

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

DATE: Thursday, May 5, 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 7:30 a.m.
- II. Roll Call:** Commissioners Jerry Nault and Marc Tremblay were present. Commissioner Pierre Morin participated via speaker phone.
- Others Present:** Chief Buteau, Captain Lemoine, Captain Roy, Lt/Pros. Howry, Jennifer Cloutier, and Officer Chris Bowman.
- Recorded by:** Kimberly Bijeau
- III. Acceptance of Minutes of April 7, 2022:** A correction was made to the spelling of Annie Kuster's name under 'Correspondence'. Minutes were unanimously accepted as amended on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin.
- V. Monthly Financial Report:** The reports were reviewed: There was discussion with reference to an issue with running the financial reports through excel. Group I Retirement is still trending high; we went back and checked the past couple years and found that we were about \$5,800 over last year. There was a question with reference to Patrol I and Patrol II showing 100% spent. Both were budgeted as such. There was discussion with reference to the revenues calculations showing as negative but then doubling under amount of budget over-spent. We will be looking into same. Reports were unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin seconded by Comm. Tremblay.
- VI. Old Business**
- A. New Hire – Bowman:** Captain Roy introduced Officer Christopher Bowman to the Commission. Chris moved here in April from the Albany, NY area. He has a fiancée that has family in the area. Chris has one baby and another one on the way. We are hoping to get him into the academy in June. The fitness test is scheduled for May 23rd.
- B. 2023 Budget Update:** Meeting yesterday with Retired Chief Morency and the Mayor. Overall went very well; had an in-depth discussion over the CIP's that we cut. Bid for fuel oil came in. The PD had budgeted at 3.20/gal which seemed high at the time. Bulk rate came back at 3.44/gal. leaving an approx. \$1500 difference from what was proposed. Phil Warren, the new City Manager, started at the beginning of this week. Didn't touch our FY'23 proposed budget. Did inquire about what the department would be able to turn back with reference to the current budget; department is currently 4% ahead.
- C. Renovation Project – Interview Rm:** Having an issue with getting the vendor in. Grafton Mechanical was scheduled to start last week but had an issue with Covid. They

are scheduled to come today. Once they complete their work the contractor can complete the job. Pope Security has already run the wires and just needs to install the equipment.

- D. Tower Meeting:** Will be an ongoing discussion. Last meeting the PD was tasked with approaching the land owner reference extending the lease. The lease is currently held by the hospital and is a 5 year lease. Equipment is the PD's but the tower is the hospital's.
- E. SRO Candidate Update:** Academy is willing to let him receive his certification through the law package. He still has a couple of phases to complete in the hiring process; 50/50 chance of being able to hire him. Met with the school principals and it went very well. If he comes on, he plans on filling in patrol shifts during the summer.
- F. COSSAP grant submission:** Captain Lemoine provided update: the grant has been approved and we have a zoom meeting on May 23rd to go over the grant rules. Every city in the state will be getting a COSSAP officer. State has been trying for 3-4 year to get this grant up and running; in June will be going before the Governor and Council for final approval. Awarded 3 years for program. Main issue will be finding somebody to fill the position.
- G. Other:** None.

VII. New Business

- A. Dispatch Appreciation Week:** Week of April 10th; Jen gave each dispatcher a gift to show our appreciation.
- B. Promotion:** Promoted Josh White to the rank of Lieutenant. Posted two Sergeant positions and Lt. Howry will be putting together an oral board for the week of May 22nd. There are four candidates.
- C. PSTC Graduation:** Graduation was April 22nd at the academy. There were two academy classes at once so graduation was moved to the evening. Graduation was very well organized and had pipes and drums. Officers Beal and Silva graduated and are back working with the FTO program for another month or two.
- D. Grant Resolutions:** Completed a number of grant resolutions over the past couple of weeks. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN); new resolution that consists of saturation patrols in areas of high crime. They require two – 4 hour patrols per week. Not # based; is all about presence.
- E. Training:** Big training season. Have a couple at Crisis Intervention/mental health response training. Hollie Dube and Joe Priest are attending the training at the academy. Captain Roy advised the Commission that they are always welcome to take a look at the calendar on the wall in his office. The calendar details all the upcoming trainings. Noah Dumas is finishing DRE training. The department is sending two to Gracie Survival School; Jiu Jitsu ground training. The department will then have two in-house instructors able to instruct on ground fighting and joint manipulation. The goal is to put on training every fall. There was discussion on another goal to focus on officer

wellness; Lt. White will lead that charge and has been to training for same.

- F. Hiring:** One position to fill. Two if we include the COSSAP position. Nobody in the process at this time. One potential candidate returning from the Marines in a week. They are local and have been in touch with Capt. Roy for the last year, year and a half.
- G. Assist Gorham:** Have received a couple of calls from other agencies expressing gratitude on how the department handled the investigation. Individual officers that responded have been commended.
- H. Meal Stipend(s):** Changed the way the department pays out meals for training. Used to give money in advance or require employees to turn in receipts. Will now be going off from the GSA website which is dependent on location and will be provided the stipend / check after the training. Still ironing out the details.
- I. Call to Duty:** There will be no golf tournament this year. Chief Buteau sent out letters with reference to same. Plan to take the time to reset and refocus on what our goals are. Looking at changing the type of event; proposed changing to do some sort of run/walk/bike race. Hopes to broaden the involvement and get the young and old involved. Financially the fund is in a healthy state. May take a few years to build up the new event. Committee has voted to grant \$500 scholarship to the one applicant; applicant is not a criminal justice major. Comm. Nault will notify the golf course.
- J. Statistics:** Statistics were discussed: 37.5% increase in suspected overdoses; increase is a statewide issue and was featured on WMUR. Incidents have possibly been under reported due to Covid over past 1-2 years. There was discussion with reference to a Meth OD death; first time heard of in NH. Swelled person's brain to point that it didn't function. Meeting reference Shield OD death 8 months ago; death reportedly the highest percentage of potency in persons system ever seen. Trend in New England: pills resemble Adderall. Cartel's targeting the younger generation. Marketed as something the young typically take and share. MV violations and warnings are up; Covid restrictions have eased so no longer limiting the stops. Increase in OHRV complaints due to the early snow loss.
- K. Correspondence:** Chief Buteau highlighted several training opportunities and thank you letters:
- Annual Kiwanis bike rodeo May 21st.
 - Memo from City hall in ref to new CM
 - June 2nd NH Chiefs
 - Highway safety grant season.
 - CA body camera policy
 - DTF prorated grant due to only having one officer
 - NH Chiefs tracking: house bill 629 (cannabis)
 - NE Chiefs very active in legislation
 - AVRRDD annual hazmat day June 11th from 8a-1p
 - In house thank you from Captain in ref to homicide in Gorham
- H. Other:** Nothing

VIII. Public Comments: None

IX. Adjournment of Public Meeting: At 08:21 a.m. the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin. There was no need for a non-public meeting.

The next monthly meeting will be held **Thursday, June 9, 2022.**