



Bethel Police Commission

12 Judd Avenue
Bethel, CT 06801
Amy Mannion - Chairman

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Bethel Police Commission
Bethel Police Department, 12 Judd Ave.
Wednesday, December 21, 2022, 6:00 pm

Attending: Peter Valenti, Richard Kolwicz, Patrick Morton, Chief Pugner, Capt. Burnes

Commissioner Morton called the meeting @ 6:03 pm

Commissioner Kolwicz made a motion to add 2023 Meeting Dates to New Business. Seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

1. Public Input:

No public comments.

2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2022 meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

3. Budget Report:

Comptroller and Overtime Reports: Comm. Kolwicz questioned the tuition cost on the comptroller report and Chief Pugner explained that the tuition for new officers going to the police academy is no longer paid by the state. There were no questions regarding the overtime report.

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4: Old Business:

Police Range Update: Chief Pugner said that there are no new updates. Comm. Valenti asked about the engineer's drawing and a brief discussion followed.

Pleasant St. Speed Bump Request: Chief Pugner said that Lt. Durkin completed the traffic study and determined that speed bumps are not recommended at this time. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to accept Lt. Durkin's report. Seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Kayview Ave. Sign Request: Chief Pugner said that Lt. Durkin spoke to the residents and found no problems with putting up an Autistic Child sign. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to approve putting up the sign on Kayview Ave. Seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

High School Speed Bumps: Comm. Valenti made a motion to have 2 speed bumps installed in the Junior parking lot. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

5. New Business:

Monthly Reports, UCR: There were no questions or discussion on the monthly reports.

2023/2024 Budget: A discussion ensued regarding some additions and changes made to the Capital Budget. Chief Pugner went over the proposed 2023/2024 Budget line by line to be presented to the Board of Finance. A discussion followed. Comm. Valenti made a motion to accept the budget with the addition of 2 more officers due to the increase of the population and volume of calls. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Gun Replacement: Chief Pugner told the commission there have been issues with the department firearms and they will need to be replaced. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to ask the Board of Finance for approval to purchase new firearms this year. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

New Dispatcher Pay Step: Chief Pugner recommended that newly hired Dispatcher Caruso be paid at Step C of the union contract since she is already certified and experienced. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to start Dispatcher Caruso at Step C pay. Seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

2023 Meeting Dates: Comm. Valenti made a motion to approve the 2023 meeting dates for the Police Commission. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

6. Correspondence:

Chief Pugner presented numerous letters of thanks and appreciation that were recently received. A discussion followed.

7. Chief's Report:

Sickness & injury:

Chief Pugner stated that there are several people still out due to injuries.

Personnel Hiring Update/Recruitment:

Chief Pugner said a newly hired officer will be sworn in next week and he anticipates numerous retirements this year.

8. Executive Session

There was no Executive session.

9. Commissioner's Comments

Comm. Kolwicz wished the women and men of the Bethel Police Department a very Merry Christmas. Commissioners Morton and Valenti concurred.

Comm. Morton said he was asked to point out that there is no yellow line painted on Judd Avenue. Comm. Morton also noted that there is a building sign on the left, when coming from Depot Place, which makes it difficult to see cars coming on South St. Chief Pugner will have Lt. Durkin work on both issues.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz at 7:34 pm. Seconded by Comm. Valenti. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary