

# POLICE COMMISSION

October 22, 2014 Minutes

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

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

---

## ***CALL TO ORDER***

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on October 22, 2014 in the Mayor's Conference Room, 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. Prior, second by Comm. Sponaugle, the Commission approved the minutes of the September meeting as written.

**B. BILLS** –The Commission reviewed the September bills totaling \$39,485.32 and on the motion of Comm. Sponaugle second by Comm. Prior, 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 September totaled 927.25 hours, compared to 1061.25 hours for the same period in 2013, reflecting a 134.00-hour decrease for the month, and a 1045.00-hour increase year-to-date from 2013. The overtime accrued for short shifts and the downtown detail account for the majority of the increase.

### **4. Other Activities Report –**

The Commission reviewed the report while the Chief highlighted some of the statistical information. Overall, service requests decreased for the month by 95 calls.

### **5. SPCA Animal Control Report –**

Animal complaints answered totaled 29 (274 calls year-to-date) with 4 after-hour calls for the month.

### **6. Officers Activities Breakdown –**

Statistics highlighted by Chief Catalano included 9 DWI arrests for the month, 2 each of which were issued by Ptl. Brendan Byrnes, Ptl. Anthony Natoli, and Ptl. Peter Wright. A total of 198 V&T tickets were written in the month of September with 35 each being issued by Ptl. Brendan Byrnes and Ptl. Anthony Natoli, and also 21 by Ptl. Joseph Peters. Ptl. Stephen White issued 62 parking tickets; and 5 felony charges.

### **7. Arrest Breakdown –**

Arrest activity was reviewed by category.

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

***OLD BUSINESS***

**PERSONNEL** - The Chief noted Ptl. Brian Myers has successfully completed the Basic Academy held in Broome County, with graduation scheduled for 10/28/14. His probation will be officially completed in September 2015. Currently, he is working with a field training officer, which normally concludes after 3 months. The department is still lacking one officer since Ptl. Debra Barber's transfer to the Sheriff's Office, so the Chief plans to ask for the hiring freeze to be lifted in December, with a view to an academy being available in March 2015.

***NEW BUSINESS***

**CORTACA** - The Chief acquainted the Commission on the status of the provisions being planned for the Cortland-Ithaca (Cortaca) football game scheduled for November 15. Involved law enforcement agencies have met once with another meeting scheduled for November 6 to finalize the duty rosters for the weekend. Included agencies are the Cortland County Jail, the Cortland County Sheriff's Office, the NYS Police, and University Police. SUNY Cortland has been engaging the student body during the week to discourage unruly or illegal behaviors. Additionally, the NYS Liquor Authority will be in Cortland and social media sites are being monitored.

***OTHER BUSINESS***

**A. COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION REPORT –**

1. Cortland Elks Club, "Cruise In" Committee sent a letter of thanks to the Department for their assistance with their recent project on 9/21/14.
2. Academy Avenue Enterprises donated \$966.23 from funds raised during the recent Pumpkin fest weekend in support of the K9 Program. The Chief responded with a letter of appreciation and thanks.

**B. CORRESPONDENCE** - Mr. Thomas Michales, 8th Ward Alderman, sent a letter to City Court Judge Elizabeth Burns and Assistant City Court Judge Lawrence Knickerbocker regarding the prosecution and sentencing of individuals who had recently defaced a tree at 143 Main Street.

**C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –**

Comm. O'Mara noted he will be unavailable for the January and February 2015 meetings. The December 2014 meeting will be scheduled for December 17 as opposed to December 24.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **November 26, 2014** at 3:15 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room. With no further business to discuss, on the motion of Comm. Sponaule, and seconded by Comm. Prior, the meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri  
Confidential Secretary