



# 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 May 17, 2023, 6:00 pm

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

Comm. Morton called the meeting @ 6pm

**1. Public Comment/Input:**

No update on one-way sign on Katrina Circle.

**2. Review of past minutes:**

The motion to approve the minutes from was made by Comm. Kolwicz  
Seconded by Comm. Valenti  
Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

**3. Budget Report:**

Comptroller and Overtime Reports:

Salary lines: Payroll for 4/28/23 extremely high for one week due to signing of the contract = Retropay. Brad will be taking the difference out of the existing contingency account at end of year.

New recruits: We average 2 per year. This year we have 4/5 going into the academy. Creating an increase in the training account.

Capital and Contracted services should be in the positive and okay overall.

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2023 MAY 18 P 3:33

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### Overtime Report:

Overtime is high this year because we are down people. Some of this is getting offset from workers comp. and people of military that currently are not receiving pay from us. Workers comp. is going back into the Salary account.

### Future Capital Items:

Talk about needs for next year's budget in advance. First Selectman Carter would like to discuss what needs we may have in advance. First Selectman Carter also asked about a new radio system. The Fire Dept. is pushing for a new radio system as well. First Selectman Carter was advised that a study needs to be done first and to investigate cost. This switch would transfer the system to digital. Some of the newer cars came with radios that are digital capable, hence saving us the cost of purchasing new radios for these vehicles.

Body Cameras only have a five year package. If anything goes wrong within the five years, they are replaced.

Plate readers - Currently we have 2 plate readers. Looking into cost and possible grants for standard and stationary plate readers.

## **4: Old Business:**

### Police Range Update:

Everything for the range is ordered. Waiting on air handling system. Could see work starting possibly in July/August with expectations of opening Fall/Winter.

### Gun Replacement update:

All guns came in last week. We are starting to cycle them in. We have 10-12 officers scheduled this month to be recertified and will qualify with new guns. The rest will qualify in July. Buy back for guns is \$250 per gun. Ammunition was cycled back, thus receiving a credit.

### Police Radio Replacement Update:

Radios have been ordered. Schedule to be here in July/August. Slowly getting them installed in cars. New cruiser, traffic car and Mobile Command Unit already has new radios.

## **5. New Business:**

### Monthly Reports, UCR:

Commission likes the monthly reports that are provided by Chief Pugner.

Increase in traffic stops. Sergeants are motivating officers to increase traffic stops. Officer Perun is on traffic assignment until end of year. Officer Perun was advised to be flexible with his hours, come in early/stay late.

Lt. Durkin will be providing a report reflecting traffic stop data next month.

New Orders: Chapter 5, Section 3, Dept. Firearms. Due to the switchover of the firearms, a temporary policy is need to cover both guns. This will change again in a couple of months.

Motion to accept new order was made by Comm. Kolwicz, Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor. Motion Approved.

K9 Assignment: Sgt. Cleary's K9 is close to retirement. Interviews for the K9 position were with Officer Ammon, Officer Freeman, Officer DeTullio, Officer Fracassini, and Officer Carter. Officer DeOliveria chose to not interview for the position.

Officer Ammon was chosen for the position. Chief Pugner was pleased with the interviews stating it gave them an opportunity to get to know the officers and what interested them within the department.

There is a K9 class in the fall. Our new K9 will attend and at that point we will retire Sergeant Cleary's dog.

Freedom Ride:

Bicycle ride. Same as last year. Passing through town.

Motion to approve Freedom Ride was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Second by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in Favor, motion approved.

*\*\*\*Lieutenant Libertini showed new gun to commission\*\*\**

## **6. Correspondence:**

Letter of praise was received regarding Officer Sorrentino.

Captain Burnes received a letter from North Haven Police Dept. regarding Candidates.

Fairfield County Detective School sent us a letter of thanks.

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

Sickness & Injury:

Officer is still out and needs a procedure done. Unrelated to current injury.

Another officer will be back soon who is recovering from surgery.

An officer was injured during an ambulance call, but will be back soon.

Officer expected to be back in September. Chief Pugner is waiting to hear back.

Personnel Hiring Update/Recruitment:

Demeglio came out #2 in his class and is doing great in FTO.

Calle is #2 in his academy class.

Paskowski is on patrol on his own today and has his EMR training next.

Figueroa will start the academy this Friday, May 19.

McGrath no updates at this time.

First Selectman Carter's assistant Emma will assist in social media in the department. Will start with "Officer of the month". The first officer featured will be Corporal Robison as he is Officer of the Year.

Recent tabletop meeting with schools regarding critical incidents. Captain Burnes attended along with two of our Lieutenants. Discussions involved planning in advance, staging meeting areas and knowing where to have the command post.

**9. Commissioner's Comments:**

Comm. Kolwicz discussed having a "safe zone" sign posted at the Police Department parking lot for citizens making online purchases (Craigs List, Facebook Marketplace etc.). Captain Burnes is looking into it as well.

Commissioner Morton suggested additional training at the Fire Dept. for when calls come in involving both police and fire dept.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. Morton at 7:13 pm.

Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz.

Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Ferraro, Recording Secretary