



POLICE COMMISSION

49 Plumtrees Road, Bethel, Connecticut 06801 • Phone: (203) 743-5500 • Fax: (203) 748-1333

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, DEC 16, 2015
MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST MEETING ROOM "B"

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
 COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO
 COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
 COMMISSIONER AMY MANNION
 CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RICHARD BARTON

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:08 p.m.
The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. Public Input
Mr Bruce Pelaccio of 11 Oxford St asked about the progress of his and his neighbor's request for speed bumps and "No Thru Truck" signs for his street as considered under New Business in the 10/21/15 meeting. Chief Finch stated that the matter was still in the hands of Lt Dickinson, but will be considered at the next commission meeting in January.
2. Review of Past Minutes 11/9/15
Chairman Duff welcomed new commissioner Amy Mannion.
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the special meeting minutes of 11/9/15; seconded by Comm Rubino – passed with one abstention.
3. Budget Report
 - Comptrollers Report
Chief Finch went over several line items. The Commission considered the reports.
 - Overtime Report
Chief Finch reported year-to-date overtime expenses as being \$33K over last year-to-date due to personnel shortages due to people amicably leaving requiring overtime hiring to meet minimum manpower requests. Even when up to full staff, \$50K to \$70K is annually spent for Dispatch overtime. The Commission discussed full time dispatch hiring versus the paying of overtime. Chief Finch will get the numbers for an accurate comparison.

4. Old Business

• Monthly Reports

To clarify the reports packet, Chief Finch went through the included reports.

Motion by Chairman Duff to add 49 Taylor Av to New Business as the 5th item; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

5. New Business

• Road Striping/Painting

Lt Dickinson's report concerning this matter was provided to the Commissioners to take home and digest. Since it is costly to bring out the line painters, road striping is usually done after all repaving is completed.

• Change in Commission

Amy Mannion replaces Chris McCollam as a Police Commissioner. A plaque for Chris McCollam will be created by the Department.

• Budget 2016 – 2017 (Draft)

Chief Finch went through the draft budget categories line item by line item. New items of interest were also addressed. Overall the budget as it stands represents a 1.97% increase. The budget will be presented to the Board of Finance in February.

Motion by Comm Rubino to accept the annual budget for the years 2016 – 2017 as written with the understanding that any change will be downward; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous.

• 2016 Meeting Dates

Motion by Chairman Duff that the Bethel Police Commission in the year 2016 hold their regular meetings at the Bethel Municipal Center to commence at 6PM on the following dates:

January 20	July 20	January (2017) 18
February 17	August 17	
March 16	September 21	
April 20	October 19	
May 18	November 16	
June 15	December 21	

A hard copy of this motion shall be forwarded to the Town Clerk of Bethel CT by the last day of December cc to Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Fire Marshals; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

• Site Plan 49 Taylor Av

The Commission once again considered the site plan for 49 Taylor Av (see minutes 10/21/15 item 5 New Business and 11/9/15 item 4a Old Business).

Motion by Chairman Duff that the Bethel Police Commission feels sight lines are insufficient for access and egress and sees no reason for stop signs to be installed nor do we feel stop signs contribute to solving the problem; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

6. Correspondence

• Helen Haulon

Thank you letter to Lt Dickinson for help he provided at her home.

• Stephanie Galetzki

Letter of thanks to SRO's in particular and other officers in general for keeping the community safe. Included were \$180 worth of gift certificates.

• Town of Ridgefield

Letter recognizing Off Cleary for agency assist.

• Linda Kavallines – Records

Letter of resignation from assistant records clerk.

7. Police Building

No Discussion

8. Chief's Report

• CALEA Accredited 11/21/15

Press release in hands of commissioners.

• New Hires

One of four candidates will be hired and sworn 12/29/15 at 10:00 am.

9. Commissioner Comments

Comm Rubino asked why the work authorized by the Police Commission as the Town's traffic authority has not been performed namely the striping to Plumtrees Rd in front of the Police Department building, the guard rail and signage approved on Hickok, the signs for parking in the Municipal Center parking lot, engage with the proper authority at the State to stripe the crosswalks at Greenwood and Chestnut and in front of the Wells Fargo bank on Greenwood Av. Progress reports should be received as part of an every three month follow-up by the Commission.

Comm Kolwicz welcomed Amy Mannion to the Commission, a sentiment echoed by other Commission members.

Chairman Duff related his view of 2015 accomplishments, an item which is in need of correction and goals for 2016.

Accomplishments include:

1) Creation of a Commission policy book showing up-to-date policies of the Bethel Police Department.

2) The Commission did a good job in selecting the best people for a series of promotions, placing them in positions of responsibility and authority which will enable this Police Department to progress and grow in an orderly and efficient manner.

3) In a series of interviews we have hired extraordinarily talented and dedicated individuals.

- 4) Several public meetings, one public information meeting and one public hearing have been held concerning the proposed new police station, reinforcing and enabling other Town boards to bring forth the funding referendum.
- 5) We have a stronger presence in the schools with our SRO program and this will be enhanced and fine tuned in cooperation with the Department of Education and the Board of Education.

An unpleasant situation in need of correction:

- 1) Being forced to meet at the Municipal Center and not the Police Station. This was mandated by the Charter Commission and while the intent was good to increase public participation, in fact we have had a drastic decrease in public attendance as well as a reduction in the number of uniformed officers. Handicap access is poor and interference from parking lot noise has been disruptive and would never have occurred at the police station. We have no access to reference material or office equipment during our meetings.

Goals for 2016:

- 1) Obtain authority for the Bethel Police Commission to meet at any location deemed appropriate.
- 2) Establish a handbook for Commissioners which shows responsibilities and authority, job descriptions, contracts, the Town charter and all those items and basic reference materials necessary for successful participation as a member of the Police Commission.
- 3) Identify and create the formats for safety seminars which the Bethel Police Commission will sponsor.
- 4) Encourage uniformed officers to frequently visit the schools.
- 5) Increase our presence at Town events by Commissioners and uniformed personnel.
- 6) Assess and determine the appropriateness of traffic signs which proliferate without Commission approval. Ordinance and/or protocol calls for approved signs to include the letters "BTC". Traffic sign placement will also be a concern of the Commission.

The Chairman wished Commissioners a very merry Christmas and a very safe and happy new year and thanked members for participation on the Commission and assistance, patience and diligence in getting the job done.

At 8:14 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm Rubino - unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary