

POLICE COMMISSION

August 22, 2012 Minutes

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas O'Mara, Commissioner Donald Kline Commissioner James Sponaugle, Chief F. Michael Catalano, D/C Paul Sandy.

EXCUSED: Secretary Diane Ferri.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on August 22, 2012 in the CPD Lounge at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland New York. Commissioner Thomas O'Mara called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

A. MINUTES – On the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, seconded by Comm. Kline, the Commission approved the minutes of the July 25th meeting as written.

B. BILLS – The Commission reviewed the bills in the amount of \$17,186.54 for the month of July. On the motion of Comm. Kline, seconded by Comm. Sponaugle were approved as written and placed on file.

The following bills were highlighted:

• Radio/911 Dispatch radios for narrow banding (encumbered)	\$	3,967.10
• 1997.1 gallons gasoline @ \$2.9217966/ gallon	\$	5,835.12
• Copier leases for Detective Bureau & patrol area	\$	249.00
• Copier lease for Records Division	\$	135.00

C. REPORTS –

The following reports were highlighted:

1. Sick Report –

The Chief noted the sick time used included post-surgical recovery needed by 2 employees.

Overtime –

Accumulated hours worked for the month of July totaled 1111.75 hours, compared to 912.50 hours for the same period in 2011, reflecting a 199.25-hour increase for the month, but a 584.50 hour decrease year-to-date. The Call-In line for the Detective Bureau was elevated due to the assault in July. The Short Shift line continues its elevation due to special details and sick time. The Cortland County Drug Task Force line will be explained at a later date.

2. Other Activities Report –

The Chief noted 1639 calls for service, indicating a decrease of 95 calls from the 2011 monthly total of 1734 and a year-to-date decrease of 565 from 2011. Persons incarcerated decreased by 31, while cars towed increased by 26. ABC underage arrests for July were 0; compared to 2 in 2011. MVAs for the month totaled 37 compared to 49 for 2011.

3. SPCA Animal Control Report –

The Chief noted 39 complaints for the month answered, 310 calls year-to-date, with 13 after-hour calls for the month of July.

4. Officers Activities Breakdown –

Statistics garnered by officers includes Ptl. Kenneth Pym with 36 V&T arrests, 4 DWI arrests, 11 Violations, 18 misdemeanors, 3 felony arrests, and 3 parking tickets.

5. Arrest Breakdown –

The Commission reviewed the arrest breakdown with total arrests at 319, representing a year-to-date decrease of 456 arrests compared to 2011. DWI arrests increased by 13 and SUNY student arrests continue to decrease. TC-3 student arrests have stabilized for now, with 5 arrests for the month and 55 year-to-date, compared to 54 for 2011.

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

OLD BUSINESS

JETS CAMP – the Chief noted no incidents or issues involved during the Jets practice time here at SUNY Cortland and reported their intention to return in 2013.

NEW BUSINESS

A. STUDENT RETURN – The Chief apprised the Commission of the imminent arrival of SUNY Cortland students with a return date of 8/25/12 and a concert to be held on Main Street for them. He further mentioned the need for overtime patrols for the downtown and hill district. Plans for the concert include closing Main Street between 12 noon and 12 midnight and a stage to be erected in the Market Place Mall parking lot.

B. REQUEST HIRING FREEZE TO BE LIFTED – The Chief recounted his request to the Common Council to lift the hiring freeze and fill the last remaining authorized position for the Police Department. With the city’s hiring freeze, the Cortland Police Department has left a budgeted police officer position vacant for nearly four years, after it being vacated upon the retirement of our designated training officer in October of 2008. Ever since that time, the Training Officer duties have been piecemealed with other personnel.

The Chief’s memo requesting this action stated, “While we have been trying to cover the responsibilities of the training officer, we also have a detective assigned full time to the Cortland County Drug Task Force who is becoming overwhelmed with the number of illegal drug investigations and complaints, to the point where it is nearly impossible to keep up. Along with the myriad of other law enforcement duties the Department must perform, this understaffed situation is being negatively felt by both the Police Department and the community residents. I am requesting the freeze to be lifted in order to hire an entry level police officer and have the ability to reassign personnel in the Police Department. This will allow for more adequate coverage of the patrol shifts, the expanding demands on drug investigations and the ever so important training division duties for the Department’s officers. Hiring another police officer will bring the Police Department to its fully authorized and budgeted strength of 43 sworn members.”

After some discussion at the Common Council meeting of last evening, the issue was tabled.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION REPORT –

1. Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Staff at Cortland Prevention Resources in recognition of his continued dedication to the growth and success of *Cortland Community Youth*.
2. Sgt. Cheyenne Cute received a Certificate of Completion for successfully completing the requirements of the *Clandestine Lab Investigations* training sponsored by St. Petersburg College Southeastern Public Safety Institute Multijurisdictional Counterdrug Task Force.
3. Ptl. Jared Aiken received a Certificate of Attendance from the NYS Preparedness Training Center for attending the *Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response* course.

B. CORRESPONDENCE –

1. PEO Sherry Snell sent a letter of resignation to Chief Catalano effective August 23, 2012 due to her decision to relocate to another state. Chief Catalano regrettably accepted her resignation.
2. Chief Catalano sent a memo to Mayor Brian Tobin, the Common Council, and Mack Cook, Director of Admin and Finance requesting consideration to lift the hiring freeze to fill a vacant police officer position.
3. Chairman Thomas O'Mara sent a letter to Mayor Brian Tobin, the Common Council, and Mack Cook, Director of Admin and Finance endorsing Chief Catalano's request to lift the hiring freeze to fill a vacant police officer position.

C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Commissioner Sponaugle presented a notice from NYMIR Claims regarding law enforcement assistance to EMS personnel transporting potentially violent patients, with regards to "Bath Salts". He further noted 2 wrong number calls received on his cell phone of a highly unusual nature. Discussion ensued.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 26 2012** at 3:15 p.m. in the CPD Lounge. With no further business to discuss, on the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, and seconded by Comm. Kline, the meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri
Confidential Secretary