

**City of Bethel  
Public Safety Commission  
Special Meeting of  
December 16, 1996**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chairman Vanasse.

**II. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Shari Neth, Gary Vanasse, Tom Hildreth, John Hastie, Mayor Richardson

**Absent:** Bruce Day (excused) Helena Andrew (unexcused).

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**motion** M/M by Tom Hildreth, 2nd by Shari Neth to approve the agenda as presented.

**vote** Voice vote passed unanimously.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**V. CHIEFS' REPORTS**

**A. Fire Chief George Young**

**B. Police Chief Gary Eilers**

**VI. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

\* Shari Neth - stated that she would like to have the following topics as **NEW BUSINESS** at the next scheduled meeting, "**Age Restriction on Snow Machine Operation**" and "**Building Key Pickup and Return**". Also, Ms. Neth stated that she felt it was good that we got the grant, but bad that we had a high enough crime rate to qualify.

Mayor Richardson - stated that she was disturbed as she read the minutes of the last meeting that the Commission is getting into areas that they are not supposed to, such as time management.

Chairman Vanasse - stated he did not think the minutes reflected what was intended. We want to look at time in and time out and the amount of time on calls along with the number of officers and time out on annual leave etc., to determine the needs for staffing in the future. This will be addressed in January.

V. **COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS (continued)**

\* Mayor Richardson - requested that the time management issue be on the January agenda.

Chief Eilers - we will not be able to comply with that request for information but like Wally he would like to see it on the agenda.

John Hastie - In lieu of "time management" it should be called "Summary Crime Report".

Mayor Richardson - I do not want you getting into areas that you shouldn't be.

Chairman Vanasse - We don't want to or intend to.

Chief Eilers - I just want to explain that I was out of town at the time of the last meeting and Lt. Ely intended to attend; however, he was called out and up all night and worked all day and wasn't able to be here.

John Hastie - In the future if a Sgt. or someone could be here as a representative for the Police or Fire Departments.

Chief Eilers - Sometimes I am the only one that will have the answers to your questions. The Sergeant's couldn't address most issues as their responsibilities are different; more focused on patrol.

Chairman Vanasse - I am disappointed this meeting is not being taped. I think it should be; I just want it noted that its not taped.

VI. **PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

There were no people to be heard.

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Law Enforcement Block Grant**

Chairman Vanasse - I am disappointed that we weren't included. I feel we were excluded.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

**A. Law Enforcement Block Grant**

Mayor Richardson - I don't think anyone would intentionally exclude the Public Safety Commission.

Chairman Vanasse - An advisory board was formed and we should have been part of it. We have to ask to be included. I'd like the Chief to tell us about the grant before we go any further.

Chief Eilers - this took me by surprise. I have tried to answer all your questions. It was my understanding that it was brought before council. And I felt that that was the public hearing. After I found out about it I talked to Al Schadle about it. It is an open grant. I also talked to Kathy Katsel at the grant office she told us we had to have the advisory board meeting.

I arrived at what on the list. Radios - there are so many dead spots here this is a real concern for officer safety. I talked to Greg Mocha and have been testing some 5 watt radios to see if wattage is the problem. In King Cove we could reach farther than here and there were mountains. With the new radio I've only run into one bad spot. Maybe our frequency is off a little bit. We had to make this list because we needed to comply with the grant. I did not deliberately exclude you.

Chairman Vanasse - I don't think that the advisory board meeting was done in accordance with the open meetings act. I understand this isn't written in stone yet. Let's look at the list. I don't like radar systems for patrol. School zones are the only areas that need it and they don't get patrolled. I don't understand the need we have for two radar guns now. The two before that ended up in the dump and a former commission member uses them. Why do we need five of them?

Chief Eilers - We'd like to use the stationary type in each vehicle instead of the portable.

Chairman Vanasse - I'd like to see what the need Schadle said verses the current list.

