

Berlin Police Commission Meeting Meeting Minutes June 12, 2023

The Berlin police commission held a special meeting on Monday June 12, 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 530pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

Proposed Pension Plan Review- Present and Representing the Police Department was Officer John Flynn. As a recap Chairman Wilson stated the Commission was meeting to review and endorse the proposed pension plan. As a reminder the Commission cannot approve the contracts rather it is their job to endorse, reject or abstain from taking action on it. He encouraged the commission to consider this and keep this in mind, as the review process begins. The Roll call vote will be taken and each commissioner will have the ability to add comments to support their vote. These commissioner comments along with the roll call vote will be forwarded to the Town Council for their review and ultimately approval.

Chief McNally stated he had emailed the pension plan to the individual commission members. The plan would be effective July 1, 2023. Commissioner Ryan Zelek asked if the police union had approved the proposal. Officer Flynn stated they had. Chairman Wilson then turned the floor over to Chief McNally who provided a synopsis of the plans highlights. Chief McNally stated that any member eligible now would be immediately enrolled otherwise a 60 day window would apply for members to elect participation. He went onto discuss the benefits of the plan. Along with Officer Flynn they discussed pension levels for officers at different years of service and rates of pay. There was also a review of the death benefits, spousal benefits and early retirement. Commissioner Urrunaga raised the question of maternity leave and spousal maternity leave. The discussion ended the review of the 'highpoints' of the document. The Commission then went onto to have an open discussion that covered many different topics ranging from 401K loan ability to compensation for overtime and retirement age for officers.

Chairman Wilson then called for a roll call vote.

Commissioner Paul Eshoo voted to endorse without comment.

Commissioner Ryan Zelek voted to endorse without comment

Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga voted to endorse without comment.

Vice Chairman Dave Rogan voted to endorse, but had a question about the ability to do line item changes in the future.

Chairman Steven Wilson voted to endorse with the caveat that the document be corrected so that both descriptions of "earnings" reflect that it will not include overtime. Also, the commission needs to review and clarify the portion referring to full vesting at age 65.

The vote was unanimous to forward to the Town Council

Police Collective Bargaining Breakdown. Chief McNally took the lead to provide a brief overview of a document distributed to the group. Police uniform allowances to midnight shift differentials were reviewed. Compensatory time, workman's compensation and sick time accrual all lead to questions and discussion based on different scenarios. Chairman Wilson asked about definition of 'light duty' and the efforts to standardize pay rates. Chief McNally views the agreement as a win - win for both sides. Without further questions or discussion Chairman Wilson then called for a roll call vote on the Police Department Union Collective Bargaining agreement.

Commissioner Paul Eshoo voted yes and commented he wished to move it forward.

Commissioner Ryan Zelek voted yes without comment

Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga voted yes and ask to confirm that it would have a July 1, 2023 start date.

Vice-Chairman Dave Rogan voted yes and asked if commission would be able to line item change.

Chairman Steve Wilson voted yes without comment.

The document is unanimously supported has the approval to be forwarded to the Town Council.

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel discussion was made at 616pm by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga and seconded by Vice Chairman Dave Rogan.

Executive Session attended by Chairman Steve Wilson, Vice-Chairman Dave Rogan, Commissioners Ryan Zelek, Paul Eshoo and Melissa Urrunaga. Invited in was Chief Matt MaNally.

Motion to Exit Executive Session was made at 624pm by Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga and seconded by Commissioner Paul Eshoo.

Motion to adjourn was made at 626pm by Commissioner Paul Eshoo and seconded by Commissioner Ryan Zelek.

Minutes submitted by

Joan Veley

Recording Secretary/ Police Commission

Received on 6/14/2023

at 8:38:32 AM by Town Clerk

Kathryn J Wall