

**Regular Meeting  
Public Safety & Transportation Commission  
August 7, 2000**

Chairperson Mary Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Members present included James Berlin, James Blake, Mary Gregory, John Hastie, Guy Mercurief. Members absent included Carl Berger, Mike O'Brien and Tai Hwa Chung. Ex-Officio Members present included Chief Robert Petitt, Andrew Steele, and Cyndee Simpson-Sugar was the recorder.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Terryl Miller requested to be put on the agenda regarding Taxi Permit #73. His request was denied because there was already a hearing on this matter. He requested that the decision from his hearing be put on City letterhead. The Commission said they would be honoring his request. Mr. Hastie indicated that the Commission's decision was to sustain his permit. The Commission considered revocation, but it wasn't revoked. Mr. Miller inquired as to why his permit had not been issued. Chief Petitt indicated that the City does not recognize the format in which the letter was written. The decision does not address the issues in a legal manner. Also, the City has 30 days from when written notice is received to file an appeal.

**PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

Commission members asked that an executive session be set to formalize the Commission's decision on Taxi Permit #73.

Mr. Dominic Malaj asked to be put on the agenda to talk about his proposal for a new cab company, which would utilize a cell phone as dispatch. Mr. Blake explained that we are governed by city ordinances and the ordinance as written does not allow for any new dispatch services and requires that every cab be connected to a dispatch service. Mr. Malaj expressed that he does not think he needs a dispatch permit because he is only one driver. He will not be dispatching other drivers and says he can dispatch with one cell phone. Mr. Blake reiterated that the Commission couldn't grant a dispatch permit because the ordinance says no.

Motion was made by Mr. Hastie and seconded by Mr. Blake for Commission to forfeit Mr. Malaj's appeal to the City Council at the August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Discussion followed on motion. Mr. Hastie called for the question. A roll call vote was taken: James Berlin (yes); James Blake (no); Mary Gregory (yes); John Hastie (yes); Guy Mercurief (yes). The motion carried.

Hugh Short and Ben Barnes, of the taxi community, offered comments in support of current ordinances. They also shared some history regarding the taxi industry in Bethel. Discussion followed regarding making exceptions and regulation versus deregulation.

Motion was made by Mr. Hastie and seconded by Mr. Mercurief to accept the minutes of 6/26/00 as written. There was a call for the question and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Mr. Blake and seconded by Mr. Mercurief to approve the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Blake inquired about the Lieutenant position. Chief Petitt indicated that the Police Department would be holding off for the next few months in filling the Lieutenant position. Regarding BPD calls, Mrs. Gregory made note that end of June was busier than 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Mr. Hastie commented on the Department's effective community policing efforts and the decline in numbers reflect the success of the program. Mr. Berlin added that in the past couple of years the Bethel Search and Rescue, VPO's and VPSO's have really helped with river patrols in the villages making sure people are wearing life jackets and not drinking while driving. Mr. Mercurief praised the PD for use of verbal and fair warnings. Mr. Blake thanked the BPD in general on behalf of his daughter who works in law enforcement in the lower 48. The officers showed her every courtesy in showing her the operation. She rode along with one of the officers and was most impressed with the Department.

#### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Petitt said that he appreciates the Commission's support working with the Transportation Ordinance and dealing with

sensitive issues. He stated that it is not the Police Department's position to give anybody any grief, but it is their position to enforce the ordinance as it is written. He encouraged each member of the Commission to review the ordinance and to not make laws that are not in the ordinance. It is a very difficult ordinance to understand. Also, there is no guarantee that the new one will be any easier to understand because it will need to encompass issues that are not addressed in the current ordinance.

Mr. Blake indicated that it would be helpful for the Commission to be involved in reworking the ordinance. He also restated that the Commission has no choice, they have to go by what the ordinance says.

Andrew presented the Transportation Inspector's Report. DMV revenue was discussed. It was explained that the revenue the City receives is used to run the DMV. The expenses probably exceed what the net income has been so far, but is pretty much on target. The DMV clerk has accepted a position with the State Troopers. She will continue to work modified hours at the DMV while the search for a new clerk is conducted.

#### **TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

Motion to accept the Transportation Inspector's Report as written was made by Mr. Berlin and seconded by Mr. Mercurief. Motion carried

Mr. Hastie respectfully asked that all correspondence addressed to the Commission please be forwarded to members as soon as possible so that members have a chance to review before responding. Chief Petitt expressed that some of the items received were addressed to the Transportation Inspector and it was inappropriate to forward them to the Commission. The issues needed to be dealt with at his level. Discussion followed on protocol for handling sensitive issues and suggestion of Commission training.

#### **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

No agenda items under "Old Business".

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Hastie has been bringing up the issue of street signs for six years and the signs never seem to be put up. Mr. Blake also expressed concern regarding lack of marked streets. Discussion followed on replacement. Mr. Hastie will write a letter to the Public Works Commission with courtesy copies

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

sent to Council asking them to address the situation and give us information we may not have.

Culvert drainage is a problem during break-up. Frozen culverts don't allow water to flow through and the back up creates lakes in yards. Mr. Blake said that some culverts aren't large enough. Mr. Hastie will include the culvert issue in the letter to the Public Works Commission regarding street signs. Mr. Mercurief expressed a safety concern for children playing on the thin ice, which covers the lakes created from lack of drainage.

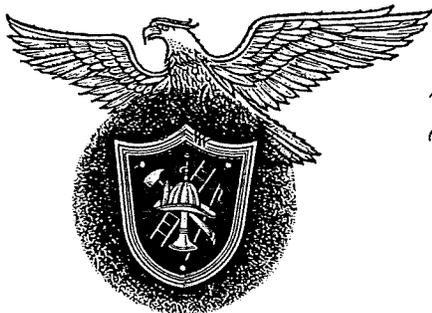
Discussion followed regarding a special meeting to go into executive session. Members will need to be polled for availability and to allow for the three day posting rule.

The next regular meeting will be August 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be the September meeting since the first Monday falls on Labor Day.

**NEXT MEETING**

Motion was made by Mr. Blake to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**



## Bethel Fire Department

George S. Young, Fire Chief  
P.O. Box 388, Bethel, Alaska 99559  
Phone: (907) 543-2131  
Fax: (907) 543-2702

To: Bob Herron, City Manager  
From: George Young, Fire Chief  
Date: August 1, 2000  
Subject: Management Report

### MANAGEMENT

Staff are completing repairs on the water tower hydraulic system of the ladder truck in preparation for UL testing this fall. Staff are preparing all vehicles for fall/winter. The water tanker vehicle will be the next fire truck to have the On Spot automatic chains installed. The system is similar to the winter chain systems on the school buses in town and allow the operator to lower chains for slippery road conditions and raise them out of the way for clear pavement or for backing into the fire station. We have had good success with the chains on the new ambulance and on Engine 3.

Staff have cleared brush next to the fire station in preparation for site improvements for the training tower move. A City site plan permit will be obtained after a submission to the State Fire Marshals Office has been approved.

Fire Instructor Howell is putting on a volunteer firefighter recruit class in the fall followed by a State Firefighter I class in the early winter.

EMT instructors Fred Watson and Ray Russell are planning a volunteer EMT I class to be taught in January/February of 2001.

### TRAINING

A fire training meeting was held on July 27 in the evening at the fire station. A review of recent fire calls was conducted followed by hose and water flow training on the roof of the fire station.

# PRESS RELEASE

City of Bethel Fire Department  
P.O. Box 388, 320 Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway, Bethel, Alaska 99559  
Contact: George S. Young, Fire Chief  
Phone: (907) 543-2131  
FAX: (907) 543-2702

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: 07-31-00**

### **FIRE, MEDIC AND RESCUE CALLS**

On 07-24-00 at 4:00 p.m. medics responded to the hospital and transported one patient with heart problems accompanied by a Lifeguard team to the airport.

On 07-24-00 at 11:29 p.m. firefighters responded to the State Highway for the report of a dumpster fire. Upon arrival the fire was quickly extinguished using approximately 100 gallons of water. The cause is undetermined.

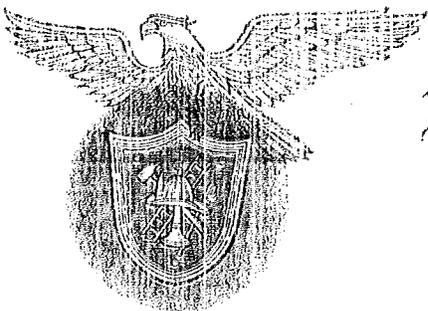
On 07-24-00 at 8:36 a.m. medics responded to the Sixth Ave. for the report of a woman with cold hands. Upon arrival medics found a 65-year-old female who was intoxicated. The woman's vitals were taken she was informed of her condition. Patient refused transport to YKDRH, and medics returned to quarters.

On 7-25-00 at 10:35 a.m. medics responded to Ptarmigan St. for a report of an elderly person feeling dizzy. Upon arrival medics found an 86-year-old male with low blood pressure. The patient was given IV therapy and transported to YDKRH without incident.

On 07-26-00 at 11:05 p.m. medics responded to the area of Atsak st. for the report of a woman suffering from alcohol withdrawals. Upon arrival medics meet patient at the door of her residence. The woman was escorted to the ambulance where her vitals were taken, and an I.V. was placed. The woman was transported to YKDRH without incident.

On 7-27-00 at 6:24 p.m. firefighters responded to the airport for a report of a car fire. Upon arrival firefighters found a car fire that had just been put out with bystanders. The cause of the fire was a disconnected fuel line.

On 7-28-00 at 3:36 a.m. medics responded to State Highway for a report of a woman bleeding. Upon arrival medics found a pregnant 19 year old female that had just broken her water. The patient was assessed and transported to the hospital for delivery.



## Bethel Fire Department

George S. Young, Fire Chief  
P.O. Box 388, Bethel, Alaska 99559  
Phone: (907) 543-2131  
Fax: (907) 543-2702

To: Bob Herron, City Manager  
From: George Young, Fire Chief  
Date: August 21, 2000  
Subject: Management Report

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G S Young", is written over the "From:" line of the memo.

### MANAGEMENT

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) performed annual testing on our aerial apparatus Truck -- 1. The truck is in need of a few minor welds to correct cracking on high stress areas of the ladder. We are also in the process of replacing hydraulic seals on the tower.

Department staff are completing our second series of hydrant testing for Bethel this year. Ed Hammons is coordinating with Tim Oosterman of Public Works with the testing.

Tundra center clients are assisting in the clearing of the brush next to the station where the training tower site will be.

Staff are in the process of performing annual pump tests on our fire engines. The data is an important part of our insurance rating program and contributes to savings to the public.

### TRAINING

A fire training meeting was held on August 10 in the evening at the fire station. A review of recent fire calls was conducted followed by training in knots, ropes and hoisting of equipment.

The next fire training meeting will be he'd August 24 at 7:30 at the fire station.

# PRESS RELEASE

City of Bethel Fire Department  
P.O. Box 388, 320 Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway, Bethel, Alaska 99559  
Contact: George S. Young, Fire Chief  
Phone: (907) 543-2131  
FAX: (907) 543-2702

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 21, 2000

### FIRE, MEDIC AND RESCUE CALLS

On 8-15-00 at 2:30 p.m. medics responded to Setter Street for a man having convulsions. Upon arrival, medics found a 45-year-old male who reportedly had a seizure. Medics assessed vitals, obtained a history and returned to station.

On 8-16-00 at 11:16 a.m. medics responded to the hospital hostel for a report of an elderly female having difficulty breathing. Upon arrival medics found a 93-year-old female, with difficulty breathing. The patient was given high flow oxygen, assessed and taken to the hospital.

On 8-16-00 at 5:39 p.m. medics responded to the airport for a report of a female having difficulty breathing. Upon arrival medics found a 58 year old female complaining of a hard time breathing. The patient was assessed, given high flow oxygen, IV therapy and transported to the hospital without incident.

On 8-17-00 at 8:30 p.m. medics responded to the area of Quivik Subdivision for a report of a person not responding. Upon arrival medics found an intoxicated female who had made the call and no other people in the house. Medics returned to station.

On 8-18-00 at 1:31 a.m. medics responded to the area of City Subdivision for a report of an assault victim. Upon arrival medics found a 29-year-old male who had been hit in the head in a fight. Medics found only a small scalp wound and the patient refused to be treated or taken to the hospital. Medics returned to station.

On 08-18-00 at 11:06 p.m. medics responded to Ptarmigan St. for a report of an overdose. Upon arrival medics drew blood administered I.V. fluids, oxygen and then transported the woman to the Hospital.

On 08-18-00 at 11:45 p.m. medics responded to Ridgecrest St. for a report of a man falling off a bicycle. Upon arrival medics found a man with a laceration to the head. Medics immobilized the man and then transported him to the hospital.



CITY OF BETHEL  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

DATE: July 31, 2000

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FILE NO.

FROM: ROBERT K. PETITT  
CHIEF OF POLICE

TO: ROBERT E. HERRON  
CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: MANAGEMENT REPORT

Overtime Report PPE July 10, 2000 through July 23, 2000.

Court	21.5
Investigation	8
Shift Cover	66
Other	41.25
Training	1.5
Supervisor on Call	4
Call Outs	2
Late Arrest	3.5
Late Call	3
DARE	0
SART	11
WAANT	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>161.75</b>

**STAFFING**

Lt. Crum's last day will be August 3, 2000 and Inv. Jerry Evan's last day will most likely be August 11th. This leaves the department with two investigator positions, One sergeant position and one lieutenant position to fill. Recruitment continues to be difficult, interviews for sergeant and investigator will be held the week of July 31 and interviews for police officer will be held August 21.

**CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM**

Crime Stoppers will meet on Wednesday, August 2, 2000 at 6:00 P.M. The meeting will be held at the city offices conference room.

**DISCIPLINE**

No disciplinary action occurred during the past two weeks.

7/31/00

# Calls for Service

Offense Totals by Month  
Grouped by Offense - Detail  
Monthly CFS

Offense	7/00	Total
Aggravated Assault	1	1
All Other Larceny	7	7
All Other Offenses	215	215
Bad Checks	2	2
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	3	3
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	1
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy Violations	20	20
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	8	8
Disorderly Conduct	46	46
Driving Under the Influence	21	21
Drug/narcotic Violations	2	2
Family Offenses (Nonviolent)	1	1
Forcible Fondling	2	2
Liquor Law Violations	1	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	2
Other	1,403	1,403
Simple Assault	69	69
Stolen Property Offenses	1	1
Trespass of Real Property	14	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>1,819</b>



CITY OF BETHEL  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

DATE: August 18, 2000

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FILE NO.

FROM: ROBERT K. PETITT, CHIEF  
BETHEL POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: ROBERT E. HERRON, CITY MANAGER  
CITY OF BETHEL

SUBJECT: MANAGEMENT REPORT

Overtime Report PPE July 24, 2000 through August 6, 2000.

Court	56.5
Investigation	2
Shift Cover	58
Other	18
Training	48
Supervisor on Call	0
Call Outs	2
Late Arrest	3
Late Call	6
DARE	0
SART	16.5
WAANT	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>210</b>

**STAFFING**

The department currently has openings for police lieutenant, police sergeant, police investigator, and three police officer positions. Interviews for the police officer positions will be conducted on August 21, 2000, in Anchorage at the AML/JIA offices. Interviews for the police sergeant and investigator will be conducted near the end of the month. We also have openings for two Public Safety Dispatchers and should be filling one of the positions next week. There is the possibility that an additional position will be vacated in the middle of September. We have also hired a new DMV clerk to fill the vacancy that was created after the former clerk was hired by the state troopers as their evidence custodian.

**CRIME STOPPERS PROGRAM**

Crime Stoppers meet on Wednesday, August 16, 2000, at 6:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the city offices conference room. The Crime Stoppers have filed for incorporation as a tax exempt

**DISCIPLINE**

One officer was terminated for gross violation of department policy. One officer received a written reprimand for violation of department policy. One public safety dispatcher received a written reprimand for violation of department policy.

**Bethel Police Department**

**Weekly Statistics**

**Aug 1 - Aug 7**

	8/1/00	8/2/00	8/3/00	8/4/00	8/5/00	8/6/00	8/7/00	Total
Arrest: Misd	3	2		1	4			10
Arrest: Felony								0
Warrant	1							1
Weapon								0
RAW			1				1	2
Missing: Juv		1						1
Missing: Adult								0
Referral: Misd	1	3		4	3		1	12
Referral: Felony	1			1				2
Code cit	7							7
PC: Bethel				1	1		2	4
PC: Juv	1		1					2
PC: Villiage	1	2	2	2	4			11
PC: Villiage Juv								0
Citation: Traffic	1	4		2	2			9
Animal								0
Curfew								0
MCA	2		1		2			5
Other								0
Traffic: VW	5	3	3	8	5	3	5	32
Accident				1		1		2
Alcohol Related	12	12	6	13	26	10	10	89
Social Services			2					2

	8/1/00	8/2/00	8/3/00	8/4/00	8/5/00	8/6/00	8/7/00	Total
Total Calls:	47	49	42	47	54	38	39	316
Police	40	42	35	41	44	34	35	271
AST	4	4	5	5	8	3	1	30
Fire			1			1		2
EMS	1		3		2	1	1	8
DYFS		1		1			1	3
ACO	2	5	1				2	10
PACO		1		3	5	2		11

## **TRANSPORTATION TECHNICIAN REPORT – 8/28/00**

### **TAXI'S**

The August inspections have been completed. Next year the biannual inspections will be organized by cab line and by month as per the listed schedule.



Alaska/Checker Cab – January & July Camai Cab – February & August City/Quyana Cab – March & September Kusko Cab - April & October Taxi Cab – May & November Yellow Cab – June & December.
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This should effectively end the bottleneck caused by the majority of the cab industry turning up for inspections at the same time. It will also ease the load on me, making it easier to catch any infractions.

### **DMV**

The DMV has continued to operate in the evenings and on Saturdays while a new clerk was chosen. This process has now been completed and the new clerk is Janette Persinger, who has just recently moved to Bethel from Wasilla. She has concluded her DMV training at the Anchorage office and has returned to operate the office at its revived daytime hours of 10:00 to 4:00 from today, 8/28/00, onward. Because the Anchorage office is unable to oversee the new employee with an employee of their own for her first week, the previous employee will be available to help and trouble shoot Ms. Persinger. Income at the DMV during this transition period has amassed \$5,929 bringing the overall total taken to \$69,899.00.

Road test statistics from 2/23/00 through 8/17/00 show that there have been 198 test bookings.

Of these there have been 8 vehicle failures (4%), 32 no shows (16%) and 32 straight fails (16%). This makes an overall fail rate of 36%.