**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019**

**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 January 10, 2019:** The date of the ATV Festival will be corrected to August 3. Minutes were unanimously accepted as amended, on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Report:** The report was reviewed; the budget is still running extremely close, and the chief provided clarification on several overspent line items. The report was unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Budget:** The PD budget session with the Council is scheduled for March 27. There have been no updates to the draft budget.

1. **Zetron Technical Support Upgrade**: Work was completed seamlessly.
2. **Evaluations:** Self-evaluations have been completed and are scheduled for review by administration on February 19.
3. **Hiring Process:** Two candidates are scheduled for the oral board on February 20. The panel will consist of two lieutenants and one sergeant.
4. **Operation Stonegarden Grant:** The formula used by the State has parameters for patrol hours and equipment, and adjustments need to be made. Once those are complete, patrols should restart. The government shutdown did have an impact on the proceedings.
5. **Other:** There were 144 in-the-line-of-duty deaths last year. The statistic not publicized as often is the number of officer suicides, which was 158 last year. The rate of officer suicide is five times greater than any other occupation, which speaks to the stresses in law enforcement. The need for specialists to assist after traumatic events is becoming more and more important.
   * Opioid Intake Program: Jarrett Stern of AVH has been in contact with the deputy chief and would like the PD to be a spoke in the hub and spoke program.
   * The phone system’s auto attendant feature will soon be activated. A press release will be published prior to doing so.

**VI. New Business**

1. **“Call to Duty” Scholarships/Book Awards:** Applications have been sent to area schools with a deadline for return of March 31. Since the account balance is over $30,000, the chief intends to ask the Memorial Committee to consider granting four awards of up to $1,000 each.
2. **Internal Training:**  Lt. Godin will retire at the end of this month. This will be a significant loss to the PD; he is a great employee as well as the department’s training officer. Administration will continue to seek out resources for in-house training. Lt. Godin intends to fill the part-time grant-funded position of ILO officer
3. **Corporal Position:**  The chief intends to post a bid for a corporal position. The position has been vacant since Cpl. Daisey promoted to prosecutor.
4. **School Resource Officer:** Corinne Cascadden has received verbal confirmation that the SRO position will be grant funded for another two or three years.
5. **Legislative Issues:** Current legislative issues up for consideration include bail reform, deadly force, and the prevention of financial background investigations on potential hires. The NHACP, NEACP, and IACP continue to monitor and voice opposition to issues that increase law enforcement risk.
6. **DARE vs LEAD:** The PD has had a DARE program for years, and a new LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program is now being considered. Officers Zach Howry and Steve Arsenault, the PD’s original DARE officer, attended an informational session and were impressed with LEAD. The Commission expressed interest in learning more about the differences between the two programs, and Officer Howry will be invited to the next meeting to provide information.
7. **North Country Interoperability Agreement:** The State is consolidating its agreements for SPOTS, NCIC, C-JIS, AFIS, and LYNX. The terms remain the same, but one agreement will be signed.
8. **Survey & Potential Grant:** The US Attorney’s Office sent a survey to the chief regarding violent acts. He completed and submitted the survey which will determine if the PD is eligible for a grant.
9. **Statistics** were reviewed. Protective custodies are up, possibly relating to IEAs and drugs. Suspected overdoses are down, but the measurement is potentially masked by the use of Narcan. Intersection-related accidents are up by 42%, most likely due to the decrease in Highway Safety grants intended to target traffic issues.
10. **Correspondence**: CAC: There are currently 77 cases of child sexual assault being investigated in Coös County.
    * The PD’s treadmill is in need of replacement at an estimated cost of $5,690. The NHPSTC establishes fitness standards which must be maintained by the officers. Equipment is customarily purchased at the end of the year based on the availability of funds, but, at this point, it appears the PD may not be able to replace the treadmill this year.
    * Wood in the female cell has been replaced with stainless steel at a cost of $308.
    * The Rec Department is seeking recommendations for its Volunteer Recognition Award.
    * Homeland Security Training: No one is scheduled to attend at this time, but that may change later in the year. Training is exceptional and is provided free of charge.
    * Councilor Higbee notified the PD of upcoming events for the Nansen Ski Jump. The PD will assist where necessary.
    * Felony First: The PD is in compliance with all guidelines.
    * The new Intoxilyzer machine should be here within 2-3 weeks.
    * Gorham approached the PD for assistance in filling dispatch shifts, but the BPD is also short of dispatchers.
    * The supervisors test is scheduled for March 28 at City Hall.
    * NH Special Olympics Winter Games will be held in Waterville Valley March 3-5.
    * As a community outreach program, Officer Imperial suggested conducting “Stop the Bleed” training to local agencies. He received this training in the military and is willing to teach.
    * The chief received a letter from an individual who does not have handicapped placards but chose to park in a handicapped spot at Dunkin Donuts, receiving a ticket as a result. In the letter, she advises she is eligible to have placards but chooses not to, and she attacks the officer for doing his job.
    * The Commission is in receipt of a letter of dispute regarding a speeding ticket and will respond by mail advising that the letter has been taken under advisement.
11. **Other**. During an incident involving an armed suspect and a baby, someone in the area kept flying their drone around the location; this was a distraction that could have created a hazard.
    * A department photo is planned for the fall.
    * Legislature regarding the State picking up 15% of the cost for retirement contributions will soon be back on the table.
    * The two PD recruits at the Academy are doing well.

1. **Public Comments**: Claire Styles provided copies of two letters of opinion pertaining to ATV safety which she intends to forward to the legislature. She inquired about protocol and how the PD presents its concerns on issues. Chief Morency advised that law enforcement as a whole monitors and approaches issues through associations such as NEACOP, NHACP, and IACP, which have designated legislative committees.

Comm. Tremblay recommended she bring her concerns directly to the committee rather than representatives.

Comm. Nault noted that there are sometimes misconceptions that the PD can change laws, but it cannot. There are also times when the department may not agree with a law, but is obliged to enforce it.

1. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 9:20 a.m., Comm. Tremblay motioned to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II. (c) and (d); on a roll call vote, Commissioners Nault, Tremblay, and Morin voted in the affirmative. Public session reconvened at 9:30 a.m. There were no decisions made in non-public session. Public session then adjourned unanimously on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin. The next meeting will be held Thursday, March 7, 2019.