



# Bethel Police Commission

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

## Minutes of Regular Meeting Bethel Police Commission

Video link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6690515605>  
Wednesday February 17, 2021, 6:30pm

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

Absent: Amy Mannion

Civilians: Kendra Baker

Chairman Rubino called meeting @ 6:30

### 1. Public Input:

No public comments.

### 2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz, seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved. Comm. Kolwicz noted a spelling error in the February 10, 2021 Special Meeting minutes. The motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2021 meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz, seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

### 3. Budget Report:

The Comptroller and Overtime reports were reviewed. Chief Pugner stated finances and overtime were on pace and that overtime caused by Covid-19 quarantines and

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sickness were being tracked separately. Comm. Rubino questioned why the Dispatch OT fluctuated significantly since the beginning of the year. Chief Pugner explained that if a dispatcher was off, it caused overtime, and there were several out on quarantine or sick during different weeks.

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

Police Range Update: Chief Pugner was informed that the Town and construction company are working to find a compromise on fixing the range and getting a long term guarantee on the work.

Juniper Road Fence Issue: Lt. Durkin was informed that Planning & Zoning sent a letter to the fence owner stating that the fence needs to be lowered, as well as a tree removed. They are waiting to hear back from the homeowner.

Knollwood Drive speed-bump request: Lt. Durkin reviewed the data from the speed sign placed on Knollwood Drive for several weeks last spring. He found that 85% of the drivers maintained the speed limit. He also noted there were only 5 crashes there in the past few years, none of them major. He recommended to decline the speed-bumps and utilize other speed slowing methods. The commission agreed and Comm. Rubino asked Lt. Durkin to contact the complainant and explain their decision.

Dolan Plaza Crosswalk: Lt. Durkin said that the Dept. of Transportation will be implementing a Flashing Crosswalk Program and grants will be given through the federal government. First Selectman Knickerbocker suggested applying for a grant.

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

28 South St.: Lt. Durkin explained the proposal for additional apartment units. After visiting the site, he stated he does not anticipate any traffic issues. Comm. Cleary made a motion to approve the site line for 28 South St. for Planning & Zoning.

Comm. Kolwicz seconded the motion. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Flashing Crosswalk Program: Lt. Durkin discussed during old business in relation to the Dolan Plaza crosswalk.

Monthly Reports: Chief Pugner reviewed the monthly reports. A motion to accept the monthly reports as read was made by Comm. Valenti, seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Budget Update: Chief Pugner said the new budget was presented to the Boards of Finance and Selectmen and he is waiting to find out when deliberations will be.

Warrantless Searches General Order: Chief Pugner explained that the General Order needed to be updated because the new Police Accountability bill significantly changed how police can conduct searches based on consent. The motion to accept the Warrantless Searches General Order was made by Comm. Rubino, seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

## **6. Correspondence:**

There was no correspondence this month.

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

Sickness and Injury update: Chief Pugner said there are two officers currently out on injury.

Personnel update: The three new officers will be finished with field training at the end of next week and Off. Fuenzalida will be graduating next month.

HB 6004 discussion/update: The new law took effect Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Chief Pugner heard the Use of Force portion that is scheduled to go in effect in July may be delayed, and there is a proposal from a senator to eliminate SRO's from school, which is not a popular proposal in most towns, including Bethel.

## **8. Executive Session**

A motion to enter Executive Session, and invite Chief Pugner and Capt. Burnes, was made by Comm. Rubino at 7:01, seconded by Comm. Kolwicz.

Executive session ended at 7:09.

## **Commissioner Comments:**

Comm. Valenti said a guardrail is needed on Whittlesey Drive. Lt. Durkin will evaluate and report at the next meeting.

Comm. Cleary said he likes the two new crosswalk signs by the Congregational Church.

Comm. Rubino expressed his frustration with the budget process and how the police department always has a hard time getting new vehicles.

The motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Kolwicz at 7:12, seconded by Comm. Rubino. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary