

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Bethel Police Commission
Video link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82936025480>
Wednesday January 20, 2021, 6:30pm**

Attending: Anthony Rubino
Kevin Cleary
Peter Valenti
Richard Kolwicz
Chief Stephen Pugner
Capt. Heather Burnes
Jon McClintock
First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker

2021 JAN 21 P 4:50
TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT

Chairman Rubino called the meeting @ 6:33

1. Public Input:

First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker updated the Police Commission on the status of the police rang. He said they have been trying to find where the wall leak is coming from. Downes Construction found that some of the stone blocks were the wrong material, but their subcontractor disagreed. The Town has hired an attorney and 3rd party engineer to do their own study. There will be a report delivered to the Building Committee and he expects a resolution in the next few weeks.

First Selectman Knickerbocker also discussed the Commission's request for flashing lights at the Dola Plaza crosswalk. He said he spoke to the Safety Engineer for the State of CT and asked that they take a look at the crosswalk and will see what they recommend, so we have the best solution to the problem. He will keep the Commission informed.

2. Review of Past Minutes:

The motion to approve last month's minutes was made by Comm. Kolwicz, seconded by Comm. Clear. All in favor, motion approved.

3. Budget Report:

The Comptroller and Overtime reports were reviewed with Chief Pugner. He noted that overtime was a little high last month but will be going down as Dispatch is now fully staffed and the officers that are in field training will be on their own soon.

4. Old Business:

The police range update was discussed during Public Input with First Selectman Knickerbocker.

Lt. Durkin submitted a memo noting that he is working with Planning & Zoning regarding the fence on Juniper Road and will let the Commission know what they say.

Lt. Durkin also noted that the CT DOT studied the crosswalk near Bethel Cinema and determined there is enough lighting.

5. New Business:

Chief Pugner requested to add Cars & Cuts to the Agenda. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to add & Cuts to the Agenda under New Business. Seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Chief Pugner reviewed the monthly UCR reports and noted that motor vehicle stops are still low due to Covid-19 concerns but officers are still doing as many traffic stops as needed. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to approve the UCR reports, seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved. Chief Pugner updated the Commission on the progress of Officers Lavallee, Perrone, and Sorrentino who are expected to be done with field training at the end of February. Officer Fuenzalida is due to graduate the Academy in March. All are doing very well.

Chief Pugner stated he met with the First Selectman and Comptroller to go over the proposed budget and noted that they are aware the salary increases are due to the new contract.

Chief Pugner and Capt. Burnes reviewed the changes in the Dress Code and Rules of Conduct General Orders. The Dress Code was updated to include newly approved pants and a fleece jacket. The General Order also includes a checklist for new hires and updated photos. Capt. Burnes said the uniform store was provided a copy as well. Comm. Kolwicz asked about allowing baseball caps for less formal events. The Captain said they are now allowed for most extra-duty jobs, with only a few exceptions. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to accept the Dress Code General Order, seconded by Comm. Cleary. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Chief Pugner said the Rules of Conduct had no new changes except the added in miles radius of how far an officer can live from the department. It was changed from 25 to 27 miles in the policy. Comm. Rubino made a motion to accept the Rules of Conduct General Order, seconded by Comm. Cleary. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Chief Pugner received an email stating that Kennedy's Barber Shop and Famous Pizza will be hosting a Cars & Cuts event. They request approval to park several exotic cars in front of Famous Pizza from 10:00 to 12:00 next Saturday. The commission approved.

6. Correspondence:

Chief Pugner received a letter from a citizen praising Sgt. Lajoie. He also noted that there were many generous donations of cookies, candy, food, and money, during the holidays. Of special note, Steve Demarco gifted every department member a \$10 gift card to local businesses.

7. Chief's Report:

Chief Pugner said there are a few employees quarantined and some officers have already received the COVID-19 vaccine, or will be soon.

There are no new updates regarding HB6004.

8. Executive Session:

Comm. Rubino made a motion to enter Executive Session at 7:21 pm

Out of Executive session at 7:27.

9. Commissioner Comments

Motion by Comm. Kolwicz to adjourn at 7:28 second by Comm. Valenti

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Kavallines
Recording Secretary