

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 7, 1994

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Vanasse called the September 7, 1994, regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 12:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Vanasse, Wallace, Gregory, Hildreth

Absent: Tubbs, Twitchell, Rothschild

-Mr. Hildreth stated that he talked with Mr. Twitchell earlier who had wished to be removed from the Public Safety Committee due to lack of time. Chairman Vanasse will contact Mr. Twitchell.

APPROVAL/MINUTES Minutes of the July 6, 1994 meeting were approved as presented. M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Wallace.

APPROVAL/AGENDA -Mr. Hildreth requested that the Public Safety Committee Member Comments be placed before the Chiefs Reports for this meeting only. Chairman Vanasse stated that Hildreth may make his comment prior to the Chiefs Reports. M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Gregory to approve the agenda with the following amendments: to add New Business Item C: Police Department Turn-over. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

-Mr. Hildreth suggested that Chief's Reports and Committee Member Reports be limited and possibly given a time limit. Reason was the July 6, 1994 meeting encompassed only reports by the Chief's and Committee Members.

Discussion regarding the meeting and in relation to the July 6, 1994 meeting on how no business was conducted. All members saw no problem in changing from a noon meeting to an evening meeting.

Chief Liu had no problems, but Capt. Perry stated that Chief Young might have an objection due to other conflicts to include EMT and Fire Meetings, City Council meetings, and the fact of being home with his family.

The noon meeting time does not allow the citizens to attend and address the committee for People to be Heard, plus the busy lunch hour schedule for both the citizens and the committee members.

CHIEFS' REPORTS

-Sr. Capt. Perry is Acting Fire Chief while Chief Young is on vacation until September 25, 1994. EMT's viewed an AIDS movie which opened eyes. Capt. Perry invited members of the committee to view the movie which is about 2 hours long. Chairman Vanasse mentioned possibly giving the movie to KYUK to broadcast on the air. Capt. Perry said that this would be up to Chief Young to make the decision. No other problems at this time at the Fire Department.

-Chief Liu reported on several personnel changes at the Police Department involving both officers and communication officers. Factors stated are Pay, Working Conditions, Dealing with Intoxicated Persons and lack of Community Support.

Discussion involved included the number of intoxicated persons at our stores. Suggestion was brought up regarding a Special Meeting of the Public Safety Committee with Store Owners to enforce the problems at their stores. The Chairman will draft a letter to the different stores and other places of business where there are problems associated with intoxicated persons for a special meeting. Date of this meeting would be in October and a date to be announced.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

-Mr. Gregory talked about the recent drownings on the river, the importance of wearing PFD's. Suggested that Chief Liu contact the City of Kotzebue on how they cleaned up their community in regards to bootleggers, drunks. Bethel has too many bootleggers and drunks.

-Mr. Wallace talked about the Bootleggers, possibly having the Police Department visit these individuals, parking Patrol Vehicles outside their locations, having officers visit with neighbors to view the activity, cameras, etc.

Hildreth made the comment regarding his employment as Ayalpik Apartment Manager and removing the drunks from the premises. Wallace acknowledged as he lives across the street and has seen the difference at Ayalpik. Hildreth also confirmed the alleged activity of bootlegging across the street from Ayalpik. Mr. Wallace also asked about the CSO's. Chief Liu stated that additional duties of CSO's include being Communication Officers, watching Protective Custody Cases at the Hospital when the Jail does not have medical staff. Mr. Wallace also mentioned about the increased activity in traffic stops by officers. Chief Liu stated that with school now in session, this has decreased the number of traffic violators and slowed the drivers down.

-Mr. Hildreth wished to decline comments in order to speed the meeting up due to shortage of time.

-Chairman Vanasse also wished to decline comments in order to speed the meeting up due to shortage of time.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD (None)

OLD BUSINESS (None)

NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Utility Benefits

-Mr. Wallace had placed this item on the agenda as an incentive for citizens to volunteer with the Police and Fire Department Volunteer Programs. With increased problems, safety concerns, the City should offer this benefit to the volunteers.

-Chairman Vanasse stated that in the past the City Council has had a problem in approving such a benefit.

-Mr. Hildreth stated he favored this benefit but did not want to increase the burden on the Chief's to determine who gets the benefit.

-Mr. Gregory also favored this benefit.

-Mr. Wallace stated that there would be guidelines established.

-Capt. Perry stated that the Fire Department has a 50% guideline established for the volunteers for meetings and responses.

-Chairman Vanasse asked Mr. Wallace to put together a proposal on how this benefit would be used and who receives the benefit and to present at next meeting.

motion M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Hildreth to table the City Utility Benefits for Police and Fire Volunteers and place into Old Business at the next regular meeting. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B: VHF Channel -Mr. Gregory would like the Police Department to monitor Marine VHF Channel 16 and CB Channel 9 for emergencies. This would help people who are at fish camps, or boating as a means for summoning emergency help.
-Chief Liu stated he does not support this as this is would give additional duties to his department, and that the addition of this equipment will cause more problems with the present communications center. Also most of these cases are out of the jurisdiction of the Bethel Police Department. Chief Liu also stated that the Troopers do monitor these emergency channels and the possibility that the Search and Rescue group also monitors the emergency channels.
-Mr. Hildreth asked Chief Liu about having the State Troopers fund a position or two in the Communications Center since the Bethel Police Department receives calls for Troopers after 5 p.m. and dispatches the on-call Trooper. Mr. Hildreth also suggested that Chief Liu contact F/Sgt. Tanner regarding this, possibly the two agencies can put together a plan that would address the issue.
-Mr. Wallace stated if system is not compatible, then we should look to the State Troopers to monitor this.
-Chairman Vanasse also would like to hear more information regarding this, to see if the communications center equipment can handle this frequency, and to also determine who else in the community would be monitoring.

motion M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Hildreth to table the Police and Fire Volunteer VHF Channel and place into Old Business at the next regular meeting. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

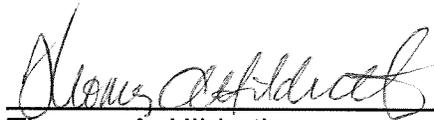
motion M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Gregory to table Item C, Police Department Turnover and place into New Business at the next regular meeting. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

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motion

M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Hildreth to adjourn the meeting. Voice
Vote. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE WILL OCCUR ON OCTOBER
5, 1994 AT 7:00 P.M., AT THE LOG CABIN.



Thomas A. Hildreth
Public Safety Committee Member