

Bethel Police Commission

12 Judd Avenue
Bethel, CT 06801
Anthony Rubino - Chairman

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Bethel Police Commission
Bethel Police Department, 12 Judd Ave.
Wednesday, March 20, 2024 6:00 pm

Attending: Tony Rubino, Amy Mannion, Kevin Cleary, Richard Kolwicz, Patrick Morton, Chief Pugno, Capt. Burnes, Lt. Libertini, Sgt. Zavatsky (late)

Chairman Rubino called the meeting at 6:00 pm

1. Public Comment:

No public comment.

2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes from the February 21st meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Mannion. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

3. Budget Report:

Comptroller and Overtime Reports: There were a few questions regarding some of the expenses on the Comptroller Report that Chief Pugno and Capt. Burnes answered. Chief Pugno noted that the Dispatcher overtime is still high due to a dispatcher still being out. Comm. Mannion made a motion to accept the Comptroller and Overtime Reports. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

4: Old Business:

Comm. Rubino added *K9 Shelter* to Old Business.

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Police Range Update: Lt. Libertini said the range is coming along. A few issues that came up are being addressed and it should be completed soon.

Chief Pugner updated the commission on the following:

Dress Code Change Update: Sgt. Cleary will be getting the specs for the new vest and will have it for next month.

Speed Bumps at Bethel High School: This was approved a while ago by the commission and according to Bob Dibble of the Highway Dept., it is on the list of upcoming projects.

Building Security Upgrades: An additional baluster was placed and a large ceramic flower pot will be added to the walkway in front of the building. A discussion ensued regarding a security gate for the back parking lot.

Budget Update: The budget will be moving forward to a public vote soon.

K9 Shelter: The building is in disrepair and needs to be upgraded or rebuilt. The commission will be sending a letter to the Board of Selectman.

5. New Business:

Monthly Reports, UCR: There were no questions but a brief discussion ensued.

New Policies: Chief Pugner noted the changes in the policy of General Order Ch. 6, Sec. 16 K9 Police Dogs, and that General Order Ch. 6, Sec. 22 Drug Recognition Experts is a new state model policy, and General Order Ch. 7, Sec. 3 Domestic Violence has only updated state revisions (no new PD wording). The motion to accept the new and updated policies, General Orders Ch. 6, Sec. 16 K9 Police Dogs, Ch. 6, Sec. 22 Drug Recognition Experts, and Ch. 7, Sec. 3 Domestic Violence was made by Comm. Mannion. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

9 Putnam Park Road: Lt. Durkin found no site line or traffic issues with the proposal.

St. Mary's Carnival: A request to close School Street during the St. Mary carnival was made due to space concerns. Lt. Durkin stated that additional officers would need to be hired if that occurs. Comm. Cleary pointed out that the driveway for the new apartments only have access to School Street and coming in and out would be a problem. The commission agreed to get more information and table the proposal until next months meeting.

6. Correspondence:

Letters of thanks were received from the Paulsen family and Rep. Jahana Hays.

7. Chief's Report:

Sickness & Injury: Chief Pugner noted that one officer is on light duty, one is out on non-work related surgery, and one is out on Workman's Comp. for a few more weeks.

Personnel Hiring Update/Recruitment: Chief Pugner said there are interviews of certified officers scheduled for next week.

Graham Training: Chief Pugner said that he, the captain, lieutenants, and a few sergeants went to a presentation from Gordon Graham at the CT Police Chief's Association meeting last week.

Detective School: Chief Pugner said that 2 officers will be going to the Fairfield County Detective School training at the end of April.


Chief Pugner pointed out that the new LPR Plate Reader is up on Stony Hill Road and they are working on the software.

9. Commissioner's Comments

Comm. Morton said a resident whose car was stolen had nothing but praise for Off. Fracassini. Comm. Rubino requested that the chief make an appointment with the comptroller and/or selectman to discuss money for new police cars. Chief Pugner agreed.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz at 6:52 pm. Seconded by Comm. Rubino. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary