

## **Berlin Police Commission Meeting Minutes July 19, 2023**

The Berlin police commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday July 19, 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. Guests included Deputy Chief Drew Gallupe.

**The meeting was called to order** by Chairman Wilson at 630pm.

### **The Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Audience of Citizens-** Andra Millerd 1231 Orchard Road was on hand to address the Commission regarding several issues. First involves Pistol Creek. Ms Millerd utilizes the park for early walks and has noticed that fewer cars are yielding for pedestrians in the crosswalk. This is becoming a dangerous intersection and needs to be addressed. Perhaps through signage or even trimming the road brush further back so drivers can see pedestrians would assist. Chairman Wilson supported this idea and asked Chief McNally to investigate. The second issue is the continuing speeders on Orchard Road. There seems to be little notice or acknowledgment of speed limits posted, and this disregard only increases the potentially, dangerous incidents as many citizens use Orchard road for walking, jogging and cycling. Speeding cars frequently stray into oncoming lanes. Chairman Wilson asked Chief McNally to have the traffic officer review and recommend a solution. Third item: concerns over the increase of large hauling 18+ wheelers that are using Orchard Road as a quick short cut from the Chamberlain Hwy to the Berlin Turnpike. Ms Millerd asked if the town can restrict these trucks from using the town road as a short cut. Perhaps 'No thru Truck' signage can be revisited. This increasing truck traffic, along with speeders is making Orchard Road a danger. Additionally, Ms Millerd noticed that the Amtrak Bridge on Orchard Road does not have a weigh load posted. She was curious what that should be. Lastly, Ms Millerd wanted to point out the sporadic activity of the 'party house' on Orchard Road. Although it is no longer listed on AirBnB, the house traffic is not consistent with normal home ownership and care. She was concerned that the property was being used for illegal activities.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** for June 12, 2023. Commissioner Ryan Zelek pointed out that on *page one, paragraph one and two, under proposed pension plan Officer John Flynn should be Sergeant John Flynn.* No other corrections were needed.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes** for June 21, 2023. Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga sighted a typo on *page two, last paragraph- the word t4rend should be trend.* No other corrections were cited.

**Motion to approve the minutes of June 12th and June 21, 2023** minutes with corrections as noted was made by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga and seconded by vice Chairman Dave Rogan. All were in favor.

**Investigative Division Report- Lt Solek-** The Commission did not have any questions or concerns.

**Youth Report- Det Kelly** Vice Chairman Rogan asked about an 'infraction' issued to a parent over a juvenile dirt bike incident. Chief McNally confirmed the adult can be cited.

**Support Services Division- Lt Jobs.** Vice Chairman Rogan asked the chief about the process of waiving event fees for police involvement. The Chief explained the steps to the commission needed for a fee waiver, noting that the final decision lies with the Town Council.

**Operations Division Monthly Report- Lt Solek** There were no questions or comments from the Commission.

**Community Relations Team-** There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

**Training Schedule Deputy Chief Gallupe-** There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

**FOI Log-** There were no comments or questions from the Commission.

**Monthly Report- Chief Matt McNally.** The Chief advised the Commission that St Paul's School has been reviewed and prepped for possible 'bad scenarios'. Corrections have been made and drills will be scheduled.

There are four new hires in the Academy. Two in Meriden and two in New Britain. Overall, they are all doing very well. The Chief continues to be pro-active on hiring and announced a new round of candidate interviews will be held in upcoming week. Chairman Wilson asked if the new pension plan had an impact on hiring. The Chief noted it had a positive effect on drawing candidates in but there are hurdles to overcome on the road to employment. Chief McNally is hoping to have candidates ready for the October Academy Training Sessions.

**New Business.** A letter from Officer Thomas Bobeck regarding Governor Lamont's signage of Senate Bill 904. This bill requires each town to have a designated 'Traffic Authority'. Certification must be obtained and as Officer Bobeck has already completed the training, a motion to appoint Officer Bobek as the Towns Traffic Authority was made by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga and seconded by Vice Chairman Dave Rogan. All were in favor.

**Motion to move into Executive Session** at 720pm for the purpose of personnel discussion was made by Commissioner Paul Eshoo and seconded by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga. All were in favor. In Attendance was Chairman Wilson, Vice Chairman Rogan, Commissioners Eshoo, Urrunaga and Zelek. Invited in were Chief McNally and Deputy Chief Gallupe.

**Motion to exit the Executive Session** was made at 737pm by Commissioner Eshoo and seconded by Commissioner Urrunaga. All were in favor

The Police Commission voted unanimously to promote Sergeant Martin to Lieutenant Martin.

Deputy Chief Gallupe asked to address the Commission regarding a recently adopted Town Ordinance that requires all Commission and Board meeting to be Hybrid by Zoom and recording submitted to the Town Clerks Office for posting on the town website. This will be in effect as of August 16 2023.

**Motion to adjourn** at 749pm was made by Commissioner Paul Eshoo and seconded by Vice Chairman Dave Rogan. All were in favor.

Minutes Submitted by  
Joan Veley  
Recording Secretary- Police Commission

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
BERLIN TOWN CLERK

2023 JUL 24 AM 8:55

*Kathryn Wall*  
BERLIN, CT