

# POLICE COMMISSION

April 28, 2010

**PRESENT:** Chairman Thomas O'Mara, Commissioner Donald Kline, Chief F. Michael Catalano, D/C Paul Sandy, and Secretary Diane Ferri

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Ralph Smith.

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on April 28, 2010 in the CPD Lounge at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland New York. Commissioner Thomas O'Mara called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

**A. MINUTES** – On the motion of Comm. Donald Kline, seconded by Comm. Tom O'Mara, the Commission approved the minutes of the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**B. BILLS** – The Commission reviewed the bills in the amount of \$14,324.82 for the month of March. On the motion of Comm. Kline, seconded by Comm. O'Mara were approved as written and placed on file.

**The following bills were highlighted:**

- |  |    |        |
|--|----|--------|
| • 2 months' charges for cell phones                        | \$ | 958.59 |
| • Registration fee for Minnowbrook Conference for FMC, PAS | \$ | 798.00 |

**C. REPORTS** –

**The following reports were highlighted:**

**1. Vehicle Repairs** –

Deputy Chief Sandy noted no unusual repairs for the month of March. Maintenance costs for the month totaled \$2,028.93 and average cost of gasoline in March totaled \$2.227511497/gallon for 1,804.7 gallons of gasoline.

**2. Overtime** –

The Commission reviewed the overtime breakdown by category. Accumulated hours worked for the month of March totaled 830.50 hours, compared to 997.00 hours for the same time frame in 2009 and reflects a 166.50-hour decrease for the month of March from 2009's figure, reflecting also a 582.25-hour decrease for the annual total difference. The Chief noted these figures will increase in April due to personnel changes. Several significant investigations occurred early in 2009, which contributed to the higher overtime difference.

**3 Cortland Housing Authority Report** -

The City of Cortland provided no criminal history inquiries in March and therefore, no charges were forthcoming.

On the motion of Comm. Kline, seconded by Comm. O'Mara and carried, the reports were accepted for filing.

## ***OLD BUSINESS***

- A. PARKING KIOSKS** – The Chief updated the Commission regarding recent discussions with the Common Council and the installation of parking kiosks around the city as a means to increase revenues. He noted Parkeon, the company that manufactures the kiosks, made a presentation to the Common Council last week. He will be meeting tomorrow with Ber-National, the company that maintains the kiosks. Various locations for installation are being considered by the Common Council.
- B. HIRING FREEZE** – The Common Council has approved lifting the hiring freeze for 2 positions within the Department as described below, and the following activities have transpired:
1. **Parking Enforcement Officer Applications:** An advertisement was placed recently in the Cortland Standard, applications received at the Cortland County Personnel/Civil Service Office and forwarded to us. Lieutenant Jonathan Gesin and Sergeant Penny Guerrera will begin conducting interviews to hire provisionally.
  2. **School Guard Subs:** Applications have been on file for substitute school crossing guards. Sgt. Penny Guerrera has reviewed them, and now that the Common Council has approved lifting the freeze in this instance, interviews will commence.
- The Chief further noted the Hill Association is very supportive of lifting the freeze on hiring police officers for the Police Department to maintain a full staff.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

- A. 2-WAY MAIN STREET** – Chief Catalano apprised the Commission of the Mayor's consideration to reverting Main Street back to a 2-way street. From a policing standpoint, Chief Catalano sees no difference in patrolling Main Street, whether it is one-way or two-way. He noted the downtown area would lose 24 parking spots and delivery trucks would have to straddle the yellow line in the course of their deliveries.
- B. IMPOUND LOT** – The Chief reported on grant funds expanded upon for an impound lot for towed vehicles. In 2009, the cost for a smaller fenced in lot at the Armory was included in a grant application which was subsequently approved. The Deputy Chief, in speaking with the DPW and Safety Officer, has discovered it is possible to expand the lot to house 30 cars instead of the 6-8 cars originally requested as part of the grant process, with little added expense. The idea is to impound all towed vehicles so the city can accrue the impound fees. Chief Catalano made mention of credit to Deputy Chief Paul Sandy, and DPW supervisor Chris Bistocchi. He noted Binghamton currently performs a similar task and earns \$25 per day per vehicle.
- C. CNYACOP – RECOGNITION OF SGT. CUTE** – Chief Catalano recounted to the Commission his recommendation to the Central New York Association of Chiefs of Police that Sgt. Cheyenne Cute be recognized for his investigative work on the assault and subsequent victim's death which occurred on January 1, 2009.

- D. FAITH BAPTIST DINNER** – Chief Catalano announced Faith Baptist Church is hosting a Recognition Dinner on May 10, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Historically, they have invited local agencies to their location as a way to honor said local agencies. Pastor Matthew Smith is also the Chaplain for the Cortland County Sheriff's Office. RSVP is needed by May 1, 2010.
- E. SPRING FLING SUCC** – The Chief informed the Commission of the events of this past weekend. SUNY Cortland provided a "Spring Fling" for the students. The students added to the festivities with a party entitled "Monroe Fest" and this year the party drew thousands. While it was an orderly occasion, it engendered much overtime for this department. Discussion ensued about specific incidents occurring and the parties involved.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **A. COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION REPORT -**

1. Ms. Lydia Rosero, Principal of Barry Elementary School sent a letter of thanks to Ptl. Joseph Slater and Ptl. Adam Troyer for their contributions to the Wellness Day program. Chief Catalano responded to her letter.
2. Martha Hubbard, of Leadership Cortland, sent a thank you letter to Chief Catalano for his presentation on Law Enforcement and the Courts.
3. Chief Catalano received his *Bachelor of Science Degree* from Empire College dated April 2010.
4. Chief Catalano received a *Certificate of Oath of Office* to assume the duties of Communications Advisory Board member and Criminal Justice Board member.
5. Deputy Chief Sandy received a *Certificate of Oath of Office* to assume the duties of Communications Advisory Board member.
6. Family Counseling Services sent a letter of thanks to Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt for his participation in the Eighth Annual Family Counseling Services Rite Aid Drug Quiz Show.
7. The Knowles and Thalheimer Family sent 2 thank you notes-one to Ptl. Andrew SanJule and one to the Department for their help in trying to locate their dog.
8. Kay Paino sent the Chief a thank you note for ensuring her house was checked while she was out of town.
9. SUNY Cortland sent a thank you letter to Lt. Jonathan Gesin for his assistance with the Internship Program.

#### **B. CORRESPONDENCE -**

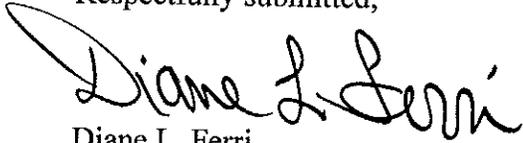
1. The Cortland Standard wrote two articles covering the Jets return to SUNY Cortland for training.
2. The Cortland Standard wrote an article covering 2-way parking on Main Street.
3. The Cortland Standard printed an editorial written by DA Mark Suben on 2 City cases recently tried.
4. Chief Catalano wrote a letter about the Cortland Rotary Breakfast Club's McGruff fundraiser for this year.
5. Chief Catalano noted a copy of the CPD patch recently published in the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* "Patch Call" because of its unique design.

**C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -**

Comments were made during the course of the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 3:15 p.m. in the CPD Lounge. With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane L. Ferri". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Diane L. Ferri  
Confidential Secretary