
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

December 8, 2003

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Transportation and Commission was held on December 8, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the city hall conference room, Bethel, Alaska.

Chairperson John Hastie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the commission, the following were present:

John Hastie	John Dickens
Charley Chung	Michael Cho
Brad Kehoe	Tom Fazzini
Hugh Dymont	

Ex-Officio member present were the following:

Howard H. Morris, Chief of Police
Linda Solomon, Recorder
Andrew Steele, Transportation Technician

EXCUSAL OF ABSENT COMMISSION MEMBER

MOVED BY:	Cho	To excuse Don Poe due to work commitments.
SECONDED BY:	Dymont	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED BY:	Dickens	To approve the regular agenda with two additions under New Business.
SECONDED BY:	Dymont	

Under (B) of New Business item 2 was added – Curfew Enforcement.

Under (C) of New Business item 3 was added – Impounding Vehicles of third time DUI violators.

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED BY:	Dickens	To approve the minutes of the regular meeting on 11/3/03.
SECONDED BY:	Kehoe	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Receiving complaints from taxi cab passengers requesting being brought directly to destination and cab still making stops and picking up passengers along the way. Chief and Steele to do a Public Service Announcement; get on the air and speak in open forum to address some of the taxi cab problems and concerns that the public may have.

TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

- A. Andrew Steele requested dropping the Transportation Inspection Report on the agenda and leaving at Transportation Technician Report – members agreed. We are 2/3 of the way through getting the permits ready for 2004 and should all be in place by January 1, 2004 when the new permits have to change hands. Last year there were 116 chauffeurs and so far 83 have signed up for 2004. There are two new chauffeurs in town who are being tested at the moment and two existing chauffeurs that are leaving town.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Going forward with the three way stop at the corner of QFC 1 but would like to wait for spring due to winter road conditions. May be hazardous in trying to get the community using the three way stop with road conditions. A Public Service Announcement will go out 30-45 days before the change is made.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Good idea to go to tape recorded dispatch. Cab companies that do not have the equipment will need to purchase. Cab companies will be responsible to maintain the tapes for length of time decided on. BPD can do quality assurance to make sure that cab companies are maintaining tapes for the required length of time that tapes are to be maintained. Due to majority of cab companies desire to go to tape recording dispatch, committee members decided to go forward with recommendation to the city council to go from paper to tape recorded dispatching.

TAPE RECORDED DISPATCH

MOVED BY:	Kehoe	To recommend as a committee that the cab industry go to tape recorded dispatch.
SECONDED BY:	Cho	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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- B. Question of the status of curfew enforcement both in Bethel and in the State. Concern of kids getting hurt/hurting of others after 11:00 p.m. If curfew is enforced then it would most likely eliminate some of the problems caused by kids after curfew. Due to the tremendous amount of calls that BPD responds to there is no doubt that curfew falls down on the list but officers should actively be working the curfew policy. Suggestion by a committee member to spot check on an irregular basis in certain areas in town which would put a message out to teens that they could get picked up for curfew violation.

Along with curfew enforcement, it would be nice to have more lighting around town. There should be a street light every hundred feet. If anyone notices that lights need maintenance, contact dispatch at BPD who in turn will inform Public Works. Officers working night shift to keep an eye out for lights that need maintenance or bad spots that need lighting.

- C. With third "Driving Under the Influence" there is a law that the vehicle will be seized and auctioned. Does or should the city impound/seize vehicles? City of Bethel does not have an impound area and the liability of caring for the vehicle while it is in impound. Problem the city had before was vandalism to impounded vehicles. Bethel Packing and Moving Company was interested in creating an impoundment area. Chief to bring back information to PS&TC the DUI arrest information.

IMPOUNDMENT AREA

MOVED BY:	Kehoe	To recommend as a committee that the city council consider the possibility of developing a city or private owned impound area.
SECONDED BY:	Cho	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
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COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Smoking in cabs is still an issue and needs to be addressed. This issue will be brought up at the PSA when discussing cabs bringing passengers directly to destination when requested.

PS & T Committee should continue to improve the Fire and Police Department and look at where we stand on wage and salary. There is a lot of good cab drivers in this town but public is starting to get upset about touring of town before getting to destination. Haroldsen Subdivision is in the city limits and the road should be made accessible provide essential services. Also would like to see another route to Kasayuli Subdivision for safety purposes. How can we visit with YKHC regarding Kasayuli subdivision that is growing in population. With Bethel continuing to grow, we need to get going on our infra-structure to keep up with growth.

There is a serious problem with kids throwing eggs, snowballs or rocks at cabs causing hazardous conditions. There is a need for law enforcement to take action. Chief to remind officers to ride in cabs when possible to help deter this problem. BPD has couple snowmachines to utilize for violators that use snowmachines to hit cabs and get away.

Hugh Dymont to check with city planner on what city liability is on Haroldsen Subdivision. People are working on creating a road through the doughnut hole to alleviate traffic congestion.

House address numbers and street name signs need improvement. There is an ordinance on what size, etc. need to be used for house numbers and is citable.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY:	Dickens	To adjourn meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Kehoe	

VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by a unanimous vote.
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With no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.,
December 8, 2003. Next meeting on Monday – 1/12/04 at 7:00 p.m.

Approved this 12 day of January, 2003.



John Hastie, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Linda Solomon, Recorder