

**Regular Public Safety & Transportation Commission Meeting
June 26, 2000**

Chairperson Mary Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members present included James Berlin, Tae Hwa Chung, Mary Gregory, John Hastie, and Guy Mercurief. Absent were Carl Berger, Jim Blake and Mike O'Brien. Ex-Officio members present included Lt. Peter Crum, Andrew Steele, and Cyndee Simpson-Sugar.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Terryl Miller addressed the Commission regarding revocation of his taxi permit. It was explained that a letter scheduling a hearing had been sent to Mr. Miller. The Commission asked him to wait for his hearing. The Commission would then hear the case and make a decision.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Mr. Dominic Malaj also addressed the Commission regarding revocation of his permit. The Commission asked Mr. Malaj if he was requesting a hearing, no answer was received. Discussion followed regarding Mr. Malaj's permit. His permit was revoked because he was fired from Alaska Cab. If he becomes employed with another company his permit would be returned. Mr. Malaj explained that he wanted to become independent. Mr. Hastie explained that this governing body does not have power to grant his request; the City Council, City Attorney, and Transportation Inspector would need to discuss and review ordinances.

Mr. Albert Malaj addressed the Commission regarding revocation of his chauffeur's permit due to a felony charge. He explained that one charge was dismissed and the other lowered to a misdemeanor. He asked the commission to reinstate his permit. The Transportation Inspector will research this issue.

Motion to approve the minutes of 5/11/00 was made by John Hastie and seconded by Guy Mercurief. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion followed on agenda items to carry over from Public Safety or Transportation Commissions. Motion to approve agenda with additions of Vehicle Safety, Executive Session, and Oath of Commission to "New Business," was made by James Berlin and seconded by Guy Mercurief. The motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Fire and Police Chief reports were included in mailed packets. Lt. Crum who attended the meeting in Chief Petitt's absence reported that the Bethel Police Department now has 14 officers and is expecting a fifteenth. A new dispatcher will begin July 10th. BPD has been preparing for the 4th of July and plans to put on extra people to keep the intoxicated person problem down to a minimum. Last year it went very well; we only had to PC half a dozen. The parade route will be the same and will commence at 11:00 a.m. at Swanson's.

We are expecting two new police vehicles this summer. We have already been cutting into next year's maintenance budget

The Transportation Inspector was absent from the meeting. Mr. Steele presented a report outlining DMV income and number of taxi cab companies and number of cabs for each.

Discussion followed regarding Mr. Miller's comments. Mary Gregory mentioned that she had been approached by Mr. Miller regarding revocation of his permit. She asked him to please come before the whole body. Mr. Mercurief mentioned that he had also been approached by Mr. Miller. Mary Gregory stated that she likes to be careful about talking with individuals outside of Commission meetings because she gets misquoted.

The Commission asks that the Transportation Inspector communicate with Dominic Malaj regarding his taxi permit and whether he would like a hearing.

It was discussed that the upcoming hearings will be held at the City offices and that the hearing procedures will be discussed with the City's attorney during the executive session.

Mr. Hastie asked about the procedure for adding agenda items for upcoming meetings. Mrs. Gregory said that agenda items could be brought up during the previous meeting or by calling the recording secretary before agenda posting. Street signs and culvert drainage will be added to the next regular meeting agenda.

Lt. Crum suggested that the target figure for taxi permit numbers and whether or not we have a moratorium on any new cab

CHIEF'S REPORTS

TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR'S REPORT

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Companies be discussed. Guy Mercurief would like to see the ability for exceptions to be made. Discussion followed on supply and demand in the Bethel taxicab industry.

OLD BUSINESS

The taxicab permit increase was returned to the Commission by the City Council. The Commission revisited the fee and suggests that it be set at \$125.00. The Commission needs to follow up to be sure the increase is sent back before the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Guy Mercurief would like to revisit the snow machine issue and would like to see a more solid record kept of snow machine incidents within the city for future reference. It was confirmed that all of the information that comes to the Commission including agendas and minutes are kept.

Mr. Hastie spoke about concern of children on big machines not complying with law. If we're going to enforce it at all we need to provide funding to the police department for positions and snow machines. Mr. Hastie suggested that we look at increasing sales tax to pay for some of these things; there has not been an increase in sales tax in 21 years.

Mr. Mercurief suggested gathering information from other communities about how they address snow machine safety. Lt. Crum said that the Public Safety Commission has done this in the past. They've looked into such things as dedicated trails, routes for snow machines, enforcing speed laws, and education.

Mary Gregory is concerned about walkers and bikers and how we can educate. She suggested that we do a PSA with a message about walking into the traffic and biking with it. Mary will work with Cyndee to compose a message in English and Yup'ik. Mr. Hastie suggested we might want to look into doing something jointly with YKHC Injury Prevention program. They may have funds for newspaper ads. Lt. Crum said that the Tundra Drums would run a public service announcement free.

An Executive session was set for Wednesday, July 5th at 7:00 p.m. Oath of Office for the Commission will be given on July 5th.

Next regular meeting will be Monday, August 7, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN REPORT - 6/26/00

DMV

The DMV is now operating under its new hours of Monday & Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings and all day Thursday & Friday.

The DMV clerk is using her newly available time to be cross-trained as a dispatcher at the police station.



DMV monies attained in the month of May were \$ 14,367. This raises the total to \$50,248 since opening day on 2/22/00. With the number of road tests weekly being raised to twelve, and 100% of road test earnings going to the City, there will be more revenue available.

TAXICABS

At this time there are 74 taxicabs on the roads of Bethel.

This figure is made up as follows:

Alaska/Checker Cab	15
Camai Cab	2
City/Quyana Cab	18
Kusko Cab	18
Taxi Cab	11
Yellow Cab	10

Of the above, there are 6 cabs that have been denied permits for 2000 and who have received notification of revocation from the Transportation Inspector. Each of these has been instructed to attend an appeals hearing of their case. The individuals and dates are as follows:

Jenny Jun/In Taek Son	July 10, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.
Terryl Miller	July 13, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.
Sunny Kim/Young Kook Cho & Sok Koo Lee	July 17, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.



need to arrange room

In addition there will be an appeals hearing on Monday, June 26, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. to hear Dominic Malaj.

A BRIEF HISTORY:

Mr. Malaj has had a somewhat checkered career driving for at least three other cab companies for short periods before ending up at the Alaska/Checker Cab Co. According to a call received at the police dispatch in the late afternoon of May 18 from the Alaska/Checker Cab dispatcher, Mr. Malaj had been fired earlier that day and was threatening to shoot the dispatcher because he was not receiving a fair number of calls. An officer was dispatched to look for Alaska 97 – the cab that Mr. Malaj was driving. When Mr. Malaj was located his chauffeurs permit was taken from him and the cab lights were removed. The permit was given to the Chief of Police who gave it to me the next day.

On June 13, 2000, Mr. Malaj presented himself before the City council to plead his case. They instructed him that he was to attend an appeals hearing before this board and gave the 26 of June as the date.

The Transportation Inspector has told me that Mr. Malaj may have his chauffeurs permit returned to him and may complete an application to open a cab line. However, as the City council has mandated a freeze on permits, this point is moot.

The Transportation Inspector cannot be present at this meeting due to illness, but he has suggested that an Executive Session be called for next week, in order that he, the City attorney and members of the Commission may discuss the Bethel taxi ordinances and any possible pending litigation.