



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 June 21, 2023, 6:00 pm

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TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

Attending: Amy Mannion, Kevin Cleary, Richard Kolwicz, Patrick Morton, Chief Pugner
Public: Alex
Absent: Peter Valenti

Chairman Mannion called the meeting @ 6:00 pm

1. Public Input:

No public input.

2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes from May 17, 2023 was made by Comm. Kolwicz.
Seconded by Comm. Morton.
Vote, motion approved. Comm. Mannion abstained.

3. Budget Report:

Comptroller and Overtime Reports: Chief Pugner mentioned that it is the end of the fiscal year. He already discussed with the Finance Dept. some items over budget and noted that there will be some off-sets. A discussion ensued on the costs of badges for new officers. Chief Pugner pointed out that the overtime is high for training due to the new hires, and the State just passed more training mandates so next year will likely be higher. Comm. Mannion inquired about the dispatch overtime and a discussion ensued. Chief Pugner brought up that the extra duty overtime for Town jobs was not budgeted for the police department. Comm. Morton made a motion for the Chief and commissioners to talk to the Comptroller about the extra duty overtime not coming out of the police overtime account. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

4: Old Business:

Comm. Mannion made a motion to add "Pleasant Street" to Old Business and "Executive Session" to New Business.

Chief Pugner updated the commission on the following:

Police Range Update: Construction is on track to begin in July or August.

Gun Replacement Update: About half the officers are trained and carrying the new guns. Everyone else should be by the end of the summer.

Police Radio Replacement Update: The radios should arrive in July.

Hickok Ave. Update: Lt. Durkin submitted a recent speed study and does not recommend speed bumps for the road. Comm. Cleary stated that there were still a good percentage of vehicles that did speed on the road and there should be a speed table at the top of the hill. A discussion ensued and Chief Pugner agreed to have the traffic enforcement officer sit on the road.

Pleasant Street: Comm. Mannion said she was reminded by a citizen that it was agreed by the commission to put 20 mph signs on the road to deter speeders. Chief Pugner said he will follow up with Lt. Durkin.

5. New Business:

Monthly Reports, UCR: Comm. Morton commented on the amount of traffic stops. Chief Pugner said that's due to Off. Perun being assigned to Traffic Duty as well as other shifts doing Selective Enforcement.

New Orders: Chief Pugner said there are no new orders to be approved tonight.

K9 Update: Chief Pugner said that K9 Bishop will be retiring soon, Off. Ammon will be the next K9 Officer, and there was a donation made a few years ago to cover the costs of a new dog. A motion to purchase a new K9 with the available funds was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Cleary. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

CT Bicycle Ride, Freedom Ride, Firecracker Road Race: The motion to approve the CT Bicycle Ride on July 29th, the Freedom Ride on August 5th, and the Firecracker Road Race on July 4th was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Cleary. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Flashing Crosswalk Sign on Greenwood Ave.: It was discussed that the Commission recommended a flashing crosswalk sign for Greenwood Ave. near Dolan Plaza several years ago but D.O.T. stated the town had to pay for it and it was not in the budget at that time. Comm. Morton made a motion for First Selectman Carter to secure funding from the state for a flashing crosswalk sign. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Portable LPR's: There was a discussion on the helpfulness license plate readers are to find cars leaving the scene of crimes. Chief Pugner said the department currently has them in two vehicles but would like two fixed readers to be installed at town lines. A motion to move forward to request two fixed LPR's was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Mannion. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Executive Session: Comm. Mannion went over the procedures of Executive Sessions during a public meeting and noted that the Police Commission already follows these protocols.

6. Correspondence:

A letter was received thanking Lt. Durkin for helping a sick child during the parade.

7. Chief's Report:

Sickness & Injury: There was no new information to report.

Personnel Hiring Update/Recruitment: Chief Pugner updated the commission on the new officers: Off. Calle will be graduation the academy in July; Off. DiMeglio will finish FTO in July; Off. McGrath is doing well at the academy; and Off. Figueroa resigned effective June 21, 2023. He said the department is currently advertising for certified officers.

He also noted that a person from CALEA will be doing an on-site visit next week, Sunday to Wednesday for accreditation.

There was a brief discussion on the larceny at Target on June 20th.

8. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

9. Commissioner's Comments

Comm. Cleary discussed the traffic presentation at Town Hall from the D.O.T. a few months ago. He sent an email to chief regarding this and said he may want to follow up with it.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz at 6:48 pm. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary