testing**: The new testing process is more science based and adds value to the evaluation process. It provides results on IQ, probability of retention, life span, strengths and weaknesses, and potential for bad decisions.
2. **New Hires**: Hannah Gagnon is in training as a part-time dispatcher. She is also employed by the Berlin-Gorham EMS, a science major, a quick learner, and she is doing an excellent job.

Christopher Wood has been hired as a full-time officer and will begin on June 14. He is moving to Berlin from the Rochester area and should be a great addition to the Department.

1. **Police Memorial Week:** All events have been postponed.
2. **NHPSTC Training/Re-Entry Plan**: Circumstances surrounding the next two or three weeks will have a lot to do with the re-entry plan.

1. **Firearms Qualifications**: Firearms training is taking place this week, and officers are using their new weapons.
2. **Statistics:**  Statistics were reviewed and discussed. The number of drug complaints is skewed by one person who has been making numerous calls. Stats for sexual assaults and child abuse/neglect cases are down, possibly due to cases not being reported.
3. **Correspondence**: FEMA, Byrne JAG Grant, and CARES Act will reimburse the City’s Covid-19 related expenses.
	* Thank you notes were received from Fred Devoid and Steve Griffin
	* CHINS petitions will now take place through Zoom meetings.
	* The PD will provide escort for the Senior Parade.
	* Veterans First is offering first responders health care services.
	* Mr. Cross’s remains were found by a Kent Street homeowner/renter. Contrary to what was posted on Facebook, the PD was working on the case prior to it being placed on social media, and it was unfortunate that Mr. Cross was not found sooner
	* Chief Morency advised of a call handled by Dispatcher Beth Bouchard. Thanks to her instinct and questioning of the caller, what was initially called-in as an accidental fall from a ladder into a window was determined to be as a domestic violence event.
	* This week, Wal-Mart graciously donated bags of snacks and hand sanitizers to the PD to let the employees know they are appreciated.
	* The PD is investigating an animal complaint. Sgt. Priest is working on the case and has received an offer for assistance from a director of the Humane Society.
4. **Other**: None.
5. **Public Comments**: None.
6. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 9:10 a.m., the meeting adjourned unanimously on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm.Tremblay. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 9 at 7:30 a.m.