**BERLIN POLICE COMMISSION**

**MONTHLY MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019**

**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, Marc Tremblay, and Pierre Morin were present.

**Others Present:**  Chief Morency, Deputy Chief Buteau, Lt. Barney Valliere, Jenn Cloutier; Claire Stiles and Paul Guerin

**Recorded by:** Lisa Arguin

**III. Acceptance of Minutes of April 4, 11, 25, 2019:** Minutes were unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

**IV**. **Monthly Financial Report:** The report was unanimously accepted as printed, on a motion by Comm. Morin, seconded by Comm. Tremblay.

The Commission digressed from the regular order of business to address New Business, item C.

**V. Old Business**

1. **Hiring Process:** The out-of-state certified applicant has cleared all phases, and the chief is awaiting word from NHPSTC as to whether or not his prior training and law enforcement experience will be accepted.

There are two upcoming sessions scheduled for written and physical tests, and two applicants have responded so far. News surrounding the City’s budget process has not helped in attracting applicants.

1. **Firing Range**: The AV Fish & Game Club will sign a lease to use the range until the property can be subdivided. The Club has been very appreciative.
2. **Budget & CIP:**  The next budget hearing will be on May 22 at 6:30 p.m. There have been no changes to the PD’s CIP request since the last meeting, but CIPs will be reviewed again with the mayor prior to June 10th.
3. **Armory Building:** City Council has forwarded a letter of interest to the State. The Coös County Sheriff’s Department, Coös County Attorney’s Office, NH Fish & Game, fire marshal, and WMCC have expressed varying interests in the facility from office space to storage.
4. **Cates Hill Tower:** The outcome of the Ossipee Mountain Electronics (OME) study for City-owned tower was unfavorable, as resulting radio coverage would be diminished in parts of Berlin and Milan. OME is now preparing a proposal for a new tower on Cates Hill.
5. **Grants Resolutions:** Resolutions for the Opioid, Highway Safety, ILO, and Stonegarden Grants have been approved.
6. **“Call to Duty” Scholarship/Book Awards & Event Planning:** In line with Comm. Morin’s recommendations, John Arguin, Emily Letellier, and Allison Theriault will be this year’s award recipients. As previously discussed, Criminal Justice and related fields are given first preference.
7. **NHPSTC Graduation:** Both officers did extremely well at the Academy and are now in the process of completing training with their field training officers.
8. **Other:** 
   * The SRO contract with the School Department has been signed.
   * The NH Tactical Officers Team will conduct training in the North Country during the third week in June. This is the first time the Team will use this area for training.
   * Lt. Daisey did an excellent job with the two-day DWI/Impaired Driving Identification training; it went extremely well and has generated only positive feedback.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Commission General Provisions:** A copy of the General Provisions previously developed by former Comm. Ray Chagnon was reviewed and remains current.
2. **Extended OHRV hours for Event Dates:**  The State requested a letter identifying which Berlin events require extended OHRV hours. The Chief responded with the August 2nd ATV Festival, August 4th ATV Concert; September 7th Wingzilla; and October 19th RiverFire. The extension provides one additional hour for each event.
3. **Lifesaving Award:**  Chief Morency read aloud a letter from Cpl. Howry explaining circumstances surrounding a suicidal subject’s attempt to jump from the East Mason Street Bridge on the evening of April 25. Cpl. Howry commended Lt. Barney Valliere and citizen Paul Guerin for their life-saving efforts in a very dangerous situation. They were able to diffuse the situation by speaking calmly, confidently, and with compassion to the visibly hysterical woman who had climbed over the bridge rail to jump into the rushing waters below. Thanks to their actions, the woman was successfully pulled to safety. It was with great pleasure that Chief Morency and the Commission presented Lt. Valliere and Paul Guerin with Life-Saving Awards.
4. **CAC Fundraiser:** This year’s pizza fundraiser will be held on May 13. Gold House Pizza generously donates the pizzas, and orders are delivered by officers. All proceeds go to the Coös County Child Advocacy Center.
5. **Police Memorial Service:** PD officers will be escorting family members to the State service on May 17, 2019.
6. **LEAD Instructor:** The LEAD organization is so impressed by Cpl. Zach Howry’s work with the program that they have asked him to be an instructor. He will be assisting the organization 3-4x/year.
7. **Statistics** were reviewed. The detectives are seeing a rise in Meth use. People appear to be switching from opioids to Meth, due to increasing fear of opioid-related death.
8. **Correspondence**:
   * Chief Morency highlighted various training invitations.
   * The Law Enforcement Torch Run will be held May 18, 2019.
   * A request for camera footage was denied based on policy and law regarding civil matters.
   * This year’s FCI Memorial Service will be held on June 18.
9. **Other**: Lt. Lemoine joined the meeting to highlight a new grant opportunity. NH ranks third in opioid abuse, and funding will soon be available through a PET (Prevention, Enforcement, Treatment) Grant program which was specifically developed to address the opioid crisis. The grant could potentially fund a full-, part-time, or overtime position. Lt. Lemoine asked for the Commission’s support, in order to move ahead with the initial step of expressing an interest in the grant. The Commission unanimously expressed their support by consensus, stating they are behind it 150%.

1. **Public Comments**: Claire Stiles commented on New Hampshire’s potential legalization of marijuana and her hope that it will not happen. Having lived in Colorado, she is aware of the effects legalization has on a community. There are no economical advantages, and the damages surrounding problems that develop afterwards are not widely publicized.
2. **Adjournment of Public Meeting:** At 9:00 a.m., Comm. Morin motioned, with a second by Comm. Tremblay, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The next meeting will be held Thursday, June 6, 2019.