

**Regular Meeting  
Public Safety & Transportation Commission  
Monday, July 2, 2001**

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commission members present were James Blake, Tae Hwa Chung, Guy Mercurief, John Dickens, and Don Poe. Ex-Officio members present were Robert K. Petitt, Chief of Police, Taxi Technician Andrew Steele, and Janette Persinger.

**ROLL CALL**

There were no members of the public to be heard.

**PEOPLE TO BE  
HEARD**

Motion was made to approve the agenda by Mr. Dickens and seconded by Mr. Mercurief. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the amended minutes of 06/11/01 by Mr. Dickens and seconded by Mr. Poe. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES OF 06/11/01**

Robert K. Petitt, Chief of Police indicated that he was glad to be back in Bethel after his training with the FBI Academy. He proposed that the Public Safety and Transportation Commission address several issues. The first issue was the subject of the upcoming public hearing on the proposed plan by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation at the request of the City Council and other community members for a reduction of the speed zone in the front of the hospital. The DOT indicated that they would like to see the speed zone reduced to 20 miles per hour between the Fish and Wildlife building and YKCC. There would be notices and signage about 500 feet before the speed zone would begin. The Police Department is proposing that the speed zone be 30 miles per hour. However, in retrospect Chief Robert K. Petitt believes that the proposed speed limits could create a false sense of security for those who would be crossing the street. At this time the DOT has not agreed upon a marked crosswalk because it would create an even further false sense of security. There has not any been discussion of a traffic light. The second issue was that of the traffic pattern at the new post office. Chief Robert K. Petitt met with the officials at the new post office and it appears that the issues have been resolved. Another issue brought forward by Chief Robert K. Petitt was that it appears that members of the community are not aware

**CHIEFS' COMMENTS**

that it is illegal to pass vehicles on the right side of the road in and around the City of Bethel. The shoulder of the road is essentially a pedestrian walkway and bike lane. It has been observed by members of the Commission that off road vehicles are in constant violation and are riding on the shoulder of the road. A discussion ensued involving the issues of registering off road vehicles and the enforcement of snowmachines driving on roadways and public safety concerns. It was recommended that additional signage be put in place to remind members of the community of the laws of the off road vehicles.

Chief Robert K. Pettitt deferred to Taxi Technician Andrew Steele for the Transportation Inspectors Report. Mr. Steele presented the Transportation Report. The new taxicab marking part of the ordinance is in effect however; none of the taxicab companies have been in to have their vehicles inspected. All of the owners have been notified by mail of the requirement. Dark cabs are required to have white numbering; light colored cabs will have black numbers. Any cabs that are in between are required to come into the Police Department for adjudication. The owners themselves may supply the numbers or they may purchase them from the Police Department for \$5.00 a decal. All decals must be placed in the exact same location.

Mr. Steele went on to explain that he appeared before the City Council to explain the emergency fare schedule and the compliance rate of the taxicab companies with regards to the questionnaire sent out by Mr. Steele. At that time, only one company complied. As of the Public Safety and Transportation Meeting, only four companies had complied. After further discussion by the Commission, a motion was made by Mr. Poe and seconded Mr. Dickens to use the subpoena powers of the Commission and City Attorney to subpoena the basic information requested by the questionnaire. A roll call vote was taken. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Discussion ensued regarding the written and road testing proposed by Mr. Steele. A motion was made to accept Mr. Steele's testing methods by Mr. Dickens, seconded by Mr. Mercurief. The motion passed unanimously.

## **TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS REPORT**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The issue of trip sheets was introduced to gain Chief Petitt's opinion on the matter. A discussion ensued regarding the validity of trip versus tapes. Chief informed the Commission of a company who has the ability to record information and the software will do the translation automatically. The use of the software could be cost prohibitive. Tapes would be counter productive because of the time involved to translate and review information on the tape. It was suggested by Chief Petitt that the discussion of trip sheets versus tapes be postponed until the next meeting to give members of the Commission more time to gather any relevant information.

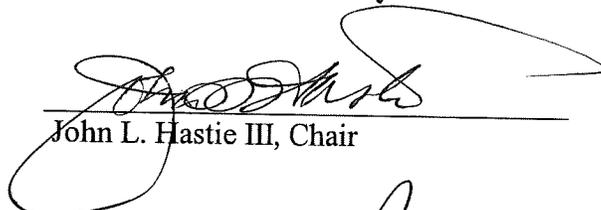
Mr. Dickens introduced a safety issued concerning the low hanging and exposed cables that are found all around the City of Bethel. The cables in question are the responsibility of GCI, however; although this has been brought to GCI's attention, there has not been any corrective action taken. A motion was made by Mr. Dickens to present these concerns to the City Council to ask the City Council to involve the City Attorney to resolve this issue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Poe. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Dickens motioned that the Commission accept the Promulgation of Regulations codes that were presented by Mr. Steele. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mercurief. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Mr. Dickens to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Poe. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

**ADJOURNMENT**

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 2nd DAY OF July, 2001

  
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John L. Hastie III, Chair

  
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Janette M. Persinger, Recorder