

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

DATE: Thursday, December 2, 2021
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 7:38 a.m.
- II. Roll Call:** Commissioners Nault, Tremblay, and Morin were present. (Comm. Morin arrived at 07:56 a.m.)
- Others Present:** Chief Morency, Deputy Chief Buteau, Captain Lemoine, Lt Roy, Jennifer Cloutier, Jarod Beal, and Benjamin Harmon.
- Recorded by:** Kimberly Bijeau
- III. New Hires:** Introductions were made between the new hires, Jarod Beal and Benjamin Harmon, and the Commission. Officer Harmon is part-time certified and has been working with Marine Patrol. Officer Beal will be attending the next academy scheduled for January.
- IV. Acceptance of Minutes of November 3, 2021:** Change was made to the abbreviation “fu” under correspondence; it was written out as follow up. Minutes were unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Nault.
- V. Monthly Financial Report:** There was a question with reference to the training salary. Inquired on whether that line item went up over the years. Chief Morency advised on the distinction between the “training salary” line item and the “training” line item. Chief Morency also provided an explanation with reference to the considerable increase in the physical exam line item and advised on how the savings in the patrol line items were showing up as an increase in the overtime line item. The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Nault.
- VI. Old Business**
- A. AVRRDD and Milan contracts signed:** Contracts have been signed. \$13,500 per year for the AVRRDD contract. And \$54,722 for the Milan contract plus another \$13,500 to be billed on the dispatch side.
- B. Stakeholder Meeting; Tower and Ambulance:** A meeting has been set up with the stakeholders with reference to the tower. Discussion on the increased demand on the department with the new owner of the ambulance department. Chief Watkins of the BFD has been put in charge of the ambulance contract. The current contract simply states that we will provide dispatch service but there is a need for further details. The majority of the increase / demand has been on dispatch.

- C. **Other:** - ILO grant renewal is up. \$30,000 through Homeland Security and funded by the Department of Safety. The grant was on the original list of grants but there was discussion on whether the Commission needed to make a motion. It was decided that the department should be all set as the resolution has already gone before the Council.
- There was discussion with reference to traffic violations falling under city ordinance vs. State Law. Benefits are that the violations would no longer go on the subjects driving record and it would be a significant revenue for the city. It was stated that the change would need to be approved by the City Council.

VI. New Business:

- A. **Issues with spotty radio issues.** OME came yesterday and couldn't find the issue but there were additional issues last night. Transmissions are intermittently cutting out. Involving both portable radios and cruiser radios. There was discussion with reference to a new cell tower on Cates Hill near the PD tower that was scheduled to be turned on sometime this month.

07:56 am (Comm. Morin joined the meeting)

- B. **DTF meeting with commander:** Chief Morency, Deputy Chief Buteau, and Sheriff Valerino met with the Commander Ellen Arcieri a couple weeks ago. She wants to move forward with the North Counties DTF team. Milan selectman chair discussed setting up a meeting with reference to same. The team is currently working with the Grafton team but still covering the Coos area.
- C. **Ambulance needs and contract:** Covered in old business. Meeting on Tuesday with ambulance to discuss the increased demand and assistance requests. There is also a meeting scheduled for Thursday with Pam Laflamme and the hospital.
- D. **Digital law library:** Hard copies \$1,400 in expenses. Will keep one hard copy at the PD but otherwise move to an online library. Also, do away with the supplements that have been on auto ship.
- E. **2022 training hours needed:** 2022: an additional 16 hours will be required. 2023: number of hours required will increase to 24 hours. There was discussion with reference to making adjustments to the budget to cover the additional cost in training.
- F. **Department meeting:** December 17 @ 07:30. Tri-county CAP will be providing training with reference to homeless outreach. There will also be training with reference to the mobile mental health crisis team. First Net Cellular will also be making a presentation.
- G. **Noteworthy incidents:** Cpl. Gale pulled a person out of a house fire and was exposed to harmful smoke and gases. Units also rescued a pet pig from the residence. Office O'Connell was credited with being able to capture the pig.

- **SRO position:** There are no perspective candidates. School is still 100% for the position. Lt Howry will be back in the schools with the LEAD program and Officer O'Connell will be assisting.
- H. Statistics:** Sexual Assaults are showing an 86% increase but the actual number of reports (28 as of the end of October) is down from the pre-covid numbers of 38 in 2019 and 30 in 2018. Suspected overdoses are down almost 25%. Meth has hit the area hard. Subjects that overdose on meth typically become manic. There was a question with reference to stalking orders and whether it is also linked to covid.
- I. Correspondence:** - Several thank you letters and trainings were covered.
- Letter from academy confirming implicit bias training
 - Protonitazene and Isotonitazene: new drugs that are more powerful than fentanyl (synthetic opioid)
 - Wearable Naloxone pump starting to be prescribed to opioid users
 - Taser letter with reference to the purchase of old taser's
 - 34 states have passed 79 laws directly pertaining to law enforcement
 - Officer Turgeon thank you for Danny Arguin's assistance with PT which contributed to his passing the PT test. Arguin has attended PT instructor training.
 - MADD nominations
 - Dec 21st at 16:15 radio silence for those in public safety that have taken their life
 - Call to Duty award(s). Have added the Life Saving award this year
 - AG memos now being forwarded to Captain Lemoine
 - Body camera funding initially covered cruiser cameras and body cameras. Law doesn't cover in-cruiser cameras
 - Survey. Matching funds for K9 programs. Replace K9 in 2023.
 - 9-8-8 support for emotional distress (new suicide help line)
- J. Other** – City Manager's last day is tomorrow and will have a lunch
- Opioid lawsuit involving CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart Jury finding by Ohio Federal jury
 - Online payments discussion. Can charge fee when using credit cards.

Noted to be Chief Morency's last meeting. Appreciation from the Commission for years of dedicated service

VII. Public Comments: None.

VIII. Adjournment of Public Meeting: At 8:44 a.m., on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin, the Commission adjourned to non-public session by roll call vote per RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (b), (c), and (e) with each commissioner voting in the affirmative. There were no decisions made in non-public session. Public session reconvened at 8:51 a.m., at which time minutes were unanimously sealed on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay, as the divulgence of information would adversely affect the reputation of a person(s) other than a member of the board. The public meeting then adjourned on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 7:30 a.m.**