



City of Bethel Police Dept.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, February 2nd, 2016 -7:00 p.m.
300 STATE HIGHWAY – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AGENDA

Members

Joan Dewey
Chair

Eileen Henrikson
Vice Chair

Chuck Herman
Council Representative

Naim Shabani

Deborah White

Julene Webber

Ex-Officio Members

Andre Achee
Chief of Police

William Howell III
Fire Chief

Christina Him
Recorder

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING OF January 19th, 2016
- VI. CHIEFS' COMMENTS
Fire Chief
Police Chief
- VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR'S REPORT
- VIII. COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE'S COMMENTS
- IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- X. NEW BUSINESS
A. Fire Department's Recommendation to City Council
- XI. COMMISSION MEMBER'S COMMENTS
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

Christina Him, Recorder

POSTED on January 28th, 2016
POST OFFICE, AC QUICKSTOP, CORINA'S CASE LOT, CITY HALL, & POLICE DEPT.
Next Public Safety and Transportation Commission Meeting will be **March 1st, 2016**

"Deep Sea Port and Transportation Center of the Kuskokwim"

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

January 19, 2016

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on January 19th, 2016 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:04PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joan Dewey *Chair*
Chuck Herman *Council Representative*
Naim Shabani
Eileen Henrikson

Other Present: Bruce Claypool (member of the public)

Absent: Deborah White
Julene Webber

Ex-Officio Present: Andre Achee *Chief of Police* (via telephone conference)
Bill Howell *Fire Chief*
Christina Him *Recorder and Transportation Inspector Designee*

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to approve the agenda.
SECONDED:	Henrikson	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of December 1 st , 2015.
SECONDED:	Henrikson	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.
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VI. CHIEFS’ COMMENTS

Chief Bill Howell – *See Report and Recommendation form in Commission Packet.*

Chief Andre Achee – *Our 2015 year-end stats are done. For 2015, we got close to 17,000 calls which are all broken down into different categories which includes: crimes against person(s), recorded offenses, sexual offenses, sexual abuse of minors, robberies, missing persons report, harassment, kidnapping, domestic violence calls, property crimes, thefts, intoxicated pedestrians, curfew violations, juvenile offenses, security checks, welfare checks, agency assists, EMS calls, fire calls, animal calls, suicide/deaths, etc. There were also 499 arrests for end of year.*

For the staffing aspect in patrol, we are currently budgeted for 8 patrol officers, which include 2 patrol sergeants, 1 investigative sergeant and 1 investigator. Of that roughly for 2015, we had a total of 7 patrol officers working. Currently we are down to 4 patrol officers working, which is half my patrol staff. My Patrol sergeants and investigative sergeant are also covering the streets. In comparison to 2014, our average number of officers was 10, and there were 14,738 calls. In 2014 there were less calls, nut more officers. The average call per officer is roughly 46, and the average number of officers per day is 3. The average calls for officers per day is 15.

Earlier in the beginning of 2015, our dispatch center had a major issue and we were down to 2 dispatchers. Our dispatcher center runs 24 hours, 7 days a week. Having a dispatcher that is calm and collective and able to dispatch the appropriate resources is important. During that time, our Patrol sergeants and administrative staff, including myself and administrative assistant filled in to cover dispatch. Right now, we are lucky that we are at full staff, however “full staff” means that when someone goes on vacation or quits, it means overtime for other staff. We will be asking for an additional dispatcher.

At full staff, there are 4 dispatchers and 1 dispatcher supervisor. For 2013 and 2014, there was an average of 3 dispatchers. In the past, we have had dispatchers that will quit after a week or two or three months into training. We recently had a CSP that worked a few days and quit. It is different here and it is a different type of work, it takes a special person to work in Public Safety. In 2014 dispatchers handled about 40 calls/day; in 2015 it was about 46 calls/day.

(For full stats, see stats report in Commission Packet and Recommendation Form).

VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

VIII. COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman – *Don’t have much to report – will get to items on agenda.*

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Drug Screening Policy for Chauffeurs (*Commission Member Shabani*)

Discussed, Drug Screening Policy will remain as is per BMC 5.20.085 Drug and Alcohol Testing.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bethel Friends of Canines 2015 Year End Numbers & Canine (and Feline) Services Update

Bethel Friends of Canines is a nonprofit organization that has been in existence since July of 2011. There have been 234 dogs that were homed, 8 cats and 1 ferret; that brings our numbers up to 1000 canines that have been abandoned, unclaimed, unwanted, running loose, homeless, overdue at the pound or coming in from the villages. Over 1000 dogs have been homed and about 50 cats. "Homed" means having people go through an application process, home screenings, making sure landlords take animals or they own the homes, the family doing trial home visits. We consider that progress in terms of getting unwanted animals off the streets.

Thank you to Former city manager, Lee Foley and with the city attorney Patty Burley's assistance in drafting a memorandum of agreement with Bethel Friends of Canines, which included conditions of getting all dogs rabies vaccinations, booster shots if they are puppies, getting them spayed and neutered, finding adoptive homes for them and making sure that they are not loose. Any unclaimed and overdue dogs in the pound, if they are adoptable, they go to BFK9, this has helped reduce the effect of officers who had to shoot perfectly healthy dogs in the past prior to July of 2011. I'm hoping it (BFK9) also helps keep officers wanting to do this hard work of law enforcement

We have also started to help families who are in domestic violence situations and are having to flee. If they have pets, we help get the pets boarded or up for adoption, if that is what the family decide that they want to get done. We help in getting those animals they care about out of the situations and either with them when they move on or adopted. We are involved in nearly all the villages in the YK delta area, responding when we get calls for help, including helping set up spay and neuter clinics.

There is a really neat story about a special education teacher out in one of the villages, who have a special needs student that loves dogs and wanted to start rescuing in the village. This teacher wrote this in, part of her treatment plan and has since sent in 3 very healthy, very beautiful puppies that have since been adopted. She has been taking care of a momma dog and some more dogs that are going to be coming in to be homed. This has given this girl a sense of purpose and pride in what she is doing and she is definitely helping the community.

This is related to public safety because there used to be a horrific loose dog situation here and there still is at times. A horrible situation two days before the K300, we tried to get police to respond and nobody was available to come. There was traffic backed up on Ptarmigan and into housing because the cab could not move and the dog that was still alive would not have been saved. The dogs were trapped underneath the cab. One was expired, however we did not know until CPR was attempted. It was very slippery that night and these dogs were loose.

It was very upsetting and disturbing and I bring this up here because it could have turned out to be very different. People were pretty calm and respectful but it was a cab and there are a lot of stereotypes and generalizations about cabs. The woman driver was visibly shaken up and I don't think she could have done anything to avoid hitting the dogs. We could not get any police help and we tried three times that we know of to get help. The public did a good job with not getting emotional, but it could have been very heated and more serious. We got two people passing by to help lift up the back of the cab and another person cut the dog loose with a knife.

It was amazing that people stayed focus on the issue at hand and no one made it worse, because it could have definitely been worse.

We really try to help low income families with dogs, and we try to help with training, convincing people not to buy Christmas puppies for their toddlers, but to buy a little puppy toy first, because if you end up with an animal that has no training and is hungry running loose, then you have a public safety problem.

I really hope that we continue to get community support and it seems to be working. We are at a point that we really need steady help daily. We first try local adoptions, but we still have an overpopulation problem. We have a 5 part mission in our articles of incorporation that include all of these things related to the health, safety and well being of a community. These are important aspects of living in a great community that takes care of its people and animals.

We need to get more vet support, however we have an interesting project starting with UAF, and we are looking at a possible vet health aid program.

B. Reconsideration of Ordinance 15-21: Cab Video Surveillance and GPS System Requirements (Council Recommendation)

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to disapprove Ordinance #15-21.
SECONDED:	Henrikson	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

XI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Joan Dewey - *I just want to thank the Chiefs for bringing all of the details, that was really great.*

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to adjourn.
SECONDED:	Henrikson	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

Meeting adjourned at 10:26pm

APPROVED THIS 2ND DAY OF February, 2016.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair



CITY OF BETHEL
Fire Department

William F. Howell III, Fire Chief
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Celebrating 50 Years of Service

DATE: February 2, 2016
TO: Ann Capella, City Manager
FROM: Bill Howell, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: January 2016 Management Report

Current Events

- January was marked by our biannual EMT 2-3 recertification and initial classes January 4th through the 15th. There were six initial EMT-2 and nine EMT-3 students. State of Alaska EMT Practical Skills and Written examinations were held on 01/16/16. Two individuals will be completing the EMT-2 written examination later this week.
- The Department reviewed and provided written statements to the Manager regarding two separate applications for alcohol sales. Feedback was provided in compliance with Bethel Municipal Code.
- The Department is working with the Public Safety Commission to make recommendations to the Council regarding staffing shortages in both public safety departments.

Emergency Planning/Homeland Security

- The Department attended the monthly Homeland Security Training and Education teleconference on January 6th.
- The Department is working with local businesses, commercial and industrial property owners to develop fire emergency plans.

Training

- An EMT Meeting was held at the Fire Department on 01/19/16 at 7 PM. Responders practiced medical and trauma patient assessments and performed interventions applicable to their EMT skill levels.

- A Fire Meeting was held on 01/28/16 at 7PM. Responders reviewed Ice/Water Rescue procedures and equipment, then conducted practice rescue evolutions at the Small Boat Harbor.
- The Department is coordinating with the Firefighter-1 students who need refresher training in order to take the State of Alaska Firefighter-1 and Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations written examinations.

Responses

- The Bethel Fire Department responded to 91 EMS and 5 Fire incidents during the month of December.
- On 01/11/16 at 12:06 p.m. medics responded to the area of Ptarmigan Road for the report of a person on drugs. The patient was assessed and transported to the hospital.
- On 01/21/16 at 1:32 a.m. medics responded to Chief Eddie Hoffman Highway for a report of a person hallucinating. The patient was assessed and transported to the hospital.
- On 01/22/16 at 7:28 a.m. medics responded to Ptarmigan Road for the report of vehicle accident involving a snowmobile. Upon arrival, two severely injured patients were assessed and transported to the hospital.
- On 01/06/16 at 10:55 p.m. firefighters responded to the Malone Home for a report of fire alarm activation. Upon arrival, the alarm was determined to be false.
- On 01/29/16 at 11:30 firefighters responded to the area of Alder Street for the report of a house filled with smoke. Upon arrival, firefighters determined the smoke was from unattended cooking. The home was ventilated and firefighters returned to quarters.

Vehicles & Equipment

- Due to short staffing, the V& E department cleared M5 to go out to a public sector shop for engine repairs.
- A new vinyl floor was installed in the patient compartment of Medic-4.
- We are working with administration to insure all Fire Department vehicles/equipment at their replacement value.
- A work order has been put in to V&E to repair stuck valves and leaking pump packing's on E-3.

Budget/Financial

- The Department is operating within FY16 budget guidelines.
- Callback overtime is at 80%, with only 58% of the budget year elapsed. Record call volume and the new three hour minimum are contributing to this overage.
- Unanticipated costs for Ladder truck testing and Asbestos training following the Kilbuck Fire from our purchased services account is a point of concern. We will be closely watching this fund.

Grants

- All Grants are operating within allotted timelines.
- The Department is applying for funding through the 2015 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. We seek funding to replace aged turnout gear and fire hose. This application was submitted on time. The project requested is budgeted at est. 130,000 dollars and requires a 5% match. Funding announcements are normally made in September of the following year.
- Reimbursement requests were made for federal cost share under the 2013 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for Self Contained Breathing Apparatus. The City received final payment of \$97,385 and will be filing final closeout reports when due.
- The Department has identified funding opportunities for federal fire prevention grants expected to open in April of 2016. The Department will seek to hire a consultant to assist with development of a comprehensive emergency planning and annual inspections program.
- Final Purchases are being made with excess funds under the Alaska Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program. We will file close out reports once purchases are complete.
- Quotes were provided to the Grants Manager to apply for funding for new portable radios through the Homeland Security grant.

Staffing/recruitment

- All positions are filled minus our FY 15 defunded FF/EMT position
- The Department is drafting a hiring list for future vacancies and new positions.

CITY OF BETHEL
POLICE DEPARTMENT



TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT: JANUARY 2016

2016	January
New Chauffeurs	0
Chauffeur Renewals	2
Chauffeur Transfers	0
Vehicle Permit Renewals	1
Vehicle Transfers	4
Inspections	4
Revocations	0
Temporary Permits	0

- There 7 complaints made in the month of January, most were driving complaints. Officers were advised of these complaints and followed up if cab was located.
- There were 9 traffic stops/officer observations associated with cabs.
- There is a pending case with an Alaska Cab driver who is suspected of importing alcohol to a village. This case has been forwarded to the District Attorney's office for a disposition. Pending revocation of this driver's chauffeur's license if convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction (BMC 5.20.110).
- Camai Cab will be scheduled for a semi-annual inspection for this month in February.



City of Bethel

Administrative Committees

Recommendation to City Council

Committees and Commissions that wish to make a recommendation to City Council should turn this form in to the City Clerk or to the City Council representative on the committee or commission.

Committee/Commission: Public Safety and Transportation Commission	Chair: Joan Dewey
Date Submitted:	Council Rep: Chuck Herman

Issue:

The Public Safety and Transportation Commission believe the Fire Department is understaffed for mid- and long-term needs. The Department has the following seven full-time career positions identified in the FY 2016 Budget: Fire Chief, Fire Captain, four Firefighter/EMTs, and one Firefighter/EMT position that was defunded in FY 2015. Thus, only six career positions are currently funded and filled.

Current staffing levels require firefighters to cover shifts on overtime whenever another employee is on leave or cannot find volunteers.

The Fire Captain must work days part-time in addition to the 24-hour Kelly Shift to meet the operational and administrative demands of the Department and community. The staff members and volunteers are being stretched thin to cover the demands of the ever-increasing amounts of mandatory requirements, standards compliance, fire and EMS responses, fire investigations, and daily equipment, vehicle, and station maintenance duties.

In 2015, the Fire Department experienced its highest EMS response call volume in two decades; 1,182 calls for service. This is an increase of 45% (370) over 2008 levels. When considering alcohol-related call volume from 2008 (282) to 2015 (603), these calls for service have increased by 113% (321). This rise in call volume caused an increase in the payout of call-out overtime and standby pay to our staff members who are "called-out" to respond to calls while they are off-duty. The Bethel Police Department's Community Service Patrol, an outstanding program, has not reduced alcohol related call volume. In

Received by: _____
Date: _____

fact, EMS responses to alcohol related incidents have increased dramatically since the inception of the CSP program in 2011.

Though staffed at 1990s level, the department has experienced its highest call volume in over two decades. The department anticipates and is planning for a surge of alcohol related responses when alcohol package stores open in the spring/summer of 2016. The department believes that there is a strong correlation between alcohol access and alcohol related call volume.

Recommendation:

The Public safety and transportation committee recommends that the Bethel City Council fund two new Firefighter EMT positions immediately as a modification to the FY 2016 Budget, the defunded (FY 2015) Firefighter EMT position and one additional Firefighter EMT position.

Two additional positions will provide two career Firefighter EMTs per shift. Further, this staffing enhancement would allow the Fire Chief to place the Fire Captain position on day shift, so that he can better manage training, compliance requirements, community inspections, and planning.

The commission believes there would be an immediate cost savings in the FLSA and Callback overtime budgets to help offset the expenditure of the added employees. The Commission believes that overtime savings in the Fire department and future revenues anticipated from legal alcohol sales will provide sufficient funding to cover the cost of the recommended positions for the balance of FY 2016. The addition of two additional firefighters and a day-shift Fire Captain, will immediately improve public safety in Bethel. The Department has qualified applicants ready to hire, when authorized.

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