



CITY OF BETHEL

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 1993

CALL TO ORDER Acting Chairman Vanasse called the June 2, 1993, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 12:13 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Gary Vanasse, Peter Twitchell, Susan Rapoza

Absent: Sherron Smith, John Abrant

APPROVAL/MINUTES M/M by Twitchell, 2nd by Rapoza to approve the minutes of the May 5, 1993, meeting as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL/AGENDA M/M by Rapoza, 2nd by Twitchell to amend the agenda as follows: Delete Item A, Delete Item B. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

- Mr. Twitchell commented that it is good to see more native Officers in the community.
- Mr. Vanasse asked Chief Liu to describe how things were going in the police department.
- Chief Liu described the impacts of the recent shooting incident, and the Critical Incident Stress Team that was brought in from Anchorage. He outlined current staff vacancies, and stated that he is having difficulty in finding qualified applicants for the Lieutenant position. He summarized that department morale is up and teamwork has increased.
- Mrs. Rapoza and Mr. Vanasse both commended the department for their successes in spite of the many recent stress factors, including vacant positions and the shooting incident.
- Chief Liu described and answered questions about the upcoming Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol training and ASP Tactical Baton training.

-Mr. Vanasse stated that he would like to see Police and Fire Chief Reports added to the committee meetings between Approval of the Minutes and Committee Member Comments.

-Chief Liu announced that his decision not to allow the sale of fireworks this year, due to the amount of negative public opinion on the subject. He also stated that in the future, the decision should not be made by the Police Chief. He recommended that the committee review the ordinance. Liu asserted that the decision should be made by City Council, or some other responsible group of people, rather than by one person. He stated that his position is to enforce laws, not make them.

-General discussion followed that the Police Chief's decision might not be objective, might have a negative impact on the community's perception of the police department, and that no single person should make the decision.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD (none)

NEW BUSINESS

Item C:
Reserve Police
Force

-Mrs. Rapoza stated that she wanted to review what the committee had discussed in prior meetings.

-Mr. Vanasse reviewed that the committee had decided a reserve force should be implemented in the future, but must be postponed for a short time, until the police department is in a position to make recommendations. The issue will wait until the police department can stabilize its staffing issues, including training new officers, so it can give full consideration to the implementation of the program.

-Chief Liu described his vision for the reserve force: that the reserve officers would be individuals who meet Police Standards, and that the reserves would become an effective applicant pool for filling future Police Officer vacancies. He

explained that implementation involves more than re-instating an old program. It will require much planning and analysis to ensure success.

Item D:
FY 94 Budget

-Mr. Vanasse stated that the FY 94 budget has been introduced, and reviewed the budget that was proposed for the police department.

-A discussion evolved regarding the changes in the V & E budget. Mr. Vanasse described how that budget had been divided and appropriated to the various departments in an attempt to monitor expenses for each department. He stated that these appropriations would be reviewed heavily at the six-month budget revision.

-Chief Liu stated that he is not completely satisfied with the change. He explained that setting the budget for each department without hard data, and intending to review after six months, is reactive rather than proactive.

-Mrs. Rapoza asked about other impacts of the introduced budget.


-Chief Liu reviewed the proposed pay increases for Police Officers. He thanked the committee members for their support of the budget. He described ways in which the department is attempting to maximize the efficiency of the Officers' time, including computerized reports on the new ACRIS system.

-Mr. Vanasse suggested that the fire department budget not be discussed in the absence of George Young.

motion

M/M by Twitchell to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Rapoza. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN ABRANT, THE DATE AND TIME FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WAS NOT SET.



Connie Johnson
Police Department Admin. Asst.