

Berlin Police Commission Meeting Minutes Sept 20, 2023

The Berlin police commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday September 20, 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 and Traffic Officer Thomas Bobok

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 concerns shared at the July Commission meeting. She wanted to thank the commission for the improvements at the Pistol Creek pedestrian street cross way, However she felt more could be done. Ms Millerd suggested a 'push button' alert which would signal to drivers that a pedestrian is entering the crosswalk and for drivers to yield the right of way. Secondly, the shrubs and overgrowth along the street are hindering driver's view of the signage. Ms Millerd noted some shrub has been cut back, but more need to be trimmed. Chairman Wilson requested that the Town direct Steven Wood (Superintendent of Public Grounds) to investigate and clear back the scrub brush.

Next, Ms Millerd had raised concern over local bridges weigh bearing limits. Notably the Amtrak Bridge on Orchard Road. There are no posted weigh limits on that and other bridges in town and she was curious if any new information was available. Concern of the residents is that more heavy duty hauling trucks are now using Orchard Road as a cut through and between them and increased driver speeds the road is become unsafe. Ms Millerd has also witnessed large haul truck drivers hesitating to cross the bridge, unsure of its weight limit.

Approval of Minutes-The Commission had the opportunity to review the minutes for July's meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as submitted was made by Commissioner Paul Eshoo and seconded by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga. All were in favor.

There were no Correspondence submitted to the Commission.

Chief's Report- Chief McNally reviewed staffing grid submitted to the Commission. Targeting areas of Traffic concern. There was a brief discussion with regards to a new program that Lt Martin is implementing.

Chief McNally is in the process of hiring two new officers and 'pool sharing' is occurring but with the recent revisions to the pension and 401K Berlin is definitely seeing a boost in interest.

There is considerable amount of road work being done within town. A recent lightning strike to the Town Hall raised many issues with wi-fi, phone lines and emergency phone lines. Gladly, all those issues, have been resolved.

The Berlin Fair was discussed. Lots of Cadet participation not only from the Berlin Cadets, but other town cadet programs participated as well. Rain earlier in the week made large swaths of the parking lots unusable due to muddy conditions so there was a lot of redirecting to the shuttle bus lots. Overall, only one minor issue. A driver parked their car on a neighbor's lawn, blocking him in.

Vice Chairman Dave Rogan asked about the 'Caste System' noted in the chief's report. The Chief addressed the issue, explaining to the commission and a brief discussion followed.

Officer Thomas Bobek was on hand to address the Commission regarding PA 23-116, A multidisciplinary approach to roadway safety. A handout regarding the Public Act was distributed. Officer Bobek addressed the

Commission surrounding 'Vision Zero' . There was a discussion regarding the different steps in the process. From Red light cameras to fines to who will review grievances. All issues were addressed.

The Commission was introduced to two potential candidates for hire, Ryan Johnson and Michael Almeida. Commissioners were able to ask questions in a roundtable informal meeting with each candidate.

A motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing hiring personnel was made by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga at 735pm and seconded by Commissioner Paul Eshoo. All were in favor.

A motion to exit Executive Session was made at 807pm by Vice Chairman Dave Rogan and seconded by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga. All were in favor

Chairman Wilson announced that the Commission voted unanimously to offer Ryan Johnson a position with the Berlin Police Department.

Chairman Wilson announced that the Commission voted 4-1 to offer Michael Almeida a position with the Berlin Police Department.

Investigative Report- the Commission had no comments or concerns.

Youth Officers Report- the Commission had no comments or concerns.

Support Services Report- the Commission had no comments or concerns.

Patrol Operations Division-the Commission noted there was good feedback and kudos for stepped up activity

Community Relations-the Commission had no comments or concerns.

Administrative Operations Report-Chief McNally shared with the Commission the recent training that took place with St Paul's School. This ensures that all Berlin schools have had the same level of crisis management training.

FOI Log- the Commission had no comments or concerns.

A **motion to adjourn** was made at 822pm by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga and seconded by Commissioner Paul Eshoo. All were in favor.

Minutes Submitted by
Joan Veley
Recording Secretaery
Police Commission

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BERLIN TOWN CLERK



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