



# Bethel Police Commission

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

## Minutes of Regular Meeting Bethel Police Commission

Video link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84048976584>  
Wednesday December 16, 2020, 6:30pm

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

2020 DEC 18 P 1:49  
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Chairman Rubino called meeting @6:33

### 1. Public Input:

Lt. Bryce, on behalf of the Police Union, stated their support of the Chief's proposed budget. He spoke of the need for more officers and additional staffing for the Detective Bureau due to town growth over the past several years.

### 2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve last month minutes was made by Comm. Kolwicz, seconded by Comm. Valenti. Comm. Mannion abstained. Vote, motion approved.

### 3. Budget Report:

The Comptroller Reports were reviewed. Chief Pugner pointed out in the last budget, the third new police car was put in the capital account. The finance board approved the car last week. The motion to accept the report was made by Comm. Mannion, seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

The Overtime report was reviewed and the commission noted that some of the information was cut off of their copies. A new report will be emailed to them. Chief Pugner noted that overtime costs are on target for halfway through the year. The motion to accept the report was made by Comm. Kolwicz, seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **4: Old Business:**

Comm. Rubino inquired as to why the Dolan Plaza bus stop was not on the agenda since it has not been moved. Chief Pugner said it was approved and he will find out why it was not moved yet.

Police Range Update: Chief Pugner said he did not have any new updates from the First Selectman, who had hired a new attorney to address the issue. Comm. Rubino emphatically stated that the range needs to be completed and wants to be informed every month what is happening with it. The commission agreed and will be inviting First Selectman Knickerbocker to the next meeting to go over what is happening.

Juniper Road fence: Chief Pugner said that Lt. Durkin found that the Police Commission and Planning & Zoning approved the fence several years ago, so there is nothing to be done about it. The commission requests the matter be reopened because the line of site is bad and it is not safe. Chief Pugner will have Lt. Durkin look into it.

#### **5. New Business:**

UCR Reports: The reports were reviewed and a motion to accept the reports was made by Comm. Mannion, seconded by Comm. Cleary. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

New dispatcher pay rate: Chief Pugner recommended to the commission that the newly hired dispatcher, who is already certified and worked in Danbury for over a year, receive Step 2 pay per the dispatcher's contract. Comm. Mannion made a motion to give Dispatcher Difalco Step 2 pay, retroactive to her hire date, seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Budget: Chief Pugner went over his new budget proposal. He noted that increases are due to contracted salaries and services. Also, projected costs of training, psychological and drug testing, and academy costs, will now be higher because of the new law mandates. Comm. Mannion recommended giving the finance board the dollar amounts police vehicles generate on extra-duty jobs to advocate for new vehicles.

Elections: Comm. Kolwicz nominated Tony Rubino for Chairman of the Police Commission, seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor. Comm. Kolwicz nominated Kevin Cleary for Co-Chairman, seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor.

2021 Dates: 1/19/2022 was added to list of Police Commission meeting dates for 2021. Comm. Mannion made a motion to accept the dates, seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **6. Correspondence:**

A letter was received from Mr. Bob Sansone thanking the department for its outpouring of support at his mother's funeral.

A Memorandum for Record was received from the Army explaining Officer Holland's active duty.

#### **7. Chief's Report:**

Sickness and Injury: Chief Pugner said the department is still fighting Covid-19 between a few people being sick and others having to quarantine. Officer Perun is out on leave for a non-work related injury and is expected back next month.

Personnel update: The 3 newly graduated officers are all doing well with their field training. Because of Covid-19, Off. Fuenzalida will now be doing remote learning in the classroom. Dispatcher Broderick will be retiring in a few weeks.

HB 6004: There is nothing new until January when the state legislature goes back in session.

Chief Pugner also let the commission know that the new department patch will be used on uniforms starting in January.

#### **8. Commissioner Comments:**

Comm. Mannion wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

Comm. Cleary wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and he is happy that the new officers are doing well.

Comm. Kolwicz, Comm. Valenti, and Chairman Rubino, all wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to stay safe.

The motion to adjourn was made at 7:42 by Comm. Kolwicz, seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary