

POLICE COMMISSION

July 28, 2010

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner Donald Kline.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on July 28, 2010 in the Mayor's Conference Room at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland New York. Commissioner Thomas O'Mara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. MINUTES – On the motion of Comm. Ralph Smith, seconded by Comm. O'Mara, the Commission approved the minutes of the June 23rd meeting as written.

B. BILLS – The Commission reviewed the bills in the amount of \$16,688.83 for the month of June. On the motion of Comm. Smith, seconded by Comm. O'Mara were approved as written and placed on file.

The following bills were highlighted:

- Annual maintenance contract for 8 bicycles \$ 960.00
- New hats purchased for all school crossing guards \$ 220.50

C. REPORTS –

The following reports were highlighted:

1. Vehicle Repairs –

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|----|----------|
| C-24 | New tires and alignment | \$ | 304.45 |
| C-17 | Motor vehicle accident repairs | \$ | 1,568.91 |

Maintenance costs for the month totaled \$3,471.58 and average cost of gasoline in June totaled \$2.444074/gallon for 1,947.4 gallons of gasoline. The Deputy Chief further expounded on details of the most recent MVA involving a police vehicle.

2. Overtime –

The Commission reviewed the overtime breakdown by category. Accumulated hours worked for the month of June totaled 1082.25 hours, compared to 867.50 hours for the same time frame in 2009 and reflects a 51.00-hour increase for the month of June from 2009's figure, while still reflecting a 477.25-hour decrease for the annual total difference. The Chief noted the short shift line now displays a 188.25-hour increase over 2009 figures due to the shortage in staffing and the minimum staffing requirements stipulated in the Labor Agreement.

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

OLD BUSINESS

A. PERSONNEL –

1. The Chief notified the Commission Ptl. Melissa Pym has returned to work, effective 7/6/10 from maternity leave.
2. There are now 3 vacancies within the department with 2 positions approved by the Common Council to fill.
3. In addition, Lt. Jonathan Gesin informed the Chief of his intention to retire on August 19th of this year, which sets in motion transfers, promotions, and the need to fill another vacant police officer position. He confirmed the commencement of a Basic Police Academy in Elmira, New York later this year, which will significantly reduce the cost for training in comparison to the subsequent Academy to be held in Onondaga County.
4. The Chief further updated the Commission regarding the motor vehicle accident (MVA) involving Ptl. Debra Barber. While responding with lights and sirens to a call of an officer needing assistance, she struck a truck at the intersection of Graham Ave and Groton Ave. The incident occurred on July 8th; and she has been out of work since the incident. The Chief also noted 2 other officers were injured last week while responding to a domestic incident. Because of the injuries, the incident was escalated to Assault. One officer remains out of work to date from that incident.

B. JETS CAMP & SCRIMMAGE GAME – The Chief updated the Commission regarding the Jets arrival and the Scrimmage Game scheduled for August 7th at 6:00 p.m.

C. JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY – The Chief reported to the Commission the very positive results from the Junior Police Academy organized and overseen by Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt, the School Resource Officer. Seven Valley CASA was also involved. From students, to parents, to agencies - everyone was thrilled with the program and the results, and consideration is being given to expanding the Academy next year to a 2-week event.

NEW BUSINESS

A. EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR COMMISSIONERS – Upon discussion regarding the convenience of electronic notifications, the commissioners present both provided an email address for Chief Catalano.

B. MARIJUANA ARREST – Chief Catalano apprised the Commission of the status of the arrests made from a recent call to Clinton Ave. All assets seized from the arrests are held by the Federal prosecutors until completion of the case. If convicted, the federal prosecutor's office will retain a small percentage for its own department, but the bulk of the funds are returned to the local District Attorney's Office for use in drug investigations and equipment. He further noted this was the largest seizure of cash and assets ever noted in Cortland, thanks to an attentive neighbor.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION REPORT -

1. Lt. Chauncey Bennett, NYSC DCJS Master Instructor, sent a letter to Chief Catalano, commending Sgt. Cheyenne Cute and Ptl. Chadd Hines for their excellence, professionalism and competence in assisting him with the Firearms instruction at the Basic Police Academy in Binghamton. The Chief responded to his letter.

2. Ms. Kim McRae Friedman, Associate Director of Seven Valleys CASA, sent a thank you card to Chief Catalano for “allowing” them to work with the department on the Junior Police Academy.

B. CORRESPONDENCE -

1. Richard Couch sent an email to the Common Council with regards to the drug arrests at 138 Clinton Ave, recognizing the increase in the drug problem in the City, commending Chief Catalano and the department for their efforts and diligence, and advocate for continued funding without a decrease of Emergency Services.
2. Chief Catalano received the official letter of intent to retire from Lt. Jonathan Gesin. He responded, with regret, to the Lieutenant’s letter.
3. Chief Catalano sent letters to Sgt. Richard Troyer, Sgt. Elizabeth Starr, and Sgt. Michael Strangeway inviting them to interview for the Lieutenant position to be vacated by Lt. Jonathan Gesin.
4. The Chief briefly reviewed the survey conducted during the Jr. Police Academy.

C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS -

The commissioners commented during the course of the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 25, 2010** at 3:15 p.m. in the CPD Lounge. With no further business to discuss, on the motion of Comm. Smith and seconded by Comm. O’Mara, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri
Confidential Secretary