

# POLICE COMMISSION

April 24, 2013 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 April 24, 2013 in the CPD Lounge at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland New York. Chairman Thomas O'Mara called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

**A. MINUTES** – On the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, second by Comm. Kline the Commission approved the minutes of the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as written.

**B. BILLS** – The Commission reviewed the bills in the amount of \$21,937.61 for the month of March. On the motion of Comm. Kline, second by Comm. Sponaugle were approved as written and placed on file.

**The following bills were highlighted:**

√ Gasoline costs totaled \$3.09951/gallon for 1,832.9 gallons used	\$	5,799.86
√ 3- TraCS imager kits	\$	1,077.00
√ Siren control boxes for the new vehicles	\$	1,526.10

**C. REPORTS** –

**The following reports were highlighted:**

**1. Sick Report** –

Sick time used was reviewed by the Commission with no notable aberrations.

**2. Overtime** –

Accumulated hours worked for the month of March totaled 657.00 hours, compared to 938.25 hours for the same period in 2012, reflecting a 281.25-hour decrease for the month, and a 199.00-hour increase year-to-date from 2012. The “Short Shift” line increased by 96.00 hours for the month.

**3. Other Activities Report** –

The Chief noted 1608 calls for service, indicating a decrease of 68 calls for the month from the 2012, and an increase of 161 year-to-date total from the 2012 balance of 4740. Persons incarcerated year-to-date total decreased by 29, while cars towed increased by 24. ABC underage arrests totaled 32, which is a decrease in year-to-date totals by 5. MVAs totaled 47 for the month.

**4. SPCA Animal Control Report** –

Animal complaints answered totaled 28; 4 after-hour calls for the month, and 19 tickets issued year-to-date.

**5. Officers Activities Breakdown** –

Statistics highlighted by Chief Catalano included 18 DWI arrests for the month, 4 of which were garnered by Ptl. Kenneth Pym as well as 53 V&T tickets. Ptl. Brendan Byrnes made 3 DWI arrests. Ptl. Kenneth Pym also issued 52 parking tickets.

**6. Arrest Breakdown –**

The Commission reviewed the arrest breakdown with total arrests at 961, representing an increase of 104 arrests compared to 2012. DWI arrests increased by 4 year-to-date and SUNY student arrests continue to decrease. TC-3 student arrests have also decreased, with 4 arrests for March.

**7. Parking Ticket Report –**

Parking tickets issued, including those of the Parking Enforcement Officers (PEO), continues to average at a lower rate than in years past. The Chief noted the recent fluctuation in maintaining someone in the PEO position as part of the problem.

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

***OLD BUSINESS***

**A. CNYACOP AWARDS CEREMONY –** The Chief reminded the Commission of the awards banquet to be held on Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, in East Syracuse at Justin’s Grill to honor those officers who have been nominated by their local departments for this award; he further invited them to attend. Those nominated from Cortland are Sgt. Michael Nichols, Ptl. Kenneth Bush and Ptl. Ryan Riley for their efforts to resuscitate a crime victim.

**B. PERSONNEL –** Although this item was not included in the Agenda, Chief Catalano apprised the Commission of Mrs. Tanya Brayton’s decision to resign from her provisional appointment as PEO due to chronic health issues that hindered her ability to perform the PEO duties. This leaves the department, again, with no Parking Enforcement Officer.

***NEW BUSINESS***

**A. CORTLAND COUNTY LAWMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD –** The Chief apprised the Commission of the annual awards banquet to be held on 5/20/13 at the Elk’s Club in Cortland, honoring exemplary police officers and an “honorable mention” category. This year, Chief Catalano has nominated Ptl. Ryan Riley for the Lawman of the Year, with Sgt. Michael Nichols and Ptl. Kenneth Bush for the Honorable Mention category for their efforts to resuscitate a crime victim last year.

**B. SPRING FLING –** Another item missed from the Agenda involves the SUNY Cortland “Spring Fling” weekend, scheduled for this coming Saturday, 4/27/13 and the associated “MonroeFest” activities. The Chief stated the laws will be strictly enforced over this weekend, with no road closures to be allowed. Officers have been canvassing each house in that neighborhood to notify tenants of the intent to strictly enforce all laws and ordinances this weekend.

***OTHER BUSINESS***

**A. COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION REPORT –**

1. Chief Catalano received a Certificate of Completion for successful completion of the *Illicit Drugs 2013: A Workshop for Public Officials* sponsored by the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services.
2. Sgt. Daniel Edwards received a Certificate of Qualification for *Fire Investigator I* and *Fire Investigator II* as sponsored by the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services.
3. Sgt. Michael Nichols received a Certificate of Completion for successfully completing the 40 hour *Emotionally Disturbed Persons Response Team (EDPRT)* course as provided by the Cortland Police Department and Cortland County Mental Health Department.
4. A Certificate of Training was given to Chief Catalano, D/C Sandy, Lt. David Guerrero, Lt. Richard Troyer, Sgt. Daniel Edwards, Sgt. Michael Strangeway, Sgt. Daniel Johnson, Sgt. Seth Rowland, Sgt. Michael Nichols, Sgt. Sean Byrnes, Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt, Ptl. Jesse Abbott, Ptl. Daniel Mones, Ptl. Jared Aiken, Ptl. Kenneth Bush, Ptl. Patrick O'Donnell, Ptl. Ryan Gross, Ptl. Peter Wright, Ptl. Anthony Natoli, Ptl. Adam Troyer, Ptl. Kyle Green, and Ptl. Ryan Riley signifying completion of *Recognizing Clandestine Drug Lab Operations* provided by the State of New York Fire Prevention and Control.
5. Ms. Linda Shutts, Program Director of the YWCA AVV sent Chief Catalano a letter thanking him for speaking at their *Soup and Bread Lunch*, recognizing National Crime Victims Rights Week.
6. Cayuga County Sheriff David Gould sent a letter of appreciation to Chief Catalano for the assistance provided by the department in searching for a dangerous suspect. Chief Catalano responded to his letter.
7. Lt. David Guerrero received an email from Lt. Joseph Weeks of the Cayuga County Sheriff's Department recognizing the efforts of Sgt. Cheyenne Cute and Sgt. Sean Byrnes for their assistance in the apprehension of a violent suspect.
8. Lt. David Guerrero, Lt. Richard Troyer, Sgt. Cheyenne Cute, Ptl. Robert Reyngoudt, and Ptl. Chadd Hines each received a Fire Training Certificate signifying completion of the *NWCG Intermediate ICS (I-300)* Course offered by the State of New York Fire Prevention and Control.
9. Chief Catalano received a thank you note and picture from 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students who interviewed him as part of their project entitled, "We Are Cortland."

**B. CORRESPONDENCE –**

1. Sgt. Cheyenne Cute wrote a letter to SUNY Cortland Police Chief Steven Dangler and Asst. Chief Mark DePaull recognizing the efforts of Officer Christopher Austen and his diligence in searching for a suspect on the SUNY Campus.
2. Chief Catalano received a letter from the Cortland Junior Senior High School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers, on behalf of their students, requesting an interview as part of their research project entitled, "We Are Cortland".
3. Mrs. Tanya Brayton sent a letter of resignation to Chief Catalano resigning from her position as a PEO, effective immediately, due to health issues.

**C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –**

1. Comm. Kline thanked the department for the assistance and traffic control help during their recent “Spring Run”.
2. Comm. Sponaugle questioned if any thefts or vehicle break-ins have been occurring lately, due to some items missing from his garage. He also asked about the availability of any Annual Reports.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 22, 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 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri  
Confidential Secretary