
City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

January 6, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on January 6, 2015 in the Bethel Police Department Training Room.

This meeting was called to order at 7:09pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chuck Herman *Council Representative*
Naim Shabani
Joan Dewey

Unexcused Absent: Pat Jennings *Vice Chair*

Ex-Officio Present: Andre Achee *Chief of Police*
Christina Him *Recorder and Transportation Inspector Designee*
William Howell III *Fire Chief*

A quorum was not established of the Commission.

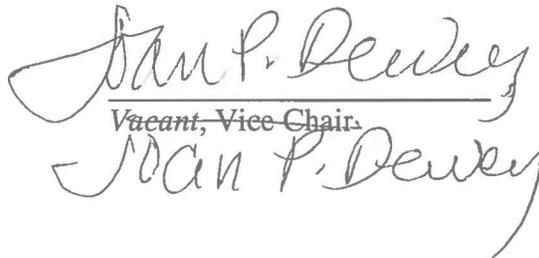
III. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm.

APPROVED THIS 7th DAY OF April, 2015.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan P. Dewey
~~Vacant, Vice Chair.~~
Joan P. Dewey

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

February 3, 2015

Cancelled Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

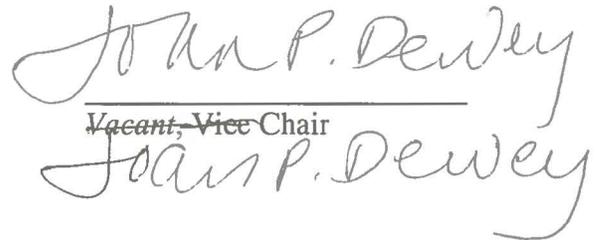
A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was NOT held on February 3, 2015 in the City Council Chambers.

This meeting was not called to order and was cancelled in advance due to not having enough members to establish a quorum.

APPROVED THIS 7th DAY OF April, 2015.



Christina Him, Recorder



~~Vacant, Vice Chair~~

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

March 3, 2015

Cancelled Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

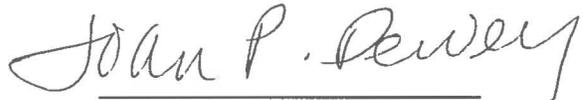
A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was NOT held on March 3, 2015 in the City Council Chambers.

This meeting was not called to order and was cancelled in advance due to not having enough members to establish a quorum.

APPROVED THIS 7th DAY OF April, 2015.



Christina Him, Recorder



~~Vacant~~, Vice Chair



City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

April 7th, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on April 7th, 2015 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

II. ROLL CALL

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

Excused absent: Bill Howell *Fire Chief*

Ex-Officio Present: Daron Solesbee *Fire Department Representative*
 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 September 2, October 7, November 4, and December 2, 2014 and January 6, February 3, and March 3 2015.
SECONDED:	Dewey	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

VI. SPECIAL ITEM OF BUSINESS

A. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair

MOVED:	Shabani	Motion to nominate Joan Dewey for Chair.
SECONDED:	Welch	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to nominate Alisha Welch for Vice Chair.
SECONDED:	Shabani	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

B. Annual Commission Training

See Overview in Council Packet

VII. CHIEFS' COMMENTS

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

Chief Andre Achee- Dispatch was up to full staff for two months. The majority of last year we were down on staffing in every position in the police department. We are now at minimum staffing in dispatch. We have two police officer recruits at the academy, when they come back they will complete their FTO program and we will be above minimum staffing. We have two patrol positions vacant, one investigator, one dispatcher; we are full in CSP and CSO. We have made multiple offers of conditional employment to experienced candidates in the last six months, but we attract people to stay here- Bethel is a unique area. Our two recruits are from Bethel. Our three non-sworn CSP positions are filled; their primary role is to guide people who cannot take care of themselves to protective custody. The Community Service Patrol grant we have been getting every year was submitted and accepted for this year so we can continue with our current number of positions.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman- *No comments to share*

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Items

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Drug Screening Policy for Chauffeurs.

MOVED:	Welch	Motion to continue review of the drug screening
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SECONDED:	Shabani	policy for Chauffeurs to the next meeting.
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

B. Punch-in Clocks for Public Safety Personnel

Discussed, no action taken

C. Taxi Permit Number and Vehicle Numbers

MOVED:	Shabani	Motion to remove the cab numbers from vehicle permits.
SECONDED:		
MOVED:	Shabani	Motion to direct the Transportation Inspector designee to look into the feasibility of changing to a single number system for cab permits and a timeline to do such.
SECONDED:	Welch	
PRIMARY AMENDMENT:	All in favor.	
VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION	All in favor	

D. Revocation of Vehicle Permit (BMC 5.20.110)

MOVED:	Shabani	Motion to amend the language of BMC 5.20.110 to strike 45 consecutive and 90 consecutive days and add 180 days in a 12 month period.
SECONDED:	Welch	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

I. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chuck Herman- *All seemed pretty straightforward and pretty well orchestrated no other comments.*

Alisha Welch- *No comments.*

Naim Shabani- *Happy to see us having a meeting, other than that, no comments.*

Joan Dewey- *Glad to have a meeting too, there's business to take care of I believe there are a lot of public safety issues that we will be faced with this year. Vice chair, it's very nice to meet you. I will be attending a required training the week of May 5th so I will not be here.*

II. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm

APPROVED THIS 2 DAY OF June, 2015.


 KaJena Baty, Recorder


 Joan Dewey, Chair

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

May 5, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on May 5, 2015 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Naim Sabani
Alisha Welch *Vice Chair*

Excused Absent: Joan Dewey *Chair*

Absent: Chuck Herman *Council Representative*

Ex-Officio Present: Andre Achee *Chief of Police*
William Howell III *Fire Chief*
Christina Him *Recorder and Transportation Inspector Designee*

A quorum was not established of the Commission.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm.

APPROVED THIS 2 DAY OF June, 2015.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair

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

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

July 7, 2015

Cancelled Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was NOT held on July 7th, 2015 in the City Council Chambers.

This meeting was not called to order and was cancelled in advance due to a one month summer recess in July.

APPROVED THIS 4th DAY OF September, 2015.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

August 10, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on August 10th, 2015 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Naim Sabani
Chuck Herman *Council Representative*

Excused Absent: Joan Dewey *Chair*

Absent: Alisha Welch *Vice Chair*

Ex-Officio Present: Andre Achee *Chief of Police*
Christina Him *Recorder and Transportation Inspector Designee*

Ex-Officio Absent: William Howell III *Fire Chief*

A quorum was not established of the Commission.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF September, 2015.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

September 1st, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on September 1st, 2015 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:04PM

II. ROLL CALL

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

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

Other Present: Patty Burley *City Attorney*

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Frank Mazzaro – Kusko Cab Driver: *Wanted clarification on what a Public Hearing is, specifically agenda item (VI) BMC 5.40.080 Carrying Alcoholic Beverages. Doesn't want to speak in "People to be Heard", but would speak when topic is brought up later on in the meeting.*

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 June 2 nd , July 7 th , and August 10 th , 2015.
SECONDED:	Sabani	

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.
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VI. SPECIAL ITEM OF BUSINESS

- A. Public Hearing:** On the price and quality of service provided by all regulated vehicles, chauffeurs and dispatch services.

Frank Mazzaro – Kusko Cab Driver: *Would like to know if there is anything specific PSTC will be talking about.*

Per Bethel Municipal Code 5.20.030 C: The Public Safety and Transportation Commission is required to hold two Public Hearing meetings to investigate the quality of services rendered by regulated vehicles, permittees, chauffeurs and dispatch services and shall make such recommendations to the city council as it deems necessary for the improvement of such services.

This is an open discussion, and the public can attend and say what they need to say. This is the first Public Hearing, and another will probably be conducted before the year is over.

VII. CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Chief Bill Howell- *The good news is, the Fire Department is fully staffed for all of the allotted positions, however it is still down one position that was eliminated by fiscal year '15. The department is attempting to seek grant funding through a federal safer grant that was previously awarded to get a position restored.*

Currently the department is training three people, one of which is a local hire, and two are from out of state. The trainees are doing great, and the most recent hire was here on August 21st; it is exciting and nice to have some help.

One ambulance is out of service and is getting repaired at the City Shop; however it should be repaired hopefully this week.

The Fire Department is gearing up for Fire Prevention and are in the process of purchasing fire hats, lollipops, and rulers for the kids, as well as scheduling the schools for fire prevention visits. This is done every October, so there are a lot of on-going preparations.

The EMT-1 course will begin on Sept 21st through December 4th. If anyone is interested in volunteering as an EMT and would like to take the course, it would be a great way to serve the community. Recruitment is encouraged and if qualified applicants are obtained, there will be incentives (hat, buttons, supporter t-shirt) for the referral.

The department will be getting a new pick up/plow truck that should be coming in on the last barge. Hoping the plow won't be a cooler for the snow coming this year, trying to stay optimistic and hope that we do have some snow.

Chief Andre Achee – *See Report in Commission Packet*

VIII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman –*Met with the Department of Transportation (DOT) officials along with the city manager in regards to Ridgecrest Drive. The City is trying to revamp the whole roadway in front of the high school, however it is unclear which way council is going on financially, as the City would have to come up with \$260,000.00 for a \$3 million dollar project. Essentially, revamping the big stretch of road would help in reducing traffic congestion, dust, and pedestrian walkways as well as help the kids around the area. Also spoke with Senator Sullivan about board walks during his visit in Bethel and how important boardwalks are for the community. Currently boardwalks are classified as under “recreation” by the federal government, which means that money from the transportation budget cannot be spent on board walks. In Bethel, boardwalks are used for transportation to get around. He will continue to look at this issue with Council.*

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Drug Screening Policy for Chauffeurs

Discussed, no action taken. Commission member Sabani – will speak to Bethel Family Clinic or other agencies in regards to random drug testing services.

B. Taxi Permit Number and Vehicle Numbers

Taxi permit numbers will match its corresponding vehicle numbers and will be implemented with the next scheduled semi-annual inspection of Alaska Cab. A drafted letter notifying cab owners of the change of permit numbers to match their vehicle numbers will be sent out. Schedule of fees for BMC approved decals will need to be sent over to finance department before implementation of selling the decals at the police department.

C. Revocation of Vehicle Permit (BMC 5.20.110)

Per last PSTC meeting, the commission successfully passed the 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. This will be forwarded to Council before the next Council meeting.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. BMC 5.40.080 Carrying Alcoholic Beverages (Commission Member Sabani)

Please see (B). Council Recommendations for BMC Changes as this matter is directly related.

B. Council Recommendations for BMC Changes

(i). Ordinance #15-19 / Ordinance #15-20

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to not recommend Ordinance #15-19 – An ordinance amending Bethel Municipal Code Chapter 5.40.070, Chauffeurs, Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances and repealing 5.40.080, Chauffeurs Carrying Alcoholic Beverages. This motion also simultaneously voids Ordinance #15-20, An Ordinance by the Bethel City Council Amending Bethel Municipal Code Chapter 5.20.120F, Penalties and Remedies.
SECONDED:	Sabani	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

(ii). Ordinance #15-21

MOVED:	Welch	Motion to not recommend Ordinance #15-21, An Ordinance by the Bethel City Council Amending Bethel Municipal Code, Chapter 5.30, Taxicab, River Taxi, Limousine and Global Positioning System Capabilities.
SECONDED:	Herman	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

C. Community Preparedness – PFD (Chair Dewey)

The Public Safety and Transportation Commission discussed ways in which the commission can assist with community preparedness during PFD (Permanent Fund Dividend) season, as there is a significant increase of intoxicated individuals and child welfare situations during the month of October. This includes the opening of the Winter House, which should be fully staffed for the homeless and the Sobering Center for inebriates who are unable to care for themselves. Additionally with the support of the Bethel Police Department’s CSP (Community Service Patrol) Program, the police department is confident that they will have sufficient staffing to handle the work load during PFD season. Other resources include the Fire Department, which have in the past helped with providing transportation of intoxicated individuals to protective custody or a safe residence.

Providing a safe haven for inebriates during this time of the year is important. The public have in the past been helpful and continue to do so by notifying the police department of intoxicated individuals. Inebriates are not always transferred to the jail or the sobering center first; typically if they have a safe residence to go to, they are transported there. It is a preference that they go home to their families, however the reality at times, they have to be taken into protective custody.

One of the CSP protocols includes asking the intoxicated individuals if they have somewhere to go to, a friend or a relative that can help take care of them. CSPs are typically cross trained, and the next EMT class starts in September, most of the time they take advantage of it. The Fire Department is fully staffed with firefighters and EMT personnel. There are 38

total volunteers, and about half of the volunteers are medics. There are also two ambulances available.

D. City Council Candidacy (Vice Chair Welch)

Vice Chair Welch is running for City Council, and if elected would not be able to be a part of PSTC. However, she is encouraging someone who is interested in applying to be a part of the commission. She will continue to encourage people to apply, so that meetings can continue.

I. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Joan Dewey- Would like all commission members to think about and keep promoting the service aspect of being on a committee. Values PSTC in terms of the issues that come here for of the community. Hopes that commission members can think of other candidates that might be able to help. Also hopes that the community has a safe PFD season, as too many kids feel the effect.

Naim Sabani- Good luck and congratulations to Alisha. She will be missed here if she gets elected.

Chuck Herman- First Tuesday of October is Election Day, which is also the next scheduled PSTC meeting. Proposes to change the next meeting to Monday, October 5th, 2015 at the same time.

Alisha Welch- No comments.

MOVED:	Herman	Move to change the date of the next meeting from October 6 th to October 5 th at 7:00pm.
SECONDED:	Sabani	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

II. ADJOURNMENT

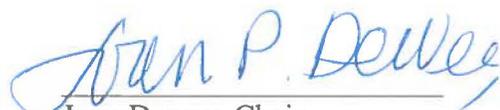
MOVED:	Welch	Motion to adjourn.
SECONDED:	Herman	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

Meeting adjourned at 9:48pm

APPROVED THIS 5th DAY OF October, 2015.



 Christina Him, Recorder



 Joan Dewey, Chair

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

October 5th, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on October 5th, 2015 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:05PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joan Dewey *Chair*
 Alisha Welch *Vice Chair*
 Chuck Herman *Council Representative*
 Deborah White

Absent: Naim Sabani

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

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Frank Mazzaro – *What section of the BMC code states that there is a violation for customers who are not paying cab fares. Would like to post a sign in his cab that states that it is a violation to not pay to eliminate the problem altogether.*

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:	Welch	Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of September 1, 2015.
SECONDED:	Herman	

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

Chief Bill Howell- *See Report in Commission Packet*

Chief Andre Achee – *Monthly stats for the month of September is not completed yet, due to the person who typically compiles the statistics being on leave. Officer Quinn is our new police officer; he has a little over 10 years of experience. His wife was also recently hired as a Public Safety Dispatcher, and she has about 10 years of experience as well.*

Last month we lost Officer Alicia Chagluak to the Anchorage Police Department. Additionally, at the end of last week, Officer Fedolfi also tendered his resignation from the police department. We are doing our best to try to continue to retain and recruit officers, however it is a difficult process.

Other than that, this week PFD (Permanent Fund Dividend) came in, and it hit hard. We really appreciate the fire department and EMS for doing their part. Ambulance and EMS did a great job taking care of inebriates when we did not have a CSO/CSPs working this weekend on day shift.

Once I return, at the end of this week, I will have the updated current statistics for the month. We ran into some problems with the stats, we have two different types of record management systems that we utilize on eForce, which tells us the total number of calls and total types of call; which is different from the total number of arrests and police reports. The last two months there have been some confusion on this, so we are working on tightening this up on the program so we can get a better and accurate representation of the stats of police reports.

VII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

VIII. COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman – *We got a lot of stuff sent to us from Council, I am trying to be a little more active in terms of when things apply to the PSTC. I put one thing on here that does not have supporting documentation but I can discuss everything when we get to it.*

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Drug Screening Policy for Chauffeurs

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to postpone discussion to the next scheduled PSTC meeting due to Commission Member Sabani's absence.
SECONDED:	Welch	

B. Formal Recommendations/Clarification for disapproval of Ordinance #15-19, 15-20, 15-21

Discussed, recommendations for proposed ordinances will be drafted onto the appropriate Recommendations Form to City Council and presented to Council, once completed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Curfew Policy

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to postpone discussion to the next scheduled PSTC meeting to consult with City Attorney, Patty Burley
SECONDED:	Welch	

B. Ordinance #15-31 Amending Operation of Low Speed Vehicles

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to recommend Ordinance #15-31 Amending Operation of Low Speed Vehicles, with changes.
SECONDED:	White	

C. Ordinance #15-32 Repealing and Replacing BMC 5.08, Alcoholic Beverages

Discussed, no action taken, requesting City Attorney Patty Burley's presence at the next scheduled meeting to discuss this more thoroughly.

I. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Chuck Herman- *Wanted to address Frank Mazzaro's concerns about passengers who are not paying cab fares in BMC. Referred question over to Chief Achee, who recommended that it is his legal right, to post the specific statute (AS 11.46.200 "Theft of services") in his vehicle if he wanted to. It is a class B misdemeanor crime, and he can call the BPD to press charges. Good luck to Alisha.*

Joan Dewey - *Thank you Deborah for being here and welcome. It will be an interesting night tomorrow with voting, if everyone votes. I am hoping this week, something changes, and it is less crazy out there. Good luck to Alisha, Thank you Diane for your participation.*

Deborah White – *No comments.*

Alisha Welch- *I would like to welcome Deborah to PSTC, it is nice to have another body on this commission so we can have a quorum.*

Chief Bill Howell – *I would like to thank the Council for being here and doing what you do. It is good to be a part of this process, I thank you guys and gals.*

Chief Andre Achee – *I Appreciate your time and apologize it's been two PSTC meetings in a row that unfortunately, I have been out of town. I am glad to be able to participate in the process.*

II. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm

APPROVED THIS 3rd DAY OF November, 2015.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

November 3rd, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on November 3rd, 2015 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joan Dewey *Chair*
Naim Sabani
Eileen Henrickson
Julene Webber

Absent: Chuck Herman *Council Representative*
Bill Howell *Fire Chief*
Deborah White

Ex-Officio Present: Andre Achee *Chief of Police*
Christina Him *Recorder and Transportation Inspector Designee*

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

None

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED:	Sabani	Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of October 5 th , 2015.
SECONDED:	Webber	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

VI. SPECIAL ITEM OF BUSINESS

A. Resignation of Vice Chair, Alisha Welch

*Resignation of Vice Chair Alisha Welch, due to being elected to City Council.
Resignation accepted by PSTC.*

VII. CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Chief Andre Achee – Fire Chief Howell is busy with the Kilbuck, KLA School Fire. At this time, there is an open investigation of the fire; there are no obvious signs of anything; that is for the experts to determine. I stopped by the scene and there have been great community support from members of the public. This was also the first time I've ever seen, the DOT's (Department of Transportation) fire truck assisting with the fire.

This week, Bethel is hosting a Sexual Assault Response Training. This is being hosted regionally, and troopers from around the state and locally, as well as many officers from the Bethel Police Department are attending. The training covers a variety of different disciplines including the medical aspect, counselor aspect and law enforcement aspects. The training is being held in the Cultural Center.

The City of Bethel is also hosting a first line, two-day supervisor/leadership training course. Christina Him and our Dispatch Supervisor, Natalie Hayes is attending it, in addition to about 15 supervisors from the City attending. There are about 25 City employees attending this training course.

Dispatch is at full staff and our last dispatcher that was in field training just got off training last week. We have 4 independent dispatchers and a dispatch supervisor, which is nice because it has been at least 6-9 months that we were not at full staff in dispatch.

Our grant funded position, CSP (Community Service Patrol) is at full staff. We still have a vacancy for the CSO Animal Control Officer position – there are contractual issues dealing with the collective bargaining agreement. Our CSO program was developed as a recruitment pool to develop local talents for prospective officers to work their way up.

We are below half staff in patrol. Lieutenant Joe Corbett tendered his resignation and accepted a job at a correctional center. We are busy trying to recruit, and we have interviewed people, however there is an issue –cost of living, and trying to compete with other positions offered in Bethel. There are good applicants that qualify, however we do not have the budget for them. State positions starting salary begins at a higher rate than a starting officer and the State also has a great benefits package. The Average officer is working about 84 hours a week; however our officers are working 120 hours a pay period due to staff shortage and are getting burned out. If we were at full staff, it would be different, however we maintain minimum staffing especially at night time, where we have to have at least 2 officers on because of the safety aspect. There has been a lot of difficulty in recruitment and retaining; switching over from an urban to a more rural road system, as well as social Media portraying only the negative aspects, which unfortunately is all that people see.

With recruitment, we have a set of standard procedures that include full backgrounds, polygraphs and psychological tests. This is a standard for most law enforcement agencies. We had an option of a one week-on, two week-off program, and we tried to push for it, however we were told that this was not possible due to something administratively or some matter pertaining to PERS or retirement. The Kotzebue Police Department had the same issues that we are

currently having, but ever since they implemented the two week-on two week-off schedule, they never had a problem with recruitment. The biggest concern for me with the two week-on, two week-off is that those officers may not become a part of the community.

It is hard to compete with other agencies that have a road system and better benefits packages. Another concern is trying to retain the experienced bodies here. Police Officer salaries starts about a little over \$40K annually, where as a Correctional Officer starts at about \$31/hour; unfortunately we are unable to compete with that salary. Another issue is the City's V&E (Vehicles and Equipment) department not having enough personnel to maintain our fleet, which makes it difficult for us.

The majority of our officers are looking for jobs elsewhere right now. There was debate about a two-on, two-off schedule to help recruit and retain officers, however we were told that we could not do it, but the State is able to do it.

Housing is another factor in recruitment, most state jobs included housing in their packages, however the Public Safety Housing will be available this month and there is an open invitation to Public Safety.

This week is our APSIN (Alaska Public Safety Information Network) audit. APSIN is equivalent to NCIC (National Crime Information Center), and our dispatch supervisor, Natalie Hayes is doing great by getting her statistics done and making sure we are in compliance with the state standards. We can further discuss the recruitment for vacant police positions at the next PSTC meeting under new business, once we get more statistics and figures, including how much overtime have been expended out of our budget, to address this issue.

VIII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman – *Absent.*

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Discussed, no action taken, will continue discussion at the next scheduled PSTC Meeting.

B. Formal Recommendations/Clarification for disapproval of Ordinance #15-19, 15-20, 15-21 *(Council Member Herman)*

Discussed, no action taken, requesting City Attorney Patty Burley's and Council Member Herman's presence at the next scheduled meeting to discuss this more thoroughly.

C. Curfew Policy *(Council Member Herman)*

Discussed, no action taken, requesting City Attorney Patty Burley's and Council Member Herman's presence at the next scheduled meeting to discuss this more thoroughly.

D. Ordinance #15-31 Amending Operation of Low Speed Vehicles

Discussed, no action taken, postpone discussion to the next scheduled PSTC meeting to consult with City Attorney, Patty Burley.

E. Ordinance #15-32 Repealing and Replacing BMC 5.08, Alcoholic Beverages

Discussed, no action taken.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance #15-28: Complete Streets

MOVED:	Sabani	Motion to pass Ordinance #15-28 Complete Streets.
SECONDED:	Henrickson	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

XII. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Joan Dewey – Today reminded me of just how important each day is and being grateful for a lot of good people in this town who rallied when we had an emergency, pretty impressive. Also, welcome to our new members as well, it is wonderful to have the energy and our old members for being here.

Naim Sabani - Good job to the police department with everything they are going through and hopefully we can resolve their issues.

Julene Webber – Thank you and I look forward to serving this community.

Eileen Henrickson – Thank you, it's very interesting so far. Nice to see how some things work that you are not always familiar with.

Chief Andre Achee – The one thing about small communities is that everyone comes together, I was just so surprised seeing all the people down there and people dropping off food. Thank you for joining the commission and volunteering for it. Kudos to the fire department, their total staffing is 5, they get their business done by their volunteer firefighters and EMTs; and those are your neighbors, they did a phenomenal job today.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED:	Webber	Motion to adjourn.
SECONDED:	Sabani	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm

APPROVED THIS 1st DAY OF December, 2015.



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair

City of Bethel, Alaska

Public Safety & Transportation Commission

December 1, 2015

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Public Safety and Transportation Commission was held on December 1st, 2015 in the Bethel City Hall Council Chambers.

This meeting was called to order at 7:05PM

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Joan Dewey *Chair*
Chuck Herman *Council Representative*
Eileen Henrikson
Julene Webber

Absent: Naim Shabani
Deborah White

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 November 3.
SECONDED:	Henrikson	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

VI. SPECIAL ITEM OF BUSINESS

A. Nominations for Vice Chair

MOVED:	Webber	Motion to nominate Eileen Henrikson for Vice Chair.
SECONDED:	Herman	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

VII. CHIEFS' COMMENTS

Chief Bill Howell – *See Report in Commission Packet.*

Chief Andre Achee – *Staffing issues since the last PSTC meeting - we are down one position, Lt. Corbett's last day was a couple of weeks ago, he has relocated to the Soldotna area. Sgt. Limani and Davis have been conducting interviews for potential candidates. We have good prospective candidates and their backgrounds are done. We will probably be extending several conditional offers of employment. If these candidates pass everything, they will make a fine addition to our team. Dispatch is at full staff.*

Yesterday was the grand opening for the Willow Place Apartments. Michelle DeWitt with Bethel Community Services Foundation (BCSF) did a phenomenal job and assisted us with the grant application for Public Safety.

I have spoken with APSC (Alaska Police Standards Council) and am currently attending AACOP (Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police) to speak with other chiefs in regards to retention and recruitment and what is working for them.

The fire department did a phenomenal job; we and AST troopers assisted them with the fire

Currently, the police department is budgeted for 8 patrol officers, but we are down 4. We have 1 patrol officer who is currently the acting investigator. We have 2 patrol sergeants and 1 investigative sergeant. Our night shift start at 7pm-7am, and it is staffed at minimum staffing, which is 2 officers. We are staffed with 1 patrol officer for half of the week during day shift and I assist them as need be, as well as AST - we appreciate their efforts as well.

Our dispatch supervisor is in Utah attending a conference with eForce which is the records management system software that we use at the police department. She will be learning all the functions of the software that we use in dispatch.

The Police Department participated in the Public Health Nursing Health Fair that was also co-sponsored by YKHC. It was a good turn-out, our employees showed up and we used our command mobile trailer to assist.

Preventative maintenance is an issue that the City and Public works is working on regarding mechanical staffing. We are trying our best to ensure our public safety and emergency response vehicles are maintained and operational. We have addressed this issue with the city manager and we are hoping that we find good mechanics

VIII. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR REPORT

See Report in Commission Packet

IX. COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Council Member Herman – *Item E on the agenda (Ordinance #15-32 Repealing and Replacing BMC 5.08, Alcoholic Beverages) has been passed by Council. Item D (Ordinance #15-31, Amending Operation of Low Speed Vehicles) has also passed. We’ll talk about agenda item B (Ordinance #15-19, 15-20, 15-21) when we get to it. Essentially, the goal of these ordinances was to cut down alcohol sales in cabs. We voted to not approve all 3 proposed ordinances, however the reason it hasn’t gone back to council is because we did not follow the proper process/procedures to vote on it as a body. Generally a lot of the issues will be addressed by legal alcohol sales.*

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Discussed, no action taken, will continue discussion at the next scheduled PSTC Meeting when Shabani is present.

B. Formal Recommendations/Clarification for disapproval of Ordinance #15-19, 15-20, 15-21 (Council Member Herman)

The goal is to cut down on alcohol sales in cabs. PSTC voted to not recommend the ordinances. We formally move to disapprove.

- 15-19 - PSTC does not support this as there are concerns with the lack of due process for taxi drivers. PSTC would be more interested in a tiered system
- 15-21 - PSTC does not support this ordinance as it is cost prohibitive, estimated at about \$2,200 and there are also concerns with privacy.

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to disapprove Ordinance #15-19 for the reason of concerns with the lack of due process for taxi drivers and an interest in a tiered system of punishment by PSTC.
SECONDED:	Webber	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

MOVED:	Herman	Motion to disapprove Ordinance #15-21 for the reason of concerns that the system is cost prohibitive and concerns with privacy.
SECONDED:	Webber	
VOTE ON MAIN MOTION	All in favor.	

C. Curfew Policy (Council Member Herman)

The idea was to discuss and clarify other options other than monetary citations to juveniles, such as offering community service for curfew violations. The court has always gone with offering community work instead of a fine. The discretion that is given is usually community service work.

D. Ordinance #15-31 Amending Operation of Low Speed Vehicles

No action taken, ordinance passed by council.

E. Ordinance #15-32 Repealing and Replacing BMC 5.08, Alcoholic Beverages

No action taken, ordinance passed by council.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Police Department Staffing Levels

We discussed this a little bit during the last PSTC meeting, however we are still working on some issues. Money can't just be thrown into it, we have to throw other ideas into it, and we are still working on the ideas, but money does play a little of a role. We do compete with the State of Alaska for employees, not only for the police department, but for the City of Bethel. We normally don't compete with Alaska State Troopers, but we do compete with other criminal justice organizations within the City, i.e. Correctional Officers. The starting pay for CO1 (Correctional Officer 1), with minimum requirements of being 19 years of age or older, with a clear background, is \$31/hour. Whereas police officers start at around \$21/hr. After a year of probation, a correctional officer's pay increases to around \$34/hour. The City of Bethel does offer good benefits packages, however we have to compete with salaries.

We extended two conditional offers to two experienced officers; unfortunately we were not able to compete with the salary so they turned down the job. If we offer them more money than our own current staff, that have been in Bethel for 2-5 years, then this would cause a disparity among the ranks. It is a morale issue and it has happened about 10 years ago in this department.

We are working on trying to get support from PSTC and the finance director. I am looking within our existing budget to satisfy some of the monetary issues that my employees may have and bring it to council. I am not going to council to ask to throw more money at the police department, but I am looking at the existing budget to satisfy the monetary issues that some of my employees may have. This will help to retain existing officers as well as help with recruitment.

Shift issues may help with the morale and help recruit some individuals, but there are some contractual issues. We have to make sure the contractual issues are legal due to some of the PERS requirements, etc.

The way that the City of Bethel currently advertises for Police Officers is done through our Human Resources manager. The police department advertises the positions on free websites for law enforcement - i.e. www.policeone.com, which is a free national website for law enforcement agencies to post vacant positions on. For certain executive type of positions or supervisor positions, there are other free websites such as, APOA and AACOP as well. Word of mouth from past employees or current employees has also helped with recruitment. We have not paid for professional recruiters or paid for advertisement. We use resources that are free and get the message out there. At the recent job fair, our HR manager Laura Cloward attended and we tried to send a couple of officers there as well to assist with recruitment.

A far as housing for law enforcement officers, The Willow House Apartments is a private company, however if there is a vacancy, law enforcement officers will have priority. There are incentives for relocation expenses, housing allowance and employees are reimbursed, however they are required to sign a commitment contract.

We have been basically between 70-50% for over a year in staffing. For emergency situations, AST will assist BPD, but not in basic patrol coverage. Even if we hired a brand new police officer, who is ready to go to the academy, they will not be available for 3 months, as they will be attending the academy for that period. All Police Officers that are hired have a polygraph examination and a psychological examination done, as well as a complete full background prior to employment; this helps eliminates applicants.

B. Fire Department Staffing in Anticipation for Increased Calls for Service due to Liquor Sales

We have a couple of things going on here, the fire department is currently a reactive department, but in the areas that we can be proactive, we are trying to be - one area is staffing. We have been successful at hiring people immediately, and that is a strength for us. The opening of liquor stores is going to be a pretty intense period for Bethel in Public Safety. We deal with a lot of issues that the PD is facing, especially with turnovers.

We are currently training a new employee and we just finished training 3 other new employees. We have a really new crew at the department. Employees getting burned out are a huge concern, as a lot of times, they are asked to standby when they are off duty. They get compensated for it, however even with that being said, when you are constantly cutting into another person's off time, it is tough. We are having to do the coverage because we have 3 shifts and only 5 people to cover it. The assumption is that we are going to have a lot of activity when the liquor

stores are open. If you need evidence, look at what happens during Dividend time. There were 162 calls for service in October for the fire department and the percentages for alcohol related incidents were significant.

The City of Bethel went “wet” in October of 2009, and after that, it was busier for alcohol related calls for services. From 2011 through 2015, our call volumes have just continued to increase year after year. In FY 2015 (2014) our 6th firefighter position was defunded. Based on call volume and numbers, we are up about 23% in call volumes. Alcohol related calls are up about 35% within those 4 years.

I really believe that the liquor store is going to create a lot more call volume for the police department and fire department.

The fire department assists the police department when they are not available. The EMTs will be called to handle these calls and transport inebriated individuals.

We would like to refund the currently vacant positions in our department and we are going to aggressively go after grant funding for these positions (firefighter and EMT positions). We would like to see two firefighters on shift for firefighter safety – if one firefighter goes into the house before the second firefighter or volunteer comes in, they are at risk of safety because their resources are going to be stressed. We would like to take the fire captain off a working shift position, so that he can manage day to day basis operations, such as pre-fire planning and working/training with the crew. We are looking for support from the PSTC and would like to keep this on the agenda and give PSTC more information at the next meeting.

XII. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Joan Dewey – I think this has been one of our more important meetings and I think that it's great to see people having a quorum and being able to have these meetings.

Julene Webber – I just value our police and our fire departments and I'd like to see that be supported in this community, and so I'm going to do what I can do to help make that happen.

Eileen Henrikson – No comments.

Chuck Herman – No comments.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm

APPROVED THIS 2ND DAY OF February, 2016



Christina Him, Recorder



Joan Dewey, Chair