



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, August 16, 2023, 6:00 pm

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TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

Attending: Amy Mannion, Peter Valenti, Kevin Cleary, Richard Kolwicz, Patrick Morton, Chief Pugnier, Alex, Bill McAllister, Nico Jordan

Chairman Mannion called the meeting @ 6:00 pm

A motion to add a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to New Business was made by Comm. Morton. Seconded by Comm. Mannion. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

1. Public Input:

Alex of Judd Ave. noted that there are many cars with loud exhausts on the road.

Bill McAllister, Assistant Chief of Bethel Fire Dept. brought a letter of recognition for Sgt. May, Off. Ammon, and Off. DeOliveira, for their valor and bravery at a fire with an entrapped victim.

Nico Jordan of Wolfpits Road spoke of speeding concerns he and his neighbors have on the road.

2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on June 21, 2023 was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Cleary. Comm. Valenti abstained. Vote, motion approved.

The motion to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on August 14, 2023 was made by Comm. Cleary. Seconded by Comm. Valenti. Comm. Mannion abstained. Vote, motion approved.

3. Budget Report:

Comptroller and Overtime Reports: Chief Pugner said the final budget numbers from the last fiscal year are not available yet. The Overtime report beginning in July is already showing some high weeks due to staffing issues.

4: Old Business:

Chief Pugner updated the commission on the following:

Police Range Update: Construction has not started yet.

Gun Replacement Update: Most of the department has been trained and are carrying the new guns. The rest will be by September.

Police Radio Update: The radios are expected to arrive any day now.

K9 Update: K9 Bishop is retired and Off. Ammon just got a new German Shepard, yet to be named.

5. New Business:

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

61 South Street: Lt. Durkin did not find any traffic issues for the proposed units. Comm. Cleary disagreed and wants to understand more because it is a bad spot. Comm. Cleary made a motion to table 61 South St. until next month. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Wolfpits Road: Chief Pugner said there have been complaints of speeding on the road and Lt. Durkin arranged for Selective Enforcement and will have the speed sign posted.

Plumtrees & Taylor Road: Chief Pugner received an email from a resident concerning the intersection and he has Lt. Durkin looking into it. A discussion ensued about clearing the intersection and the possibility of a different type of traffic light.

Staffing Level Issues: Chief Pugner explained that he will be moving several people around for the next few months due to several officers being out on injury, military leave, and upcoming retirements. An SRO will be temporarily reassigned to patrol but the spot will be filled in with Det. DiRago and Youth Officer McClintock.

Memorandum of Understanding: Chief Pugner explained that there is a statewide issue of attracting new police candidates. The Town and Police Union agreed upon offering a \$15,000 incentive to hire Connecticut certified officers, as several other towns are currently doing. A discussion ensued. A motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Bethel Police Union Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 28 contract was made by Comm. Cleary. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

6. Correspondence:

Firecracker Road Race: A Thank you from Park & Rec. Rachael McGrath was received.

DeOliveira letter: A Thank you for his help at train station was received.

Burnes letter: A Thank you for being on an Oral Board panel for New Milford PD was received.

7. Chief's Report:

Sickness & Injury: Chief Pugner noted that there are 3 people still out but 1 will be back on light duty soon.

Personnel Hiring Update/Recruitment: Chief Pugner said the background checks are currently being done on the new candidates and polygraphs are scheduled.

8. Commissioner's Comments

Comm. Cleary said he has still not heard anything about the traffic study presentation he did for the town. He also said the parking on Grand Street is still an issue.

Comm. Morton noted that cars parked on the road on Rector Street make it difficult for the fire department vehicles to turn onto the road. Chief Pugner told him to call the PD when vehicles are parked there.

A discussion ensued of the usage of painted optical illusions on roadways for traffic issues.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz at 6:47 pm.

Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary