

# POLICE COMMISSION

December 19, 2012 Minutes

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

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on December 19, 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. Kline, second by Comm. Sponaugle, the Commission approved the minutes of the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting as written.

**B. BILLS** – The Commission reviewed the bills in the amount of \$18,846.70 for the month of November. On the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, seconded by Comm. Kline were approved as written and placed on file.

**The following bills were highlighted:**

√ Assorted tires for the various vehicles (31 total)	\$ 3,253.88
√ Portable batteries, MCT repairs	\$ 1,010.88

## **C. REPORTS** –

**The following reports were highlighted:**

### **1. Vehicle Maintenance Reports** –

C-18	Replace front rotors and pads; mount balance 2 tires	\$ 365.73
C-19	Replace front rotors/pads; replace rear pads, LOF	\$ 515.92
C-21	Replace sensor bank; install gear fitting left lower ball joint	\$ 185.35

### **2. Sick Report** –

Sick time used continues to be greater than this time frame in 2011 with a total sick time used year-to-date of 1804 hours compared to 914 hours in 2011.

### **3. Overtime** –

Accumulated hours worked for the month of November totaled 1487.75 hours, compared to 1266.75 hours for the same period in 2011, reflecting a 221.00-hour increase for the month, with a 451.75 hour decrease year-to-date. County Court hours increased by 31.5 hours over last year; and the Drug Task Force year to date figures totaled 461.00 hours due to the recently reported investigation named “Operation Southbound”.

### **4. Other Activities Report** –

The Chief noted 1821 calls for service, indicating a decrease of 9 calls from the 2011 monthly total of 1830 and a year-to-date decrease of 464 from 2011. Persons incarcerated decreased by 45, while cars towed decreased by 9. ABC underage arrests

for November were 95; compared to 108 in 2011. MVAs for the month totaled 41 compared to 46 for 2011.

**5. SPCA Animal Control Report –**

Animal complaints answered for the month totaled 53, with 489 calls year-to-date, and 16 after-hour calls for the month of November.

**6. Officers Activities Breakdown –**

Statistics highlighted by Chief Catalano included 14 DWI arrests for the month, 5 of which were garnered by Ptl. Ryan Riley. Ptl. Kenneth Pym was credited with 28 V&Ts, and Ptl. Kyle Green with 10 Misdemeanors, 20 Violations, 3 DWI arrests and 18 V&T tickets.

**7. Arrest Breakdown –**

The Commission reviewed the arrest breakdown with total arrests at 533, representing a year-to-date decrease of 848 arrests compared to 2011. DWI arrests increased by 33 year-to-date and SUNY student arrests continue to decrease. TC-3 student arrests have stabilized for now, with 20 arrests for the month.

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

***OLD BUSINESS***

**A. POLICE OFFICER CANDIDATES –** The Chief updated the Commission on the status of the 2 officer candidates, both of which did not pass the background scrutiny. He is hopeful a new list will be generated in January, as there is an academy starting in March 2013.

**B. COMMON COUNCIL & HIRING FREEZE –** Chief Catalano notified the Commission the Common council voted to temporarily lift the hiring freeze, on the advice of Corporation Counsel, and to hire a new officer. So with the 2 current vacancies, permission has been granted to fill both positions.

**C. BUDGET VOTE –** the Chief noted the 2013 Budget was approved, which included 3 new cars and new video recording equipment.

**D. PBA CHRISTMAS PARTY –** the Chief commented on the PBA Christmas Party, held on Monday, 12/3/12 and stated Ptl. Ryan Riley was awarded Police Officer of the Year. He will be given a bar on his uniform denoting such. Additionally, Sgt. Michael Nichols, Ptl. Kenneth Bush, and Ptl. Ryan Riley were each honored with a “Life-Saving Award” which they earned during the Assault case earlier in the year on West Court Street.

***NEW BUSINESS***

**A. FIRST LIGHT –** The Chief apprised the Commission of the “*First Light*” celebration to be held on New Year’s Eve.

**B. PERSONNEL –** The Chief detailed for the Commission the resignation of PEO Hinkle and the commencement of PEO Whitney. Mr. Hinkle resigned effective 12/20/12 while Mr.

Whitney was hired earlier in the month to make available the opportunity to work with Mr. Hinkle, thus providing some training.

- C. DRUG INVESTIGATION** – The Chief expounded on the details of recent newspaper articles reporting on the “sting” operation that had swelled the Overtime Report balances earlier in the year with no explainable details. An investigation spanning 9 months resulted in the arrest of 16 local residents with connections as far away as Puerto Rico, New York City, Watertown, and Buffalo on numerous charges including cocaine trafficking. Approximately \$14 million plus assets were seized.

## ***OTHER BUSINESS***

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

1. Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt and Ptl. Chadd Hines each received a Certificate of Completion for successfully completing the *Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response Performance Level, Train the Trainer*” from the NCBRT.
2. Ptl. Melissa Pym, Ptl. Brendan Byrnes, and Ptl. Ryan Riley each received a Certificate of Completion for successfully completing an *Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Course* presented by the NYS Drug Evaluation and Classification Program.
3. Ptl. Anthony Natoli received a letter of appreciation from Ms. Diane Heath for his assistance during a recent call. The Chief responded to her letter.
4. Sgt. Michael Nichols, Ptl. Kenneth Bush, and Ptl. Ryan Riley each received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano for their performance of duty involving the gang assault at 64 Main Street in July.
5. Ptl. Patrick O’Donnell received a Certificate of Attendance for *DEA Bath Salt & Synthetic Drug Investigation Training Course* provided by the State of New York DCJS; he also received a certificate for completion of the *NCIC Certification*.
6. Lt. David Guerrero wrote a letter of commendation to Deputy Jason Kemp for his rescue efforts during a roll over MVA on October 6, 2012.
7. Chief Catalano received a thank you letter from SUNY Cortland Chief of Police, Steven Dangler, for the department assistance at the Cortaca Jug football game in November.
8. Ptl. Ryan Riley received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano, recognizing his receipt of the first annual “*Police Officer of the Year*” award rendered in compliance with General Order #320.
9. Chief Catalano received a letter of commendation on behalf of the department from Mr. Kevin Whitney, Chairman of the Cortland County Judiciary and Public Safety Committee of the Cortland County Legislature.
10. Lt. David Guerrero and Sgt. Sean Byrnes each received a Certificate of Attendance from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) for their attendance at the *Impact of High Stress Events Training*.
11. Ptl. Eric Perine received a thank you letter from Mr. Tim Reilley & Ms Beth Carsello for his observation and investigation into the condition of their home. Chief Catalano responded to their letter.

12. Chief Catalano received a thank you letter from the Office of the Sheriff of Cortland County and signed by Sheriff Lee Price, Undersheriff Herbert Barnhart and others, for the assistance provided in "Operation Southbound".

**B. CORRESPONDENCE –**

1. Chief Catalano sent a letter to Mr. Brian Driscoll withdrawing the conditional offer of employment with the Cortland Police Department.
3. Chief Catalano received a letter of resignation from PEO Ricky Hinkle from his position. He responded to his letter, accepting his resignation.
4. Chief Catalano sent a letter to Corporal Zach Durr of Carroll, Ohio, responding to the request for a police patch and notifying him department policy precludes him for forwarding a patch.
5. Chief Catalano noted a recent awards ceremony mentioning the Drug Task Force, held by Cortland Area Communities That Care.

**C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –**

1. Comm. Kline mentioned the recent Turkey Trot race, noting 800 runners participated and thanked the Department for its help.
2. Comm. Sponaugle asked if the Department gets notification as to when the flag should be flown at "half-mast". He remarked the Armory Flag had recently not complied with the order. Discussion ensued as to a methodology to notify all departments, in light of the fact we have no Director of Buildings and Grounds.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 23, 2013** 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 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri  
Confidential Secretary