

POLICE COMMISSION

May 27, 2015 Minutes

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

EXCUSED: Commissioner Eric Prior.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on May 27, 2015 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. Sponaugle second by Comm. O'Mara, the Commission approved the minutes of the April meeting as written.

B. BILLS –The Commission reviewed the April bills totaling \$26,310.56 and on the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, second by Comm. O'Mara, 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 budgetary reports.

2. Vehicle Maintenance -

The Deputy Chief apprised the Commission on the status of vehicles and the bicycle purchases.

3. Overtime –

Accumulated hours worked for the month of April totaled 1221.00 hours, compared to 658.50 hours for the same period in 2014, reflecting a 562.5-hour increase for the month from 2014 and a 586.50-hour increase year-to-date. It was noted the Spring Fling overtime occurred in April 2015 and May 2014.

4. 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 274 calls, year-to-date increase of 412 calls. The Chief also noted "Domestic Incidents" with 57 calls this month, 167 year-to-date; and "Mental Health Reports" 27 calls and 86 year-to-date.

5. SPCA Animal Control Report –

The new report noted complaints answered totaled 24 with 3 after-hour calls for the month.

6. Officers Activities Breakdown –

Statistics highlighted by Chief Catalano included 5 DWI arrests for the month, made by 5 different officers. A total of 155 V&T tickets were written in the month of April, 20 were issued by Ptl. Nathan Moran, 18 by Ptl. Brian Myers, and 17 by Ptl. Ryan Riley. Ptl. Brendan Byrnes issued 63 parking tickets.

7. Arrest Breakdown –

Arrest activity was reviewed by category.

8. Bike Report -

The bike patrol has been reinstated after its winter "hiatus". On the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, second by Comm. O'Mara and carried, the reports were accepted for filing.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **SUNY SPRING FLING** - Chief Catalano commented on the recent annual "Spring Fling" event held 4/24 and 4/25 this year, noting it was a quiet weekend. There was less additional assistance from other agencies; and no "beer-tasting" event at any of the local establishments.
- B. **SUNY GRADUATION** - Graduation did not present any of the usual traffic events as the ceremony was split into 4 separate graduating events.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES** - The Chief apprised the Commission of various grant opportunities being promoted by the federal government, for most of which we are not eligible. However, one Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant, very similar in construct to the COPS Grant originally utilized to fund our School Resource Officer (SRO), is applicable for our area and the Chief has decided to apply for this grant, with the assistance of Thoma Development.
- B. **MCGRUFF GOLF TOURNAMENT** - The annual Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club McGruff Golf Tournament is scheduled for 6/18/15. The Chief notified the Commission of this upcoming activity, noting it is the sole funding source for the McGruff program and encouraged their participation in the tournament.
- C. **LAWMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS BANQUET** - The Chief invited and advised the Commission of the upcoming Lawman of the Year Awards Banquet to be held on 6/1 at the Cortland Elks Club. Ptl. Adam Troyer and Ptl. Jared Aiken have been nominated for this award for their efforts to save an elderly gentleman whose home was on fire. The cost is \$20.00 each.
- D. **PEO CIVIL SERVICE EXAM RESULTS** - The Parking Enforcement Officers Civil Service Test results have been made available and Chief informed the Commission of said results. James Byrnes scored within the top 3 applicants and received his permanent status effective 5/11/15. Cindy Hurlbert will be appointed when the revised list becomes available.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. **COMMENDATION AND APPRECIATION REPORT** –
 - 1. Ptl. Kenneth Bush and Ptl. Jeffrey Fitts each received State of New York DCJS Municipal Police Training Council and are both certified as a *General Topics Instructor*.
 - 2. Ptl. Melissa Eccleston, Ptl. Jeffrey Fitts, Ptl. Anthony Natoli, and Ptl. Brian Myers each received a Certificate of Attendance from the State of New York DCJS for the *Trauma Resources and Unified Management Assistance (T.R.A.U.M.A.) Course*.

3. Chief Catalano received a letter of appreciation from Kristen Monroe, Commission of Cortland County Dept. of Social Services for the "great work done by" this Department with regards to a young foster care child who had been abducted. Chief Catalano responded.
4. Lt. David Guerrero and the Cortland PBA received a thank you card from the Barry School PTA for the assistance provided and payment for security during a recent fund raising event.
5. Chief Catalano noted the CNYACOP Awarded Dinner program.

B. CORRESPONDENCE -

1. Chief Catalano sent a letter to Major Donald Faughnan, Troop C NYSP Commander and Sheriff Lee Price, Cortland County Sheriff, for their assistance with the Spring Fling event and a recent homicide.
2. Chief Catalano sent a letter to Scott Roman, Cortland County Dept of Emergency Response and Communications, thanking him and the staff for their duties performed "*admirably*" during two recent incidents involving an Amber Alert and a murder investigation.
3. Chief Catalano received a letter from the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee regarding the "Click It or Ticket" campaign.
4. Chief Catalano sent a letter to Mr. Jack Gosse, Cortland County Lawman of the Year Committee Chairman, with this department's nomination for the Lawman of the Year Award.
5. Chief Catalano received a letter from NYS Police Troop C inviting him to a Memorial Service on 5/21/15 to honor deceased members of the NYS Police. He also provided a program from the event for the Commission to review.

C. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Comm. James Sponaugle mentioned his recent ride-along on a Friday evening.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **June 24, 2015** at 3:15 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room. With no further business to discuss, on the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri
Confidential Secretary