

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

DATE: Thursday, June 10, 2021
TIME: 7:30 A.M.
PLACE: BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

I. Call to Order: 07:33 am

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

Others Present: Chief Morency, Deputy Chief Buteau, Captain Jeff Lemoine, and Jennifer Cloutier.

Recorded by: Kimberly Bijeau

III. Acceptance of Minutes of May 13, 2021. There was an amendment made with reference to a clarification that was made to the non-public minutes during public session. The amendment moved the clarification information to section III in non-public meeting. There was a correction made under section B: Contract negotiations; changing the 12 “weeks” to 12 “years”. Under New Business: Section I; the word “the” was changed to “that” when referring to Lt Dube. Minutes were unanimously accepted as amended on a motion from Comm. Morin seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

IV. Monthly Financial Report: reports were reviewed and discussed. Chief Morency advised that although the overtime line item is overspent as a result of open positions, the open positions also created a savings including a significant savings with benefits and retirement. The department still has two and a half weeks to go and there will be payroll expenses, a significant amount of training expenses, cruiser setup expenses, the dispatcher switches, radar signs, optics, replacement equipment (including two weapons), and preorder for ammo. The financial report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

V. Old Business

- A. Budget:** Chief Morency advised the Commission on the public meeting that was May 26th. The mayor had called on the Chief to speak in reference to the increase to the retirement system. There had been no comments pertaining to the PD budget. Chief Morency spoke with several council members after the meeting and they thought the budget was appropriate and there has been no further discussion.
- B. Criminal Justice Program NH:** Chief Morency was asked to give a class at the WMCC for the C.J. program. The college will be sending a link with reference to two students that addressed the topic of opioid abuse and LEACT. The students provided a civilians approach to both topics.

- C. Court Ruling on Involuntary Admissions:** The courts ruled on getting the issues fixed however the ruling was overturned by legislation last week. Departments may be opening up additional beds for IEA patients, however, the challenge now is getting the workers. The hope is that the court ruling will force their hand into taking action and getting these people the help they need as it has been an ongoing issue for a number of years.
- D. SB 96 and HB 111; Qualified Immunity:** Both bills have failed
- E. ATV Invasion:** There is a meeting this morning at 10:00 am between public safety partners and the event organizers. Captain Lemoine has been in contact with the area motels and most are fully booked for that weekend with only a couple having single digit rooms available. The hotels are predicting that the numbers will be similar to that of the previous ATV festivals. The Invasion festival event plans currently are all being held on the property with no planned events in the downtown area which may help with traffic and public safety issues. The gates at the campground are going to be open from 8am-8pm with live music Friday and Saturday nights. It is not expected that the event organizers will ask for extended ATV hours. With that, the roads in Berlin close at 10pm and the trail systems and roadways in Gorham close at sunset. Event organizers are not, at this point, promoting or serving alcohol.
- F. Other:**
- The department will be mailing out the fundraising letters for the golf tournament that is scheduled for September 10th. We have been looking into different options for food and have spoken with the country club and they are willing to help out with food if the other options aren't economical.

VI. New Business

- A. Hands Free Project:** There was an article in the paper today in reference to Aspen Langlois, a BHS student that just turned 15. Aspen is a member of Empower Coos Youth, a program of the NH Charitable Foundation and Tillotson. Aspen chose to do a project that brings awareness to 'Distracted Driving' and applied for a grant in the amount of \$250. Per her request, Tillotson is going to donate the \$250 to the Berlin Police Department. The department matched the \$250 and went to Verizon seeking a sponsor. Verizon provided 40 bluetooth headsets devices at cost to be used for people that don't have that capability in their mv's. The department is going to go through the PD website using a form that Jenn has created that tells the story behind the headsets and provides people with the opportunity to complete a survey to obtain one of the headsets. Aspen and her mother were present at the City Council meeting on Monday so she could be recognized by the City and a representative from Verizon.

B. School Resource Officer: Chief Morency met with Julie King to discuss the concerns with Steve Arsenault leaving his position as SRO. There was discussion with reference to who would be the right fit for the position and it was agreed that we don't want someone who is new. A large percentage of the departments officers have less than 5 years of service and the department can't afford to give up any supervising officers. Another meeting with Julie is set up for Tuesday and the department is actively looking for a seasoned officer to fill the position. The school department had been paying \$60,000 for the SRO position but Julie has agreed to come up with \$100,000 to cover the position as a full-time position with benefits.

C. Chorus Intelligence Suit: A member from major crimes went to work for this company. The UK Company put together several search engines that work off from all the waivers that people sign that allows access to everything that we do. This company compiles all the information allowing access to the information for law enforcement use. What used to take a month to compile can now be accessed within 20 minutes using this program. The department has agreed to do a test trial of the program but has reached out to the state to see if it is something they are going to do. Comm. Tremblay wanted it on record that he is opposed to the program as he believes it is a violation of people's constitutional rights.

D. PSTC Benchmark Analytics: PSTC is putting in software that will allow departments to maintain officer's status and keep track of training online now. Deputy Chief Buteau and Kim have been registered and will be able to access the system to maintain files.

E. Complaint Process: Chief Morency advised the Commission on a complaint that City Hall received from a subject threatening to sue the department. The complaint was forwarded to Primex and the City attorney by the City Manager. Discussion ensued with reference to the policy that the department has for dealing with such complaints. Chief Morency met with the City Manager and there is an agreement on how future complaints will be handled at the City level as the department already has a policy.

F. Statistics: Statistics were reviewed and discussed.

G. Correspondence:

- Several training opportunities and thank you letters/cards were highlighted.
- Brad Greenland, Committee Researcher for the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee in Concord. Committee is working on a bill that would require our police departments to collect demographic data at motor vehicle stops.
- K9 Patch
- Police Week. AVH ED thank you
- Window tint meter: bill looks like it is going to pass
- Great North Woods having a road toll
- Mt Side LLC application for combination beverage, wine, tobacco
- Survey ref training
- Fixed assets inventory for the state

- Children's safety website wanting to attach to the PD website. Ended up being a law firm.
- ATV Club: issued permit for using unreg OHRV's during the festival granted by F&G
- Gorham PD seeking additional officers to work over July 4th.
- Bolawrap Remote Restraint: invented by the brother of the subject who invented the Taser. The PD will be demoing. Cost wise it is a lot less than the taser.
- Chief Morency wrote a letter for the state to apply for funds for the Cops Anti-heroin Task Force.
- Quote reference changing the PD locks
- Lt Roy is working on a new evaluation form.
- Supervisor's test June 23rd.
- Sick leave donation request from the City

H. Other:

- Close out completed on the ILO and Opioid grants for last year.
- A new sign has been deployed on First Ave that records speed including the top speed, average speed, time of day, traffic count, etc. The sign will be moved around to various locations where speed is a concern. Chief Morency is hoping to purchase a 2nd sign.
- Jenn updated the Commission with reference to Debbie Gaudette taking a full-time position with Troop F and Randi Estabrooks taking over the full-time position. Gaudette will be getting paid \$6.00 more an hour and paying a significant amount less for her insurance. Comes out to \$17,000 more a year for her to work at Troop F. She is going to stay on per diem at the BPD.
- Violent crimes have reportedly gone up 62% since the beginning of the year. 2019 there were 139 officers died in the line of duty, 2020 there were 295, and as of May of this year there have been 148 on pace for 355 by year end which is almost triple.
- First Net: clearing land to build a tower on Cates Hill near the PD's current tower. They are on track to have the tower in place by the end of the year. The department will be looking into First Net again as their cell phone provider. It is believed that First Net may offer better priority service. First Net is also believed to be \$5.00 / month less per plan and the department has a number of plans.
- Deputy Chief Buteau provide an update on the obstacle course at the range. The department has received a number of good donations including; White Mtn Lumber, Chapman (donated some steel), Eversource (assisted with planting a 25' pole), and a chain link fence was obtained from the Rec. Dept. Public Works also assisted by smoothing out the road to the range that was getting pretty rough. They have also obtained a culvert to be used in the obstacle course. The expense has been minimal.
- The department has four 4-wheelers. Two are really old and one of them was given to the Rec Department. We are about ready to put the 2nd one out of service. We are looking into either a short-term lease of a UTV or having one donated.

VII. Public Comments: None.

VIII. Adjournment of Public Meeting: At 09:08 a.m. the meeting adjourned to Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II (c), by roll call vote on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin. Public Session reconvened at 09:30 a.m.; there were no decisions made in Non-Public Session, and minutes were sealed on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay, as their release could adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of this

Commission. The meeting adjourned unanimously on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday August 11th at 7:30 a.m.**