

# POLICE COMMISSION

June 28, 2014 Minutes

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

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## ***CALL TO ORDER***

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on June 25, 2014 in the CPD Lounge at City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland New York. Comm. 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 May meeting as written.

**B. BILLS** –The Commission reviewed the May bills and on the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, second by Comm. Kline, were approved and placed on file.

## **C. REPORTS – The following reports were highlighted:**

**1. Year-to-Date Budget Report –**

The Commission reviewed the MUNIS system report, highlighting balances, encumbrances, and % age of funding expended.

**2. Overtime –**

Accumulated hours worked for the month of May totaled 1453.75 hours, compared to 838.25 hours for the same period in 2013, reflecting a 615.5-hour increase for the month, and 399.5-hour increase year-to-date from 2013.

**3. Other Activities Report –**

The Commission reviewed the report while the Chief highlighted some of the statistical information. Overall, service requests increased for the month by 65 calls.

**4. SPCA Animal Control Report –**

Animal complaints answered totaled 35 (135 calls year-to-date) with 8 after-hour calls for the month.

**5. Officers Activities Breakdown –**

Statistics highlighted by Chief Catalano included 18 DWI arrests for the month, 7 of which were issued by Ptl. Ryan Riley. A total of 199 V&T tickets written in the month of May with 54 being issued by Ptl. Ryan Riley and another 24 by Ptl. Jeffrey Fitts.

**6. Parking Ticket Report –**

Parking tickets issued decreased from the same time last year.

**7. Arrest Breakdown –**

Arrest activity was reviewed by category and noted grand totals have decreased from last year.

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

## ***OLD BUSINESS***

- A. CORTACA COMMISSION REPORT** – The Chief updated the Commission regarding the findings, as noted in the Cortland Standard, of the Cortaca Commission. The Chief stated strategies have already been implemented and are being addressed at Common Council meetings. Assistance from the Cortland County Sheriff's Office and the NYS Police, as provided at the Spring Fling, will bring optimal results.
- B. MCGRUFF TOURNAMENT** - The Cortland Rotary Breakfast Golf Tournament, which historically has provided \$4000 annually as the sole source of funding for the McGruff Program, was held on June 19th. Although participation was not as robust as has been the case in years past, it was a successful tourney.

## ***NEW BUSINESS***

- A. JETS ARRIVAL** - The Commission discussed the status of the Jets return to Cortland for summer practice in mid- late July.
- B. NYS GRANT FOR MDT'S** - The Chief apprised the Commission of a grant awarded to Cortland County to update the mobile data terminals in the police vehicles concurrent with the switch to the new records management system being purchased. Conversation ensued regarding the types of computers and other details to be considered.
- C. CAMERAS ON MAIN STREET** - The Chief and Deputy Chief informed the Commission of the possibility of a new camera being installed on Main Street by the Cortland Standard.
- D. PURINA PROGRAM** - The Deputy Chief noted Purina provides free dog food for K9 programs.

## ***OTHER BUSINESS***

- A. COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION REPORT** –
  1. Ptl. Brendan Byrnes received a Certificate of Attendance for participating in the *Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Seminar* sponsored by the State of New York DCJS.
  2. Ptl. Jared Aiken received a Certificate of Completion from Colt for Law Enforcement and Military Armorer Training Certification for the *Colt M16/AR-15 Rifle*.
  3. Ptl. Jared Aiken received a Certificate of Training in recognition of successful completion of the NCBRT Academy of Counter-Terrorist Course *Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response Performance Level*.
  4. Sgt. Cheyenne Cute, Ptl. Chadd Hines, Ptl. William Bernheim, and Ptl. Brendan Byrnes each received a Certificate of Completion for attending and completing *National Improvised Explosives Familiarization (NIEF)* from NYS Preparedness Training Center.
  5. Ptl. Patrick O'Donnell received a letter of commendation from *Chief Catalano and the Recognition and Rewards Committee* for his actions on 1/15/14 involving the arrest of 3 people pawning stolen property.

6. Ptl. Andrew SanJule, Ptl. Jeffrey Fitts, Ptl. Patrick O'Donnell, and Ptl. Ryan Riley each received a letter of commendation from *Chief Catalano and the Recognition and Rewards Committee* for their actions on 1/17/14 involving the death of a suicidal subject.
7. Ptl. Anthony Natoli received a letter of commendation from *Chief Catalano and the Recognition and Rewards Committee* for his actions on 1/24/14 involving the arrest of a suspect involved in a burglary on Union Street.
8. Ptl. Joseph Peters and Ptl. Jeffrey Fitts each received a letter of commendation from *Chief Catalano and the Recognition and Rewards Committee* for their actions on 1/31/14 involving the arrest of the suspect involved in an MVA with a police vehicle.
9. Ptl. Ryan Riley received a letter of commendation from *Chief Catalano and the Recognition and Rewards Committee* for his actions on 3/14/14 during a child pornography investigation.
10. Sgt. Daniel Johnson, Sgt. Seth Rowland, Ptl. William Bernheim, Ptl. Bradley Becker, and Ptl. Daniel Mones each received a letter of commendation from *Chief Catalano and the Recognition and Rewards Committee* for their actions on 3/25/14 during a robbery and burglary investigation.
11. Sgt. Cheyenne Cute, Ptl. Andrew SanJule and Ptl. Daniel Mones each received a letter of commendation from *Chief Catalano and the Recognition and Rewards Committee* for their actions on 3/28/14 during the investigation of criminal mischief to a motor vehicle.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE –**

1. Ms. Rosanne Kwak wrote a letter to Chief Catalano, commending Ptl. Stephen White for his efforts and behavior during a recent incident in her neighborhood. Chief Catalano responded to her letter.
2. Chief Catalano received an email from the mayor's office, relaying a message from Ms. Diane Hnath, thanking Ptl. Chadd Hines for his efforts in assisting her 14 year old daughter over the weekend of June 11, 2014.

**C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –**

1. There were general comments and questions regarding Sgt. Cute's return to work from a recent injury.
2. June Dairy Parade is scheduled for 6/3/14; discussion ensued regarding the special detail involved in policing this activity; and the new baseball team's game on the same day.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **July 23, 2014** 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 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri  
Confidential Secretary