

The regular meeting of the Thurmont Police Commission was held on Wednesday, October 22, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. Present were: Chairman Thomas Iaccarino; Edwin Hutson; Keith Naff; Patrick Hait; Kirby Delauter; Chief G. Eyler; Ofc. S. Ambrose; and Commissioner Muth.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the September 24, 2008, meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The second item on the agenda was a report from Chief Eyler on TPD activities for September 2008. Statistics were previously disseminated. Chief Eyler asked for questions. Mr. Naff asked for clarification of the 11 vehicle thefts. Chief Eyler mentioned that he would check into those thefts.

Chairman Iaccarino asked how Colorfest went. Chief responded there were 102 Calls for Service, and over 300 parking tickets written. A lot of these tickets generated complaints from citizens parked on ramps. Chief did mention that this is the first year we hit the ramps that hard, and we are taking the heat because of it. Commissioner Muth stated that the BOC is looking to raise parking fines for Colorfest in the future.

Chairman Iaccarino reiterated that we will postpone National Night Out until next year due to department issues, specifically Lt. Williar's status.

Next agenda item included a discussion of future goals for the Police Commission. Mr. Hait requested that a list of Homeland Security Wish List items be forwarded to all other members to view. Chief Eyler requested that TPC members aid in looking for other grants which might be available. Chairman Iaccarino asked about grants for K9 Unit. Chief Eyler responded that he wants to hold off at his time. We still apply for grants to see if we get it, however, it would be best to wait at this time. Chief Eyler also mentioned that he still needs to work on obtaining stats regarding benefits of an intoximeter.

Commissioner Muth asked if Chief Eyler would want to redo the gun range. Chief mentioned that would be great. It would be easier and less expensive if we were able to shoot regular ammo versus lead free. Some discussion occurred regarding hypothesizing what would need to be done to be able to use lead ammo. Chairman Iaccarino offered to do some research on his own regarding restoring the range to be environmentally friendly. It was also suggested that we make contact with people from Camp David in order to solicit funds for restoring the range, as it is a vested interest.

Mr. Naff suggested updating the website. Chief Eyler noted that would be a great idea. Mr. Naff also suggested that the police department develop some type of formal system for businesses/residents to donate money to the department if they wish. Chief Eyler responded that if there were legal means to do so, he would certainly support the idea.

Chief Eyler did mention that he intends to bring an idea before the TPC by next meeting to present and receive thoughts regarding the topic.

Also, Tyler Kemp will be starting the academy November 17, 2008. Hopefully, he can be introduced to the TPC shortly.

Under the topic of new business, Commissioner Muth mentioned that there was a gypsy vendor selling air guns at Colorfest. He anticipates a new ordinance that gypsy vendors no longer be allowed at Colorfest, as well as, weapons (including look-a-likes) not be sold. These guns looked like 9mm with lasers. Commissioner Muth also noted that it was suggested that Frederick Rd. be one-way in the morning and one-way (in the opposite direction) in the evenings. Officer Ambrose suggested that one officer be assigned to specifically handle traffic control and would not handle other calls. Chief Eyler also mentioned that suggestions to improve Colorfest from the TPC would be welcomed.

Regarding old business, Mr. Naff brought up the topic of CALEA and accreditation. Chief Eyler mentioned that a few more policies need to be written, as well as, existing policies need to be revised. Chief Eyler also noted that he just remembered that we need evacuation signs in each room for accreditation standards. Mr. Delauter asked that a floor plan be forwarded to him, and he would volunteer to work on the signs. No other old business needed to be addressed.

The next item on the agenda was public comment. There was none.

A motion was made and seconded to be adjourned. The Commission voted unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Stumpf