



Bethel Police Commission

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Bethel Police Commission
Bethel Police Department, 12 Judd Ave.
Wednesday June 16, 2021, 6:30 pm

TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

2021 JUN 17 P 3:03

RECEIVED

Attending: Anthony Rubino, Kevin Cleary, Peter Valenti, Richard Kolwicz, Chief Pugner, Lt. Bryce

Absent: Amy Mannion

Civilians: First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, Bradley Kolz, Patricia Polk, Christine Carver, Theresa Yonsky

Chairman Rubino called the meeting @ 6:30 pm

1. Public Input:

Mr. Kolz, the editor of the Bethel Community Gazette newspaper, wanted to let the commission know that he fully supports Bethel Police Dept.

Mr. Knickerbocker told the commission that the water test on the range was successful and the rest of the coating will be done in the next few weeks. The goal is to have the range open in the fall. He also noted that he has been getting many complaints about loud vehicles.

2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 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 noted it is the end of the fiscal year and some contracted services are due, but overall the budget is on track. He stated the overtime is high and is expected to be a bit over.

The motion to accept the reports was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Rubino. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

4: Old Business:

Police Range update: Chief Pugner said vendors are being contacted for pricing and bids for the range equipment and installation.

Body camera update: Chief Pugner said they will be going to an upcoming Board of Selectman meeting to present the costs for approval.

Hiring update: Chief Pugner told the commissioners that Gregory Fracassini is now in the academy and Off. Fuenzalida is in phase 3 of field training.

Traffic complaints: The chief said there have been many complaints of speeding, truck traffic, and loud cars. SRO Broad will be assigned to traffic enforcement for the summer, but there are not enough officers to assign one as a permanent traffic officer.

5. New Business:

Monthly UCR reports: Chief Pugner noted that activity has increased and arrests are up from last year. The motion to accept the reports was made by Comm. Valenti. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Report request: Ms. Polk requested a report from records and was denied because it was not releasable, per CT statutes. She came to the commission to ask for help in getting the report. The commission referred her to contact the State FOI Commission.

Speeding and trucks on Hickok Ave.: There was a letter from a resident requesting speed bumps on Hickok Ave. Chief Pugner has assigned Lt. Durkin to do a study on the road. He will report his findings and suggestions at next month's meeting. Comm. Kolwicz noted it has been several years since guard rails were requested and there has been no response from the town attorney. Comm. Rubino made a motion to send a letter to Atty. Lawlor to find out the status on the easement for the guard rails and wants an answer before the next meeting. Comm. Kolwicz seconded the motion. All in favor.

Speed bump request by the BOE: Dr. Carver requested speed bumps in the school complex for the safety of walkers and students. Chief Pugner will have Lt. Durkin do a study and will report back at next month's meeting.

Beer Fest: Chief Pugner wanted to let the commission know that the Beer Fest will be at the Municipal Center in August and he expects no traffic issues.

Freedom Isn't Free Ride: The annual motorcycle ride will be coming through town but will not cause extra duty or overtime.

Tunnels to Towers Race: The chief said the race was reviewed and officers will be hired for extra duty for traffic. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to approve the Tunnels to Towers Race. Seconded by Comm. Rubino.

6. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence this month.

7. Chief's Report:

Sickness and injury: Chief Pugner said there are no officers currently out.

Personnel update: Chief Pugner said that the staffing level is better, but 1 officer is in the academy and 1 is still training. The School Resource Officers will be using vacation time during the summer, but will be working patrol. SRO Cordero will be on day shift until Off. Fuenzalida completes training and SRO Broad will be doing traffic duty.

Chief Pugner told the commission that Finance is open to using the money earned from extra-duty vehicles towards new police vehicles.

Chief Pugner discussed the recent stolen cars. He stated he expects it to be an ongoing problem until current laws are changed since many of the thefts are done by juveniles.

8. Commissioner Comments:

Comm. Valenti asked about officers wearing gloves while directing traffic.

Comm. Cleary inquired about block parties and a suggestion was made to make an application form that residents can fill out for the commission to review.

Comm. Kolwicz was asked to thank Off. Perrone for his professionalism and a job well done at an accident scene on May 30th.

Comm. Rubino requested a text be sent out to the commission when a major incident happens in town. He also noted that the green vests officers wear for traffic duty blend in with the trees and make them hard to see.

The motion to adjourn was made Comm. Kolwicz. At 7:25 pm. Seconded by Comm. Rubino. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary