
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

June 2nd, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on June 2nd, 2015 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joan Dewey *Chair*
 Alisha Welch *Vice Chair*
 Chuck Herman *Council Representative*
 Naim Shabani

Excused absent:

Ex-Officio Present: Bill Howell *Fire Chief*
 Andre Achee *Police Lieutenant*

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

No one present to be heard.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of April 7 and May 5.
SECONDED:	Sabani	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

VI. SPECIAL ITEM OF BUSINESS

A. Change scheduled date and time of PSTC meetings

Discussed, schedule to remain the same.

VII. CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Chief Bill Howell- *See Manager's Report in Commission Packet.*

Chief Andre Achee - *The City of Bethel participated in a statewide emergency preparedness exercise called "Pills to Polar Bears" during the week of May 12th, 2015. The City worked together with YKHC, State of Alaska Public Health Nursing, AST, National Guard, as well as the Bethel Family Clinic. This exercise assists the state in preparation for a mass pandemic on vaccination inoculation; specifically this drill's plot consisted of exposure to anthrax by domestic terrorism.*

Fire Chief, Bill Howell was the Operations Section Chief for the exercise. Bethel along with Craig, Juneau, Anchorage, and the Matsu Valley participated in this drill. Bethel did pretty good; an important part of the exercise was the implementation and facilitation of closed PODs (Points of Dispensing), which are primarily used to inoculate first responders and their family. The Police Department's role in the exercise primarily dealt with the logistics aspect and providing security.

In the scenario, the state lab tested the substance to be a positive exposure of Anthrax and in conclusion, placebo packets of medication were sent to Bethel from the State pharmacy and CDC through articulate coordination with Alaska Airlines. The DOT (Department of Transportation) met the jet on the ground with security, directly took the packages from the aircraft and escorted it to the appropriate location. The exercise was able to help identify areas that the City needed to improve on as well as areas that worked well.

The Police Department has been busy on serious calls, such as homicide and investigations of that nature. During a recent investigation, the PD was able to partner with AST to assist in crime processing. ABI (Anchorage Bureau of Investigation) also sent out some investigators to assist with the case; however the case still remains BPD's. BPD also received lot of help from the public in helping to identify persons of interest, and an arrest has been made.

Staffing is still below 50% as calls are beginning to pick up, two of our Officers Justin Ulak of Scammon Bay and Eric Pavil II of Bethel, are graduating from the Police Academy in Sitka, and will both be back in Bethel. We anticipate a fast training process as they have already begun their FTO before they left to the Academy. Two additional conditional letters of employment were given to two applicants, one is a current police officer in the State of Alaska with over 20 years of experience, and the other potentially new recruit officer is awaiting background check. Our current dispatch supervisor, KaJena Baty's last day of employment is June 18th. With her absence, that will put the department down below minimum staffing, to three dispatchers. We have extended one conditional offer, the applicant has accepted, but will be starting within a week and a half. We anticipate a lot of staffing issues with dispatch, but are hopeful to get more positions filled soon.

Our budget is currently both at the Council, and it seems to be a smooth process thus far. We requested additional positions, however one position was approved. The approved position is for an additional CSO, whose primary duty will be Animal Control. Our goal for this position is to maintain animal control, implement some planning aspects, code violation issues, and enforce municipal ordinances; whereas our CSO will continue to focus on taking care of inebriates during the day shift. As the end of the fiscal year is approaching, our recruitment is still on-

going, as we've always maintained continual recruitment for police officers, CSOs, CSPs and dispatchers.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman – *The “Ridgecrest Road Project” is an important issue in terms of transportation. Five or six years ago, the City received a grant for this project, however nothing was accomplished and as of recently, all of the terms have been changed for the grant and somehow the City is expected to come up with money to fund it. The Ridgecrest Project is intended to focus on renovating the roads in front of the high school, with the goal being to reduce traffic. The issue at hand is that the land that is not along the road belongs to the school district and if they do not end up changing their traffic flow, then the road would continue to be congested with traffic. At this time, there is still discussion going on whether or not the school district will make the necessary changes as well as funding for the project, due to the new terms of the contract. Gravel on the other hand, was originally slashed in the budget, however it has been restored to what it was, which would mean that the road should be good next year.*

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Drug Screening Policy for Chauffeurs

Discussed, no action taken

B. Taxi Permit Number and Vehicle Numbers

Discussed, to be implemented with the upcoming fiscal year.

C. Revocation of Vehicle Permit (BMC 5.20.110)

MOVED:	Welch	Motion to recommend proposed changes of the amended language of BMC 5.20.110 to strike 45 consecutive and 90 consecutive days and add 180 days in a 12 month period, to Council.
SECONDED:	Sabani	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Summer Recess

MOVED:	Sabani	Motion for a one month summer recess in July. Next PSTC meeting will be moved from August 4 th to August 10 th .
SECONDED:	Herman	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

I. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chuck Herman- *No comments.*

Alisha Welch- *No comments.*

Naim Shabani- *Wishes everyone a good, happy July. Enjoy your summer as much as you can.*

Joan Dewey- *No comments.*

II. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm

APPROVED THIS 4th DAY OF September, 2015.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair