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# City of Bethel, Alaska

## Public Safety & Transportation Commission

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January 19, 2016

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:04PM

### II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joan Dewey *Chair*  
Chuck Herman *Council Representative*  
Naim Shabani  
Eileen Henrikson

Other Present: Bruce Claypool (member of the public)

Absent: Deborah White  
Julene Webber

Ex-Officio Present: Andre Achee *Chief of Police* (via telephone conference)  
Bill Howell *Fire Chief*  
Christina Him *Recorder and Transportation Inspector Designee*

### III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

None

### IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

<b>MOVED:</b>	Herman	Motion to approve the agenda.
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Henrikson	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	All in favor.	

### V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

<b>MOVED:</b>	Herman	Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of December 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2015.
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Henrikson	

<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	All in favor.
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**VI. CHIEFS’ COMMENTS**

Chief Bill Howell – *See Report and Recommendation form in Commission Packet.*

Chief Andre Achee – *Our 2015 year-end stats are done. For 2015, we got close to 17,000 calls which are all broken down into different categories which includes: crimes against person(s), recorded offenses, sexual offenses, sexual abuse of minors, robberies, missing persons report, harassment, kidnapping, domestic violence calls, property crimes, thefts, intoxicated pedestrians, curfew violations, juvenile offenses, security checks, welfare checks, agency assists, EMS calls, fire calls, animal calls, suicide/deaths, etc. There were also 499 arrests for end of year.*

*For the staffing aspect in patrol, we are currently budgeted for 8 patrol officers, which include 2 patrol sergeants, 1 investigative sergeant and 1 investigator. Of that roughly for 2015, we had a total of 7 patrol officers working. Currently we are down to 4 patrol officers working, which is half my patrol staff. My Patrol sergeants and investigative sergeant are also covering the streets. In comparison to 2014, our average number of officers was 10, and there were 14,738 calls. In 2014 there were less calls, nut more officers. The average call per officer is roughly 46, and the average number of officers per day is 3. The average calls for officers per day is 15.*

*Earlier in the beginning of 2015, our dispatch center had a major issue and we were down to 2 dispatchers. Our dispatcher center runs 24 hours, 7 days a week. Having a dispatcher that is calm and collective and able to dispatch the appropriate resources is important. During that time, our Patrol sergeants and administrative staff, including myself and administrative assistant filled in to cover dispatch. Right now, we are lucky that we are at full staff, however “full staff” means that when someone goes on vacation or quits, it means overtime for other staff. We will be asking for an additional dispatcher.*

*At full staff, there are 4 dispatchers and 1 dispatcher supervisor. For 2013 and 2014, there was an average of 3 dispatchers. In the past, we have had dispatchers that will quit after a week or two or three months into training. We recently had a CSP that worked a few days and quit. It is different here and it is a different type of work, it takes a special person to work in Public Safety. In 2014 dispatchers handled about 40 calls/day; in 2015 it was about 46 calls/day.*

(For full stats, see stats report in Commission Packet and Recommendation Form).

**VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT**

*See Report in Commission Packet*

**VIII. COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS**

Council Member Herman – *Don’t have much to report – will get to items on agenda.*

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

## **A. Drug Screening Policy for Chauffeurs (Commission Member Shabani)**

*Discussed, Drug Screening Policy will remain as is per BMC 5.20.085 Drug and Alcohol Testing.*

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Bethel Friends of Canines 2015 Year End Numbers & Canine (and Feline) Services Update**

*Bethel Friends of Canines is a nonprofit organization that has been in existence since July of 2011. There have been 234 dogs that were homed, 8 cats and 1 ferret; that brings our numbers up to 1000 canines that have been abandoned, unclaimed, unwanted, running loose, homeless, overdue at the pound or coming in from the villages. Over 1000 dogs have been homed and about 50 cats. "Homed" means having people go through an application process, home screenings, making sure landlords take animals or they own the homes, the family doing trial home visits. We consider that progress in terms of getting unwanted animals off the streets.*

*Thank you to Former city manager, Lee Foley and with the city attorney Patty Burley's assistance in drafting a memorandum of agreement with Bethel Friends of Canines, which included conditions of getting all dogs rabies vaccinations, booster shots if they are puppies, getting them spayed and neutered, finding adoptive homes for them and making sure that they are not loose. Any unclaimed and overdue dogs in the pound, if they are adoptable, they go to BFK9, this has helped reduce the effect of officers who had to shoot perfectly healthy dogs in the past prior to July of 2011. I'm hoping it (BFK9) also helps keep officers wanting to do this hard work of law enforcement*

*We have also started to help families who are in domestic violence situations and are having to flee. If they have pets, we help get the pets boarded or up for adoption, if that is what the family decide that they want to get done. We help in getting those animals they care about out of the situations and either with them when they move on or adopted. We are involved in nearly all the villages in the YK delta area, responding when we get calls for help, including helping set up spay and neuter clinics.*

*There is a really neat story about a special education teacher out in one of the villages, who have a special needs student that loves dogs and wanted to start rescuing in the village. This teacher wrote this in, part of her treatment plan and has since sent in 3 very healthy, very beautiful puppies that have since been adopted. She has been taking care of a momma dog and some more dogs that are going to be coming in to be homed. This has given this girl a sense of purpose and pride in what she is doing and she is definitely helping the community.*

*This is related to public safety because there used to be a horrific loose dog situation here and there still is at times. A horrible situation two days before the K300, we tried to get police to respond and nobody was available to come. There was traffic backed up on Ptarmigan and into housing because the cab could not move and the dog that was still alive would not have been saved. The dogs were trapped underneath the cab. One was expired, however we did not know until CPR was attempted. It was very slippery that night and these dogs were loose.*

*It was very upsetting and disturbing and I bring this up here because it could have turned out to be very different. People were pretty calm and respectful but it was a cab and there are a lot of stereotypes and generalizations about cabs. The woman driver was visibly shaken up and I don't think she could have done anything to avoid hitting the dogs. We could not get any police help and we tried three times that we know of to get help. The public did a good job with not getting emotional, but it could have been very heated and more serious. We got two people passing by to help lift up the back of the cab and another person cut the dog loose with a knife.*

*It was amazing that people stayed focus on the issue at hand and no one made it worse, because it could have definitely been worse.*

*We really try to help low income families with dogs, and we try to help with training, convincing people not to buy Christmas puppies for their toddlers, but to buy a little puppy toy first, because if you end up with an animal that has no training and is hungry running loose, then you have a public safety problem.*

*I really hope that we continue to get community support and it seems to be working. We are at a point that we really need steady help daily. We first try local adoptions, but we still have an overpopulation problem. We have a 5 part mission in our articles of incorporation that include all of these things related to the health, safety and well being of a community. These are important aspects of living in a great community that takes care of its people and animals.*

*We need to get more vet support, however we have an interesting project starting with UAF, and we are looking at a possible vet health aid program.*

**B. Reconsideration of Ordinance 15-21: Cab Video Surveillance and GPS System Requirements (Council Recommendation)**

<b>MOVED:</b>	Herman	Motion to disapprove Ordinance #15-21.
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Henrikson	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	All in favor.	

**XI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Joan Dewey - *I just want to thank the Chiefs for bringing all of the details, that was really great.*

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MOVED:</b>	Herman	Motion to adjourn.
<b>SECONDED:</b>	Henrikson	
<b>VOTE ON MAIN MOTION</b>	All in favor.	

*Meeting adjourned at 10:26pm*

APPROVED THIS 2ND DAY OF February, 2016.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair