

Berlin Police Commission Meeting Minutes June 21, 2023

The Berlin police commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday June 21, 2023 in the 'Doc' McIntosh Conference Room at the Berlin Town Hall, 240 Kensington Road, Berlin CT.

In Attendance Chairman Steven Wilson, Vice Chairman Dave Rogan, Commissioners Paul Eshoo, Melissa Urrunaga, Ryan Zelek and Chief Matt McNally

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilson at 628pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience of Citizens- Charles Colaresi and Peter Galgano, both representing the Veterans Commission, asked to address the Commission regarding the outstanding job of the Police Department with managing the traffic and safety for the towns Memorial Day Parade. Additionally, Mr Colaresi stated the weather could not have been better and the crowd that participated and viewed the parade was never bigger. Lastly Mr Colaresi commented that Chief Matt McNally delivered an impressive speech and the Veterans Commission could not be more pleased. Mr Colaresi turned the floor over to Peter Galgano whom presented to the chief a plaque honoring his contribution, acknowledging his strength in supporting the Veterans in the Town of Berlin.

Richard Morley. 27 Grove Street, East Berlin. Mr Morley asked to address the commission regarding several remarks made under the audience of citizens at the Commissions May 17th 2023 meeting. Mr Morley stated that some of the comments were more of attack on his character as opposed to addressing a parking problem on Grove street. He reiterated that though the police had been called at numerous times, no violation of street parking had been cited. Chairman Wilson advised Mr Morley that the matter has been looked into by the department and that he himself had driven out to look at the situation. A discussion followed. Chairman Wilson confirmed with Chief McNally that no further complaints had been filed. Mr Morley thanked the Commission for their time.

Approval for the May 17th 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion to accept as submitted was made by Vice Chairman Dave Rogan and seconded by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga. All were in favor.

Approval for the June 12th 2023 meeting minutes. Motion to accept the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Paul Eshoo and seconded by Vice Chairmsn Dave Rogan. All were in favor.

Motion to enter Executive Session regarding a personnel matter was made at 639pm by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga and seconded by Commissioner Paul Eshoo.

All were in favor. In Executive Session was Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman Rogan, Commissioners Eshoo, Urrunaga and Zelek. Invited in was Chief Matt McNally.

Motion to Exit Executive Session and resume the agenda was made at 705pm by Commissioner Urrunaga and seconded by Commissioner Zelek. All were in favor.

The Commission voted unanimously to hire candidates Cole Wendehack and Mary Claffey.

Report Reviews.

Investigative Division . Vice Chairman Rogan inquired after the LE Drone Program stated in the report. Chief McNally reported on how the program works, who participates and a brief discussion followed. Commissioner Urrunaga requested an explanation of a "File 1 recovery" as it involved juveniles. Chief McNally stated it was a recovered stolen vehicle.

Juvenile Activity . The Commission had no questions or comments.

Support Services. Commissioner Urrunaga wanted to express thanks for the Police work during the High School Graduation. As it was interrupted by rain, the officers did a great job managing the crowd and traffic.

Operations Division. Vice Chairman Rogan questioned the chief regarding an injured officer. Chief McNally updated the commission.

Community Relations. Chairman Wilson inquired as to the progress being made with the department's social media. Is there a way to report on site visits As Facebook is based on likes, does the department social media page work the same? There was a discussion as to who the officers involved and the need to involve more to keep the site updated. Chief McNally is actively working on that program.

Training Schedule. Task Force is looking at crashes, causes and reasons. Regional Accident Investigation Teams are overwhelmed. Chairman Wilson asked about the recent 'red light' camera laws that were passed. The Chief described to the group the various steps to advance the program in town. Chief McNally also reiterated that the Berlin Turnpike and Chamberlain Hwy are State roads, under the state's jurisdiction. There are many different levels of concern including initial cost and fees involved and The Chief encourages the Commission to proceed with caution.

FOI Report. Chief McNally reported to the group that fees involving FOI's and request for bodycam footage cannot be altered at this time to reflect the man hours involved.

Chiefs Monthly Report. Chief McNally reported that the calls for service are up. He also stated that he expects as the trend reflects, motor vehicle thefts will be up in June. The Chief also hopes to secure four seats at the academy in October and has

started a new round of interviews. Vice Chairman Rogan asked about the current staffing levels and the Chief explained that even with recent new hires, the department is still down 5 officers. Chief McNally reported that at their last meeting the Town Council Meeting, supported the collective bargaining – pension and contract.. This will be a positive to officers as they look to different towns for employment. Also 'street takeovers' have been actively pursued in Berlin and there is evidence they have moved onto the Vernon and Stafford Spring area. State Police, FBI and helicopter teams are aggressively addressing this ongoing problem. The Police cadet program is approaching its one year mark in town. Eight current cadets are going onto the academy in Westfield for a week long, tough program. The course will be held at the State University in Westfield.

Old Business. There was discussion regarding the star chase program. There was talk of new technology being pursued instead of the need to chase.

Motion to adjourn at 752pm was made by Commissioner Paul Eshoo and seconded by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by
Joan Veley
Recording Secretary
Police Commission

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BERLIN TOWN CLERK

2023 JUN 26 AM 8:33

Kathryn J. Wall

BERLIN, CT.