

# POLICE COMMISSION

November 21, 2012 Minutes

**PRESENT:** Chairman Thomas O'Mara, Commissioner Donald Kline Commissioner James Sponaugle, Chief F. Michael Catalano, and Secretary Diane Ferri.

**EXCUSED:** D/C Paul Sandy.

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on November 21, 2012 in the CPD Lounge at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland New York. Commissioner Thomas O'Mara called the meeting to order at 3:19 p.m.

**A. MINUTES** – On the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, second by Comm. Kline, the Commission approved the minutes of the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting as amended.

**B. BILLS** – The Commission reviewed the bills in the amount of \$26,712.63 for the month of October. On the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, seconded by Comm. Kline were approved as written and placed on file.

**The following bills were highlighted:**

• Gasoline, 1844.8 gals @ \$3.233526/gal	\$ 6,029.88
• Camera system	\$ 5,035.13
• Annual dues for NYSACOP/FMC, PAS	\$ 300.00
• IACP Conference	\$ 1,323.14

**C. REPORTS** –

**The following reports were highlighted:**

**1. Sick Report** –

Sick time used continues to be greater than this time frame in 2011 and is being monitored, with a total increase of sick time used year-to-date of 836.5 hours compared to 2011 totals.

**2. Overtime** –

Accumulated hours worked for the month of October totaled 967.25 hours, compared to 876.00 hours for the same period in 2011, reflecting a 91.25-hour increase for the month, with a 672.75 hour decrease year-to-date. The Holiday Bonus line continues its elevation due to contractual obligations. Short shift is being monitored with regards to sick time being used.

**3. Other Activities Report** –

The Chief noted 1737 calls for service, indicating an increase of 10 calls from the 2011 monthly total of 1727 and a year-to-date decrease of 455 from 2011. Persons incarcerated increased by 19, while cars towed increased by 4. ABC underage arrests for October were 59; compared to 50 in 2011. MVAs for the month totaled 53 compared to 49 for 2011.

**4. SPCA Animal Control Report** –

Animal complaints answered for the month totaled 36, with 436 calls year-to-date, and 14 after-hour calls for the month of October.

**5. Officers Activities Breakdown –**

Statistics highlighted by Chief Catalano included 22 DWI arrests for the month, 4 of which were garnered by Ptl. Jeffrey Fitts, and 4 by Ptl. Kenneth Pym.

**6. Arrest Breakdown –**

The Commission reviewed the arrest breakdown with total arrests at 565, representing a year-to-date decrease of 724 arrests compared to 2011. DWI arrests increased by 38 year-to-date, and SUNY student arrests continue to decrease. TC-3 student arrests have stabilized for now, with 20 arrests for the month and 80 year-to-date, compared to 110 for 2011.

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

***OLD BUSINESS***

**A. PBA CONTRACT SETTLEMENT –** The Chief updated the Commission on the PBA contract negotiations. The PBA has agreed with the proposal by the City to transfer healthcare coverage to the consortium from Tompkins County. They successfully settled and ratified a 3-year contract and are waiting final signatures. Four other union contracts are not yet settled, including the School Guards Association. Additionally, discussion is ongoing with regards to the Police Department’s civilian employees, along with other department employees, who are not covered by a union.

**B. BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION –** Chief Catalano notified the Commission regarding the candidate chosen from the approval to lift the hiring freeze for filling the training officer position. With information garnered, he has chosen to begin a background check on a different candidate, desiring to transfer from Norwich.

***NEW BUSINESS***

**A. TELFER TRANSFER –** The Chief apprised the Commission of the resignation letter he received from Ptl. Kyle Telfer, to be effective 12/3/12. Ptl. Telfer will be transferring to the Vestal Police Department. Due to the short timeframe of his employment here, Cortland Police Department will be receiving back all of his equipment purchases, including his weapon. The Chief noted he will have to ask the Common Council to lift the hiring freeze, once again, to fill the position. He intends to do so at the 12/4/12 meeting.

