



Bethel Police Commission

12 Judd Avenue
Bethel, CT 06801
Mr. Anthony Rubino - Chairman

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Bethel Police Commission
Wednesday October 21, 2020, 6:30pm
Bethel Municipal Center, Meeting Room A
Video link: <https://youtu.be/LS5YHskTEj8>

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TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

Attending: Anthony Rubino
Kevin Cleary
Peter Valenti
Richard Kolwicz
Amy Mannion
Chief Pugner
Lt. Durkin

Chairman Rubino called meeting @ 6:37 pm

1. Public Comments: Chairman Rubino added public comments to be first on the agenda. No public present.

2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the September 16, 2020 minutes was made by Comm. Kolwicz,
Seconded by Chairman Rubino. Comm. Cleary abstained from vote, motion approved.

3. Budget Report:

Chief Pugner reviewed the Comptroller Report. The motion to accept the report was made by Comm. Mannion. Seconded by Chairman Rubino. Vote, all in favor, motion approved unanimously.
Chief Pugner reviewed last month's overtime reports. He told the commission to expect the numbers to be higher next month due to several officer's being out.

4: Old Business:

Dolan Plaza crosswalk: Lt Durkin stated that he reached out to the CT DOT and Hart Bus Co. and they agreed to move the bus stop. This is expected to happen sometime in November.

The flashing light at the crosswalk is waiting for the Town to approve the cost, approximately \$15,000.

Shelley Road Island: Lt. Durkin contacted the Public Works Director in Newtown regarding the possibility of removing the island. He said Bethel would have to assume the cost to do that. He also stated that there are new markings around the island, so it is less confusing. Lt. Durkin also spoke to the Fire Marshall and other fire department personnel who stated there is ample room for fire trucks to get in and out if necessary. The commission agreed to leave the island as it is.

Street Light at Bethel Cinema Crosswalk: Lt. Durkin said CT DOT agreed to come look at it.

5. New Business:

Monthly UCR Reports: Chief Pugner stated that burglaries are still down, but stolen motor vehicles are on the rise in Bethel and statewide.

New Policy: A new department policy, Critical Incident and Peer Support, was created using established state policies and modified for BPD. The motion to accept the policy was made by Comm. Mannion, seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved unanimously.

Crosswalk Request Maple Ave. Ext. and Plumtrees Rd: A resident of Bethel Crossing requested a crosswalk near the intersection. Lt. Durkin stated he has not seen a lot of pedestrian traffic there and it would not be a good place to cross due to the curve of the road. The Commission agreed and will suggest the resident contact Toll Brothers and ask them to make a sidewalk going down Plumtrees Road.

155 Greenwood Ave. Proposal: Lt. Durkin explained the proposal for apartments in the current building. The present driveway on Greenwood would be blocked and the new driveway will be on School St. Lt. Durkin said there is no problem with the proposed site lines. A motion to accept Lt. Durkin's analysis and recommendations was made by Comm. Cleary, seconded by Comm. Mannion. Chairman Rubino accepted; Commissioners Kolwicz and Valenti opposed.

Third Annual Turkey Trot Nov. 26: A motion to approve was made by Comm. Mannion, seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved unanimously.

6. Correspondence:

A note commending Officer Morris was received from Mr. Thomas Saadi.

7. Chief's Report:

Sickness and Injury: Several officers have been out and are expected to be back soon.

Personnel Update: A dispatcher will be retiring January 3, 2021. Three of the new recruits will be done with academy in November and will begin field training with trained officers.

Use of Force Annual Training: This will happen in December.

HB 6004: Chief Pugner noted that on a current case, the Consent to Search part of the new law costs the department valuable time and money. The collection of evidence can now only be done with a search warrant approved by a judge, including from a willing victim.

8. Commissioner Comments:

Comm. Valenti asked Lt. Durkin to take a look at the blind spot pulling out of Juniper Road due to a picket fence on the left.

Chairman Rubino inquired on the progress of the range at the police department, and welcomes any of the new officers to stop in during a meeting so they can be more acquainted with them.

The motion to adjourn was made at 7:29 pm by Comm. Kolwicz, seconded by Chairman Rubino. Vote, all in favor, motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary