



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, April 17, 2024 6:00 pm

Attending: Tony Rubino, Kevin Cleary, Richard Kolwicz, Patrick Morton, Chief Pugner
Absent: Amy Mannion

Chairman Rubino called the meeting at 6:02 pm

1. Public Comment:

No public comments.

2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2024 meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Comm. Rubino made a motion to add "Trista's Ride Benefit" to New Business. Seconded by Comm. Cleary. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

3. Budget Report:

Comptroller and Overtime Reports:

Chief Pugner said he and the Captain found a few errors on the Comptroller Report and will be looking into it.

Chief Pugner noted that Dispatcher overtime is high due to two people still in training. One should be on her own in the beginning of May. There were a few other questions and a discussion ensued. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to accept the Comptroller and Overtime reports. Seconded by Comm. Cleary. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

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4: Old Business:

Chief Pugner updated the commission on the following:

Police Range Update: They are still waiting for parts that are on order from Eversource that is holding up completion.

Dress Code Change Update: We are waiting on swatches and finalization will be soon.

Speed Bumps at High School: The speed bumps have been installed and just need to be painted.

Animal Shelter Update: There is no update from the Town after the letter was sent last month.

St. Mary's Carnival: A discussion ensued about the request to close School Street for the carnival. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to deny shutting down School Street for the St. Mary's Carnival. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

5. New Business:

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

New Policy: Chief Pugner said the change to the policy is a state mandated update. Comm. Cleary made a motion to accept the updated General Order Ch. 6, Sec. 19 Use of Body Worn Recording Equipment and Dashboard Camera policy. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

School Signage Request: Sign additions in several school parking lots were submitted to the Police Commission for approval. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to accept the signage proposals for Rockwell School, Johnson School, and Bethel Middle School. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

34 Whippoorwill Road: Lt. Durkin received a complaint of speeding on Whippoorwill Road. He will put out the speed sign to collect data after a temporary pole is installed by the town.

Trista's Ride Benefit: Chief Pugner said the motorcycle rally will be from Newtown to St. Mary's Cemetery on June 23rd at 11 am. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to approve the rally going through Bethel and offer police assistance if needed. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

6. Correspondence:

Letters of commendation and thanks were received and briefly discussed.

7. Chief's Report:

Sickness & Injury: Chief Pugner told the commission that there is one officer still out on Workman's Comp. and one out on a non-work related injury, who is expected back on light-duty in a few weeks.

Personnel Hiring Update/Recruitment: Chief Pugner said Dispatch is up to staff but still down since they are still in training. The two officers in the academy are doing great and will be graduating in early June. He also noted there is GST (Gracie Survival Tactics) training this week being held at Bethel High School.

8. Executive Session

Comm. Rubino made a motion to enter Executive Session for New Candidate Interviews, inviting Chief Pugner, at 6:40 pm. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

At 7:25 pm, Comm. Cleary made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Comm. Rubino made a motion, which was seconded by Comm. Morton, to offer employment as a Bethel Police Officer to:

1. Stephanie Masella
2. TaylorMarie Prahach

In such order, conditional upon available openings in the Department within the next 90 days, contingent on a satisfactory background investigation, and such other standard and regular requirements of the State of Connecticut and the Town of Bethel. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz at 7:33 pm. Seconded by Comm. Rubino. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary