



CITY OF BETHEL

P.O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559

543-2297—Area Code 907

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 1994

- CALL TO ORDER Chairman Abrant called the January 5, 1994, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 12:08 p.m.
- ROLL CALL Present: Abrant, Tubbs, Gregory, Rapoza, Twitchell
- APPROVAL/MINUTES M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Gregory to approve the minutes of the December 22, 1993, meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.
- APPROVAL/AGENDA M/M by Tubbs, 2nd by Rapoza to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.
- PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS
- Mr. Twitchell expressed thanks to the police and fire departments for a job well-done in 1993.
 - Ms. Rapoza stated that she hopes the new police vehicles are more suited to the job. She apologized for her recent absence, and stated that she is pleased to resume her duties on the committee.
 - Mr. Gregory stated that he has witnessed a reduction of four-wheelers on the roadways. He requested that efforts be focused on snow machines driving without lights.
 - Mr. Tubbs commented on the change to a seven member committee, stating that he welcomes the new members, but was disappointed that no one informed that this change was occurring.
 - Chairman Abrant explained that he had told Mayor Chris that he personally did not have any problem with a seven-member committee, and that he would bring it up in the next committee meeting. Abrant relayed that Gary Vanasse had been appointed, and one position

was still vacant.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD -Police Officer Robert Nelson suggested that the blinking caution lights at the intersection of Ridgecrest and Ptarmigan be moved up onto Ptarmigan, so drivers would not be distracted by the lights at the hazardous curve near M.E. school. Nelson also expressed his appreciation of the new police vehicles, but described the lack of traction resulting from the summer tires. He stated that he is aware of budgetary constraints, but he wanted to make the committee aware of the situation in advance of any problems occurring.

OLD BUSINESS

Item A: School
Crossing Guards

-Chief Liu stated that M.E. teachers had taken the initiative to provide crossing guards. Liu has asked principals of the high school and Kilbuck for further suggestions, and will inform the committee of any further developments.

Item B: ASB
Sub-Committee

-Mr. Tubbs agreed to contact Colleen LaRue on the status of the ASB sub-committee, and report back to the committee.

Item C: FY95
Budget

-Chief Liu reported the police statistics from 1993, noting an increase in crime and violence. Liu advised of his intent to request expansion to 12 commissioned officers plus one grant-funded investigator position. He recognizes that the City may encounter a reduction in funding, of \$450,000, and that it may only be possible to maintain the status quo.

-General discussion produced suggestions of investing in the volunteer/reserve program to supplement manpower, further exploration of AVCP and ONC programs, and development of a VPSO training program in Bethel.

-Mr. Twitchell suggested that Senator Jacko and Rep. Hoffman be contacted in support of maximum possible funding.

motion

M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Tubbs to recommend to City Council to pass a resolution to the

State's Senators and House Representatives in Juneau, in support of the maximum municipal assistance and revenue sharing to support public safety needs in the City of Bethel, which is critically dependant on such funding. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item D: Police Department Rank Structure

-Chairman Abrant reiterated the concern over the loss of native officers, and finding incentives to retain them.
-Chief Liu stated that only City Council has the ability to change the matrix of available positions. He described many of the factors involved in retaining native officers. He pointed out that several of our former native officers are still advancing in their law enforcement careers, which includes opportunities with other agencies.
-Committee members generally agreed that incentives are the key, but no specific motion was made.

Item E: Snow Machine Crossing Signs

-Chairman Abrant reviewed that snow machines do not have the right of way. The purpose of the signs is only to caution drivers of snow machine traffic.
-Mr. Tubbs requested that the police department prepare an analysis of sites for the signs, legal issues, and cost.

NEW BUSINESS

(none)

Items Proposed For Next Agenda:

Old Business:
Item A: Snow Machine Crossing Signs
Item B: Retention Incentives

motion

M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Gregory to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WILL OCCUR ON FEBRUARY 2, 1994, 12:00 P.M., AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.



Connie Johnson
Police Department Admin. Asst.