

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

DATE: Thursday, February 3, 2022
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 7:35 a.m.

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

Others Present: Chief Buteau, Captain Lemoine, Lt. Roy, Lt/Pros. Howry, and Jennifer Cloutier.

Recorded by: Kimberly Bijeau

III. Acceptance of Minutes of January 6, 2022: Several corrections were made including: on page 3 section F “giving” was changed to “given”. Clarification made under section E under “Other” with reference to the use of the Police app and Indeed for hiring. 2nd clarification with reference to the duty weapon transfer policy when an officer retires; does not apply when an officer resigns. Minutes were unanimously accepted as amended on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.

V. Monthly Financial Report: The reports were reviewed: question with reference to damage to the hood of cruiser. Lt Roy provided information ref Daigle online training resources. Reports were unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

VI. Old Business

A. Berlin EMS Contract: Continuing with negotiations. Met with Chief Watkins, Interim CM Pam Laflamme. All agreed that the dept should be compensated for additional services. The department came up with a new Milan bill. Chief Watkins met with BEMS and explained the cost. BEMS didn’t feel the cost was fair. Chief Watkins is waiting for BEMS to provide a counter offer. There was discussion with ref to how the numbers continue to increase. Utilized the same formula used for the Milan dispatch contract. 100% of ems calls come through BPD dispatch now where they used to receive their own calls. The current contract is good through June 30th. Seeking a 5 year contract.

B. Annual Report: Copy was provided to the Commission. FY’21 highlights were discussed. Lt Valliere put together the report and did a great job.

C. 2023 Budget: Had been discussed and a new copy was provided to the Commission. There have been a couple of communications with finance pertaining to the budget. One question was in ref to the utilities line item; it was explained that the department continues to use the five year average to calculate. The school department has public meeting tonight with ref to their budget.

- D. Other:** Lt Roy provided an update with reference to the two in the academy; Jarod Beal and Jason Silva. The academy now does academics in the first half and the physical portion during 2nd half. Due to Covid; they are no longer required to stay at the academy. Night time motivations and morning PT no longer taking place.
- Manchester Union ref camera funding grant. Lumped in with taser grant as both through Axon. Need to review the fine print / requirements. Appears to be for new and not replacement equipment. The department has been onboard with the cameras since 2014.

VII. New Business

- A. New Hire – Harmon:** Lt Roy advised that Benjamin Harmon is coming on full-time starting February 6th. Will go to the June academy and since currently part-time cert. will be working solo for approx. 1 month prior to attending the academy. Will continue to work part-time for Marine Patrol through the summer as made a commitment. He filled Lt Daisey's position. Still need to fill Morency's position.
- B. Promotion – Stapleton:** Promoted to corporal.
- C. Conway Area Humane Society Contract:** \$500 annual contract was renewed.
- D. Ski Jump Winter Carnival Events:** Met with Jay Poulin who was coordinating the event at the Nansen Ski Jump. Bon fire and a couple hour event was held on Saturday. Smaller jump event on Sunday; was well attended. No admission fee; just donations accepted. There were no issues with traffic; went very smoothly. Monday had an additional event with the high school ski teams.
- E. Third Floor Renovations:** Conference / training room: Chief Buteau provided an explanation on the planned changes for the room. The department went through a bid process and the project will be starting next Wednesday. Should take approx. 1 week to complete. Moe Croteau was awarded the bid. The renovations will expand the room approx. 5 ft. and will include an electrical upgrade.
- F. Radio IP Contract:** Software handles secured connection between the MDT's and the PD.
- G. Peer to Peer:** Officer Wellness program was started a couple of years ago. Conducted by State Police and a team was brought in recently with ref to a call pertaining to stillborn newborn. Incident had occurred on Christmas day.
- H. Grant Research for Radios:** Discussion with ref to Homeland Security grant options and will continue to look into. GOFERR may have something but there is not a lot currently available.
- I. Flow Chart:** Previously discussed; copy provided. Nothing new to discuss.

- J. Retiree News Letter:** Has been an ongoing discussion between Chief Buteau and Lt Gendron with ref to putting out a yearly newsletter providing updates and highlighting major events or changes at the department. Looking to provide retiree benefits such as range use with minimal to no cost. There was discussion with ref to the use of the BHS graphics arts program for printing?
- K. Noteworthy Incidents:** At least 3 confirmed overdose deaths and 1 suspected overdose death within the past month; 3 within the past week. Coos County continues to rate high with ref to drug use. Captain Lemoine put out a press release with ref to multi agency drug related arrest.
- L. Statistics:** Statistics were discussed: 87.5% increase with sexual assaults. Prior to Covid (2019) there were 46 and (2021) 40. Juvenile incidents also continue to be up. Small amount may be due to no SRO. Assist to Berlin EMS calls already discussed. Jasper St parking complaint was resolved quickly.
- M. Correspondence:** Chief Buteau highlighted several training opportunities and thank you letters.
- Headlines ref line of duty officer deaths; disturbing trend
 - Departments across the nation continue to struggle to find new hires.
 - Addressed a number of parking complaint issues
 - Met with the chamber with ref to the ATV event that is moving forward. Aug 5th – 6th.
 - Today's paper press release
 - Al Tardiff exchange
 - MADD award nominations for a couple of officers; Cpl. Gale and Cpl. Dumas work ref DWI's
 - Updated roster for commission.
 - Chief's NH Assoc. legislative updates
 - Eversource notice with ref to (fuel shortage) as it relates to the cold weather; controlled power outages.
 - City Hall finance / comptroller Chief's contract request
 - Coos county drug issues
 - Day Of Caring; June.
- E. Other:**
- Ice Skating PD community relations event. March 2nd 12-2p. Free to public; skate with an officer event.
 - Update on Lt Valliere; he is home and doing well.

Public Comments: None

- VII. Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 08:56 a.m., the meeting adjourned unanimously on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay. There was not a need for a non-public meeting. The next monthly meeting will be held **Thursday, March 10, 2022.**