Chief Eilers - Schadle didn't leave anything in writing. I don't know what the past administration did with their equipment. It's not going to get dumped now unless it costs more to get it fixed that it's worth. I have stopped cars going up to 60 MPH; but I don't have anyway to prove it. Once you let the community know you have radar it will slow everyone down.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

**A. Law Enforcement Block Grant**

Chairman Vanasse - That happened this summer when the troopers were here. It slowed everyone down. We asked the former administration to change shifts in order to have patrol in school zones at 8:00 a.m. This would be more practical than spending \$10,000 on radar. The camcorder seems expensive.

Chief Eilers - It's a full size model so we can make duplicate copies for the DA and Public Defenders office. We want something that is going to hold up to a lot of use. The digital photo system will save us money on film developing and the time we have to wait to get them back. The DA's office is excited about the prospect of getting as many pictures as they need and even being able to blow them up. I want a camera in each vehicle.

Shari Neth - I respect the list and the Police Department. Accidents went down when speeding was monitored. Chief Eilers has a better perspective on that.

Chief Eilers - I tried to use my past experience. There is a big problem with traffic. We put up posters about radar and reduced our traffic to only 10 citations for the last year.

Chairman Vanasse - If we are not using the ones we have...

Chief Eilers - We are using one and we just found one we are going to send out to get looked at.

Tom Hildreth - In the past administration two units were ordered and one quit working.

Chief Eilers - The dispatch chair; sitting for long periods of time in those uncomfortable chairs is hard on the body.

We are making an office for Patti, there are no funds for a desk or anything. The work center is for the dispatch supervisors office.

Night vision binoculars; there is a big bootlegging business here, we need equipment to combat it. These binoculars are very effective and I've seen the benefits of using them. One set is for the Police Department and one is for the WAANT Unit. These are the items I feel we need to do the job in Bethel.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

**A. Law Enforcement Block Grant**

Chairman Vanasse - We would like to see a better crime reporting system.

Lt. Ely - Megg and Associates say they have an updated program that is Windows based versus DOS based. We are looking into this.

Chairman Vanasse - You have twenty-four months to spend the money?

Chief Eilers - Yes, twenty-four months.

Chairman Vanasse - We have to end because the mayor has another meeting to attend. I'd like to see a snow machine at the department.

Chief Eilers - We have some going into forfeiture; they are going through the court process.

Chairman Vanasse - We have a lot of snow machine thefts and DUI's on snow machines; a snow machine can follow their tracks. We'd like to work with the department of these items.

Chief Eilers - I didn't intentionally exclude anyone. I thought the public hearing had already been done.

John Hastie - I'd like to see jurisdictional meetings ratify the advisory board.

Mayor Richardson - We authorized the City Manager to sign the grant.

City Manager, Ken Weaver - I authorized the Chief to form the advisory board.

John Hastie - I called the Department of Justice; they thought add-on's to the existing Commission to get the advisory board a good idea. I missing some pages and got duplicates of other pages. They faxed me the missing pages.

Mayor Richardson - It disturbs me the way you do business. You could have jeopardized the grant. I disagree with your calling them; and asking them; and asking about the grant.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

**A. Law Enforcement Block Grant**

Chairman Vanasse - I didn't know he going to call, but I can understand the reasoning.

Mayor Richardson - Didn't you consider a call the Chief or the City Manager for that information.

City Manager, Ken Weaver - He did call the finance director.

Chairman Vanasse - I appreciate you coming Madam Mayor. (Mayor Richardson left the meeting - 7:05 p.m.)

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Formal meeting adjourned due to lack of a quorum.

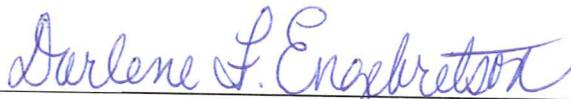
Next meeting January 6, 1997

PASSED AND APPROVED, AS AMENDED THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF FEB, 1997.



Chairman Thomas A. Hildreth

ATTEST:



Darlene F. Engebretson, Administrative Assistant