



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, August 21, 2024, 5:00 pm

Attending: Tony Rubino, Amy Mannion, Kevin Cleary, Richard Kolwicz, Patrick Morton, Chief Pagner, Capt. Burnes, Sgt. Zavatsky

Chairman Rubino called the meeting at 5:00 pm

1. Public Comment:

No public comments.

2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Mannion. Comm. Cleary abstained. Vote. Motion approved.

The motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2024 Special Meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Comm. Cleary and Comm. Mannion abstained. Vote. Motion approved.

3. Budget Report:

Comptroller and Overtime Reports:

Chief Pagner noted that this is the new fiscal budget. There were a few questions regarding K9 expenses and vehicle equipment expenses. He said dispatcher overtime is still high because they are short a dispatcher. He anticipates August overtime will be high due vacations and training. A discussion on FMLA for maternity/paternity leave ensued. The motion to accept the reports was made by Comm. Mannion. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

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4: Old Business:

Chief Pugner updated the commission on the following:

Capital Budget Request Update: At the Board of Finance meeting, new Tasers and an additional car was approved.

Promotional Test Update: The Lieutenant's written promotional test will be on October 2nd and the oral will be on October 9th. There are 3 sergeants taking the test.

5. New Business:

Monthly Reports, UCR: There was a brief discussion on arrests.

Judd Avenue: There was a request by a resident to make Judd Avenue a one-way after a truck lost its brakes and crashed at the bottom of the hill. A discussion ensued and Sgt. Zavatsky will be looking into getting a hill grade sign as well as making it "No Thru Trucks".

Speed Cameras: Chief Pugner said there are companies that put up the speed and traffic cameras and mail out the fines to vehicle owners. There was a discussion regarding the pros and cons of the cameras. Chief Pugner suggested waiting until some other towns have the systems up and running and then find out what they think about them. Comm. Rubino asked each commissioner what do they want to do regarding utilizing them. Comm. Cleary made a motion to table the Speed Cameras and revisit this in one year. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Article on Unmarked Vehicles: A discussion regarding using unmarked cars for traffic stops ensued. Comm. Rubino made a motion for the commission to write a letter to our Representatives stating that the police commission supports their use and this department will continue using them. Seconded by Comm. Cleary. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

New Officer Salary Step: Chief Pugner recommended that newly hired Off. Prahach be paid at Step 4 of the union contract since she is already certified. Comm. Cleary made a motion to start Off. Prahach at Step 4 of the union contract. Seconded by Comm. Rubino. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

New Policies: The policy was updated for utilizing the regional SWAT team. The motion to accept the updated policy, Chapter 6, Section 15 Emergency Service Unit, was made by Comm. Mannion. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

6. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

7. Chief's Report:

Sickness & Injury and Personnel Hiring Update/Recruitment:

Chief Pugner said there is still an officer out on a non-job related injury and one out until the end of September. The department is still down a dispatcher and will be looking to hire another one by October. Chief Pugner mentioned that Danbury PD requested one of our officers for local drug enforcement, which he will consider after the new officers are off FTO. He also told the commission that Off. DeOliveira will be the new traffic officer.

8. Executive Session

The motion to enter Executive Session for the Sergeant promotional interviews and a new officer candidate interview, inviting Chief Pugner and Capt. Burnes, was made by Comm. Rubino at 5:45. Seconded by Comm. Mannion. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

The commission came out of Executive Session at 6:56 pm. Comm. Rubino made a motion to promote Off. Tlasky to Sergeant with a swearing in date of early September. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Comm. Mannion left the meeting.

The commission went back in Executive Session at 6:58 pm. The motion to end Executive Session at 7:22 pm was made by Comm. Rubino. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz.

Comm. Rubino made a motion, which was seconded by Comm. Kolwicz, to offer employment as a Bethel Police Officer to Jaime Franceschi conditional upon available openings in the Department within the next 90 days, contingent on a satisfactory background investigation, passing the Physical Agility Assessment, and such other standard and regular requirements of the State of Connecticut and the Town of Bethel. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

9. Commissioner's Comments

Comm. Cleary discussed the speed tables in the school complex.

Comm. Rubino said he was asking about the large flowerpots for the front walkway.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz at 7:26 pm. Seconded by Comm. Rubino. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary