

**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION**

DATE: Tuesday, July 18, 2023
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Comm. Nault at 02:05 P.M.

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

Others Present: Chief Buteau, Deputy Chief Roy, Lt. Zach Howry, Jenn Cloutier, and Andre Bergeron.

Recorded by: Kimberly Bijeau

III. Acceptance of Minutes of June 5, 2023: Minutes were unanimously accepted as printed on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

IV. Monthly Financial Report: Final financial report for FY'23 though 06/30/23. Discussion with ref to the gym renovations. Discussion with ref to Parros Gun Shop. Question with ref to PD Cates Hill Wireless. City now holds the lease for the Cates Hill Tower. Currently still under the PD budget but may move to the City Budget. Question with ref to the K9 grant. \$7,500 grant monies with \$2,500 match. Cpl. Gale will be sent to K9 school in September with new K9 and Kodiak will retire upon his return. The report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

V. Old Business

A. PTR Focus Group: Chief Buteau provided an update with ref to the groups progress. One of two community forums will be held tomorrow. Will be similar to what was presented to the Council.

B. Personnel Policy: Still working on.

C. PET Position: Was posted a couple of weeks ago and hope to fill the position within the next week or two.

D. Fireworks Ordinance: Update: Chief Buteau has been working on for a while. Discussion with ref to increasing the fines and the impact that the fireworks have on the community. \$100 – 1st offense, \$250 – 2nd offense, and \$500 3rd offense, within a two-year period.

E. USFS Agreement: \$6,000 grant initially received to be used for extra patrols. Raised amount to \$18,500 with rainbow family gathering to cover extra dispatch. Discussion with ref to the gathering ensued.

F. Other: Prepping for the ATV Festival, August 4th and 5th. FY24 Budget passed.

VI. New Business

- A. New Hires:** Bradley Panto (PA) and Adam Gonyeau (NY). Hope to have them come to upcoming meeting. Still short two officers. One patrol officer and one grant position.
- B. Rainbow Family Gathering:** Discussion above under New Business; USFS Agreement.
- C. LEAD Event:** Lt Howry end of school year (11-week program) party / outdoor field event with the kids was held at Heritage Park with pizza and games. Officer Sperlonga going to week-long LEAD training in the fall and will be able to assist with the classes. Similar to DARE; is very interactive with kids.
- D. St. Regis Event:** Lt Howry is able to go out into the community through the Highway Safety COB grant. The Berlin Housing Authority held event at St. Regis with approx. 20 people attending. Assisted by Officer Harmon.
- E. North Country Health Consortium Grant:** As a result of PTR Group progress received \$12,000. Plan is to use the money towards education.
- F. Training:** Deputy Chief Roy advised on upcoming expenditures on training and travel, the addition of mental health training, and that the department is 85% complete on 6 hour LEACT.
- G. Statistics:** May statistics were reviewed and discussed. Milan CFS up significantly to 88%. MFD and MEMS have been busier than in past years. Large number of stats are down. MV stops and violations are up.
- H. Hiring:** Moved to non-public
- I. Correspondence:** Chief Buteau highlighted several training opportunities and thank you letters:
- \$130,000 for DTF Grant has been approved
 - List of updated Bills
 - Language on Fireworks ordinance
 - Jeanne Shaheen correspondence
 - Highway Safety grant approved (COB: \$20,000)
 - Chief training where they had to submit top issues within their departments. Included depts with under 50 officers. Top issue is recruitment.
- J. OTHER:** Randi Estabrooks received WMCC Presidents award. Officers attended services in VT for fallen officer. Kickball with cops scheduled for August 30th at Community Field.

VII. Public Comments: Question with ref to Federal laws and how it works with the Constitution.

VIII. Adjournment of Public Meeting: At 2:53 p.m., Comm. Morin motioned, with a second by Comm. Tremblay, to move into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (b), and (e). The Commission entered non-public session by roll call vote with all members voting in the affirmative. Public session reconvened at 03:28 p.m. There were no decisions made in non-public session, and minutes were sealed on a motion by Comm. Tremblay, seconded by Comm. Morin, carried unanimously by

Comm. Nault, as their release could adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the Commission.

Comm. Morin then motioned, with a second by Comm. Tremblay, to adjourn the public meeting; so moved. The next Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, **September 7, 2023, 1400 hrs.**