
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

Date: December 1, 2009

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on December 1, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the City hall Council Chambers, Bethel, Alaska. Commission member Pat Jennings called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Mark Springer- came in at 7:15 pm

Brian Lefferts - Excused

Charlie Chung

Pat Jennings

Jennifer Schiedler

Richard Robb

Ex-Officio members present were the following:

Police Chief Larry Elarton

Fire Chief George Young

Records Sharri Salyers

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF December 1, 2009

MOVED BY:	Chung	
SECONDED BY:	Schiedler	

Discussion:

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF November 3, 2009

MOVED BY:	Chung	
SECONDED BY:	Schiedler	

Discussion: Item VIII Spelling of Transportation to be fixed

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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VI. CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Fire Chief- A: Building – the most important news that I bring to the commission members tonight is that we are back in a safe Fire Station, I am wanting to thank Representative Bob Herron, Falkner & Walsh construction, and Mike Anderson in their assistance in helping us get the building at least into compliance so we are able to get back into the building. This is only a temporary fix, the roof and the walls are rotted. The building is still not open to the public at this time. We did rent a hanger out in Blue Berry subdivision where we stored some of our equipment, it is a really nice hanger and I am not sure if the city will let us continue to rent it, I am going to lobby to try and keep it or something like it.

We are on the priority list of the City for a new building whether it be just for the Fire Department or a Public Safety building combined.

B: Training- EMT refresher course just started on November 30, 2009

C: Questions from Council member Richard Robb- Is there still an offer on the table from BNC for property for a new Fire Station? Chief Young advised that he was not sure if the offer was still standing or not, he has not been invited to take part in any of the discussions.

Question from Council member Richard Robb- Did you feel it was a viable offer? Chief Young felt that it was going to be expensive. The offer had been made years ago for a Public Safety, State Trooper, District Attorney, and other office spaces that could be rented to other entities. The council at the time didn't want the city to get into the business of renting out office spaces.

Question From Commission Chairperson Mark Springer- Since I wasn't here for the beginning of the discussion, where are we at with the offer from BNC for the property for a new Fire Station? Chief Young advised that he really didn't know where the offer stands; he hasn't been invited to any of the planning meetings. The only thing that he did know is that there is a request in Juneau for a building for the Fire Station and the Police Department, he isn't sure if the State Troopers are still involved as to being in the same building now or not. There was a plan that was submitted and it has grown bigger than what the original plan that was submitted by him.

Question from Chairperson Mark Springer to Police Chief Elarton – What are your feelings to having a Public Safety building? I support a Public Safety building for both Fire and Police however the design plans that the state has now is not the design plan that was submitted originally to any of the departments in the City. The plan that the State has now is larger and more expensive. I feel that there could be changes to the plans that will be more efficient for both Fire and Police and cut the cost of the expense to the building.

Chief Young stated for the record that I am not opposed to fixing the current building. With the engineer study, the flooring fix and the bracing cost of 4 to 6 thousand dollars toward a permanent fix. The estimation for the permanent is 2 1/2 million dollar to 3 1/2 million dollars expense. The estimate to build a new Fire Station is 15 million dollars.

Chairperson Mark Springer asked Council representative Richard Robb to ask City Manager Lee Foley to come to next month meeting with information as to what the current status is with the Fire Station Building and the Public Safety Building, and if there is anything that the Commission can do to assist the City in the process.

Police Chief- A: Staff- We hired a new Sergeant, he was here for a week and resigned. We have promoted Joe Corbett to Sergeant. Sergeant Corbett was an officer here in the late 90's went to Ketchikan and then went to Utah and came back to us, he has been here a little over a year. He has eight to ten years of experience. He doesn't have any prior supervisor experience, however, we feel that he will do well in this position. We still have one opening for Patrol Officer and one opening for a Dispatcher.

B: Training- We sent Officer Stacey to Sitka for Field Training Officer training. Lieutenant Achee and Officer Lee went to Anchorage for a Basic and Advanced Armored Course. Sergeant Corbett went to Anchorage for Breath Testing Supervisor Course. Sergeant Salyers went to Fairbanks for the State Sexual Assault Advanced Training. He also went to Anchorage and met with the cold case investigators and was able to give them more information on the three missing juvenile cases that we have.

Training coming up after the New Year-
Evidence Collection- APSC Alaska Post Standards Council
MANDT training
CPR and First Aid

C: Stats- CSP calls have decreased by 41% for the Alcohol
CFS calls have decreased by 5% for the month of November to October
CFS calls have increased by 11% for the year of 2009 compared to 2008

D: Calls- We had a rash of car vandalisms and items were stolen from the vehicles. Officer Lee was the officer that received the call and he was able to track the suspects, two were juveniles one was an adult. The adult was found trying to get onto a plane, with some of the property on the suspect. All the property that was found has been identified.

E: Antenna- We were going to move the antennas up on the tower this last month. There were some issues, they didn't know if our antenna's were on there, two one of the antenna's may be broken. We know that there are at least two on the tower. We have put off the move until March or April when they come back. ProComm our radio provider will be here at that time to assist them in identifying our antenna's. We are planning on moving all of our radio equipment that is in the GCI shed into KYUK.

F: Equipment- E-911 recorder, NetRMS and Plant CML are all ordered and will be installed after the first of the year.

G: Question- Chairperson Mark Springer: Have you had any new leads on the Taxi cab murder? Actually that is being investigated by the Alaska Bureau of Investigation. The investigator was here last week working on the case. Case is still active and under investigation.

VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR'S REPORT

- A:** 10 renewal Chauffeur permits at \$250.00 each
- B:** 1 new Chauffer permit written was done today a driving test will be administered tomorrow
- C:** 11 Renewal vehicle permits at \$250.00 each.
- D:** 4 Transfers 2 vehicles and 2 Dispatch at \$85.00 each
- E:** Suspended two cab permits for a 24 hour period for not having the proper equipment in the vehicles. We are doing extra patrol at AC and Swansons.
- F: Comment** from Chairperson Mark Springer would like to see extra patrol at the VFW on Bingo nights because there are a lot of congestion with the cabs and other vehicles.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A: Review of BMC 2.16.06- Board of Governors for the Fire Department

Council Representative Richard Robb had requested to review this ordnance to make sure that there was still a board of governors and if not, Mr. Robb was requesting that we make a request to the city council to modify the ordnance and strike the wording from the ordnance.

Fire Chief Young advised the commission that they have a board of governors; it is still in effect and is current. No changes to the ordnance at this time.

B: Motion to make a recommendation to the City Council to strike the wording of BMC 2.20.020- Chief's powers and Duties, (D) Maintain and staff the city jail and be responsible for the prisoners;

MOVED BY:	Robb	Strike section (D) in the ordinance, due to there not being a jail that the Chief can maintain.
SECONDED BY:		

Discussion: Even though we do not have a jail at the present time, or holding cells. We feel that we should not strike this section, due to the fact that if we should obtain a new facility that is equipped with holding cells or other accommodations.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion failed with no second.
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C: Review of written Complaint that was e-mailed to the City on Cabs.

Was read aloud from Chairperson Mark Springer.

Statement from Police Chief Elarton, I was the one to request that this complaint be brought to the attention of the Commission, even though we are unable to contact the complainant due to the way that the complaints come in from the web site, they are anonymous. I advised the City Manager that I would bring this to the attention of the commission in case they receive a complaint also.

IX. COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMMENTS

A: Jennifer Schiedler- I am glad to be here, a little history about me. I was a dispatcher at one time, I was a clerk for the court system. I am currently working at First National Bank of Alaska as their mortgage agent and operation supervisor. I want to get more involved in the community and I thought this would be the perfect opportunity.

B: Charlie Chung- No Comment

C: Richard Robb- I will make sure to invite the City Manager to our next meeting.

D: Pat Jennings- No Comment

E: Mark Springer- I am intrigued with the numbers that you have on the Alcohol cases have declined.

I would like to see someone go to the high school and explain to our children why the people voted our city out of the local option.

**X. ADJOURNMENT
MOTION TO ADJOURN**

MOVED BY:	Chung	
SECONDED BY:	Jennings	

Discussion

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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Next meeting on Tuesday January 5, 2010



Chairperson

ATTEST:



Recorder