

POLICE COMMISSION

May 26, 2010

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

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on May 26, 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. Mr. Ray Hamilton joined the meeting to voice his concerns regarding tractor trailer traffic on Hubbard Street. Several options were discussed with Mr. Hamilton regarding the law. After said discussion, Mr. Hamilton left the meeting.

A. MINUTES – On the motion of Comm. Donald Kline, seconded by Comm. Ralph Smith, the Commission approved the minutes of the April 28th meeting.

B. BILLS – The Commission reviewed the bills in the amount of \$32,283.75 for the month of April. On the motion of Comm. Kline, seconded by Comm. Smith were approved as written and placed on file.

The following bills were highlighted:

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| • Covert pole camera system-from grant funds | \$ 10,761.00 |
| • 10,000 parking tickets w/art charges for changes in fees | \$ 1,822.00 |
| • 2-USB hubs, 2-TraCS imager kits | \$ 1,069.00 |
| • Video and video wiring installations—grant funds | \$ 1,110.00 |

C. REPORTS –

The following reports were highlighted:

1. Vehicle Repairs –

Deputy Chief Sandy noted no unusual repairs for the month of April. Maintenance costs for the month totaled \$1,792.59 and average cost of gasoline in April totaled \$2.238208786/gallon for 1,941.7 gallons of gasoline.

2. Overtime –

The Commission reviewed the overtime breakdown by category. Accumulated hours worked for the month of April totaled 970.75 hours, compared to 1272.50 hours for the same time frame in 2009 and reflects a 301.75-hour decrease for the month of April from 2009's figure, reflecting also an 884.00-hour decrease for the annual total difference. With the use of Tasers initiated in early 2009, Taser training brought a significant increase to the Schools/Seminars line item in 2009, contributing to the higher overtime difference.

On the motion of Comm. Smith, 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 the Common Council has directed the Director of Administration/Finance and the Chief to continue investigating and provide updates. At the present time, Main Street is no longer being considered for the kiosks. Additionally, a local coin-operating vendor is researching the possibility of manufacturing kiosks in the future and has contacted City Hall for future consideration with kiosks.
- B. PERSONNEL UPDATE** – The Chief notified the Commission of the following changes within the Department as described below:
1. **Parking Enforcement Officer:** After interviewing a number of candidates, Mr. Charles Greenman was hired on a provisional basis, with a commencement date of May 24, 2010. He is filling the position previously held by Frances Cobb.
 2. **Authorization for Police Officer:** The Common Council gave authorization to hire a new officer to fill the position previously held by Ptl. Charles Niederhofer, once the new Civil Service List has been established. The Chief noted this might be beneficial as Elmira is considering offering a Basic Academy in September.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. CORTLAND JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY:** The Chief apprised the Commission of efforts being made by School Resource Officer, Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt, to initiate a Cortland Junior Police Academy. The week-long academy will commence on July 10, 2010, at the Armory, including a Rock Climbing Wall donated by National Guard, and free lunches provided by 7-Valley CASA. The Cortland PBA donated \$600 towards any associated costs and the young teens will also be required to pay a \$50 fee. Other Junior Police Academies conducted nationwide have proved to be very successful not only in improving police/civilian relations but also providing insight to the youth regarding a possible career in police work. No overtime will be involved and the rules for acceptance into the Academy include at least a “C” average and a letter of recommendation from a teacher.
- B. NEW YORK JETS SUMMER CAMP** – Chief Catalano notified the Commission of the upcoming return of the New York Jets football team to SUNY Cortland and preparations being made. Meetings with SUNY Cortland have commenced with an expectation of a greater fan response this year. Additionally, HBO plans to complete a documentary on the Jets during the camp.
- C. McGRUFF TOURNAMENT** – Chief Catalano announced the 20th Annual Cortland Rotary Breakfast Club McGruff Golf Tournament to be held on Thursday, June 17, 2010 at Elm Tree Golf Course. The Breakfast Rotary Club donates proceeds from the tournament as the primary funding source for the McGruff Program.
- D. JUNE DAIRY PARADE** – The Chief informed the Commission of schedule for the June Dairy Parade, to be held on Tuesday, June 1, 2010. Officers’ work schedules have been adjusted and the Cortland County Sheriff’s Office and New York State Police will be assisting with parade details this year.

E. CORTLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY NEW POLICY: The Chief advised the Commission of a recent telephone conversation with Cortland Housing Authority (CHA) regarding the Criminal Background Inquiries being provided. As of now, the CHA no longer will be accessing any background information via the Police Department. Therefore, this funding source is now officially closed.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION REPORT -

1. Sen. James Seward sent a letter to the Chief regarding May 11, 2010 as the State of New York Police Memorial Day in memory of those officers killed New York State in 2009 and to acknowledge the surviving family members.
2. Chief Catalano attended the National Day of Prayer, as observed on Thursday May 6, 2010 at the Salvation Army on behalf of our President, local officials, Governor, State Legislators, State Senators, Congress, Schools and the nation.
3. Dr. Syed Pasha sent Chief Catalano an email expressing appreciation to the Department for checking his house while he was out of town recently.
4. Deputy Chief Sandy received a *Certificate of Membership* from the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
5. Chief Catalano received a *Certificate of Appreciation* for his service to the Judicial Affairs and to the State University of New York College at Cortland 2009-2010.
6. The NYS Police Community Narcotics Enforcement Team sent a press release regarding a recent Heroin seizure and arrests made by the Cortland County Drug Task Force and NYS Police.

B. CORRESPONDENCE -

1. Ms. Kimberly Wheeler sent a letter and associated emails to Chief Catalano regarding the Sex Offender Registry and her objection to it. The Chief responded to her letter.
2. Fharrica Westendorf sent a thank you card to Ptl. Kim Gerdus for her help and patience during a recent investigation.
3. Mr. Ken Stoneman sent a thank you letter to Chief Catalano for a Department patch with an attached picture of his police patch collection.

C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -

Chief Catalano noted Comm. O'Mara's letter to the Mayor regarding lifting the hiring freeze for this department added weight to the public comment from the Hill Association.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 23, 2010** at 3:15 p.m. in the CPD Lounge. With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri
Confidential Secretary