**B. CORTACA JUG GAME –** With the Cortaca Jug Game held in Cortland this year, the Chief commented on the newspaper articles written, the controversies cited, and the \$12,871.00 cost to the department between the two nights. Fights occurred, with crowds surrounding the officers called to various locations, rocks were thrown, and a police officer’s hat was stolen. Alcohol consumption was very excessive with severe intoxication causing numerous transports of unconscious persons to the hospital. He stated visitors and recent alumni

constitute the majority of the problem issues, noting this event is transforming into much more than a football game.

Chief Catalano also stated SUNY Cortland must initiate action. Alderman Ken Dye rode in a police vehicle and experienced the events firsthand. The Mayor has scheduled a meeting for next week with the NYS Police and other agencies for solutions.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

1. Ptl. Debra Barber received a Certificate of Completion for successfully completing the *Analogs: Bath Salts & Synthetic Marijuana Course* from the Prevention Network/OCAA.
2. Alderman Ken Dye sent an email to Chief Catalano, thanking him for allowing the ride-along the weekend of the Cortaca Jug Game. Mr. Dye commended the officers for their professionalism during the course of events.
3. Ptl. Debra Barber received a letter of appreciation from SUNY Cortland for her presentation on law enforcement personnel, and the relationship between policing/community relations.
4. Ptl. Jesse Abbott and Ptl. Jared Aiken each received a Certificate of Attendance for *Decision Making for SWAT Commanders Course* provided by the State of New York DCJS.
5. Lt. David Guerrero, Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt, Ptl. Chadd Hines, and Ptl. Kenneth Bush each received a Certificate of Attendance for *Tactical Team Leader Development Course* provided by the State of New York DCJS.
6. Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt received Certificate of Attendance for *Warrant Service Planning for Supervisors Course*.
7. Ptl. Kenneth Bush received a Certificate of Attendance for *Less Letha Impact Munitions Instructor Course* provided by the State of New York DCJS.
8. Sgt. Michael Nichols and Ptl. Joseph Slater each received a Certificate of Attendance for *Drug Endangered Children Workshop* presented by the Department of Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
9. Sgt. Michael Nichols received a Certificate of Attendance for *Clandestine Lab Awareness and Safety Workshop* presented by the Department of Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
10. Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt, Ptl. Chadd Hines, Ptl. Jared Aiken, and Ptl. Patrick O'Donnell each received a Certificate of Completion for successfully completing the Armorer's Course as presented by Glock Professional.
11. Ptl. Chadd Hines received a *BLS Instructor* certificate as an American Heart Association Basic Life Support Instructor.
12. Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt received a Certificate of Attendance for attending *LE Active Shooter Emergency Response Train-the-Trainer Course* provided by NYS Preparedness Training Center.
13. Ptl. Andrew SanJule received a Certificate of Attendance for attending *Missing Persons Tool Box Training Logistics* sponsored by the State of New York DCJS.
14. Lt. David Guerrero received a letter of thanks from Mr. Aaron Beier of Access to Independence for his participation in the 2012 Cortland County Mentoring Day.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE –**

1. Chief Catalano received an invitation to participate in the first *Read and Feed* Program at the Cortland Public Library sponsored by the Third Grade Classes at Randall School.
2. Chief Catalano received a letter of resignation from Mrs. Keri Austen-Hines from her position as a substitute school crossing guard. He responded to her letter.
3. Chief Catalano received a letter of resignation from Ptl. Kyle Telfer from his position as a police officer to transfer to the Vestal Police Department. He responded to his letter.
4. Sgt. Cheyenne Cute wrote a letter to Mr. & Mrs. Legg of Solon, NY due to a complaint received regarding Fall Firearms held at the McGraw Sports Club. Mr. Legg responded on October 30, 2012 requesting a meeting.

**C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –**

1. The Commission reviewed the tentative schedule for 2013 and approved it.
2. Comm. Sponaugle commented on the presentation Chief Catalano made to the Common Council in tandem with budget workshops, noting his disappointment at the lack of Common Council members present or tardy arrival.
3. The Chief announced the PBA Christmas Party to be held on Monday, December 3 2012 at “Gatherings” in Virgil. The party is scheduled to commence at 5:00 p.m. Invitations have been mailed.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 19, 2012** at 3:15 p.m. in the CPD Lounge. With no further business to discuss, on the motion of Comm. Kline, and seconded by Comm. Sponaugle, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri  
Confidential Secretary