



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, September 18, 2024 6:00 pm

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TOWN CLERK
BETHEL, CT.

Attending: Tony Rubino, Kevin Cleary, Richard Kolwicz, Patrick Morton, Chief Pugner, Sgt. Zavatsky

Absent: Amy Mannion

Chairman Rubino called the meeting at 6:00 pm

1. Public Comment:

Mr. Dick Wajert of 28 Chimney Drive and Mr. Steve Ferguson of 26 Chimney Drive came to discuss speeding on Chimney Drive.

Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to add "Winter Fest/Tree Lighting" and "Chimney Drive" to New Business and "Hoffman Letter" to Correspondence. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

2. Review of past minutes:

The motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2024 meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

3. Budget Report:

Comptroller and Overtime Reports:

There were no questions or discussion on the Comptroller's report. Chief Pugner said the August overtime was high mostly due to vacations and training. Comm. Cleary asked about grants from the state. Chief Pugner said there are none at this time. The motion to approve

the reports was made by Comm. Cleary. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

4: Old Business:

Chief Pugner updated the commission on the following:

Promotional Test Update/Interview Dates: October 2nd will be the written exam for the Lieutenant promotion and October 9th is the Oral Board. Chief Pugner said they can discuss the commission interviews during executive session.

Judd Avenue: A discussion ensued about making Judd Avenue a “No Thru Truck” road. Sgt. Zavatsky explained that it would have to be approved by the Connecticut DOT and if so, the truck traffic would be diverted to Whittlsey Drive. Instead, he suggested signage like on Hickok Avenue. A question about the replacement of the guardrail at the bottom of Judd was brought up. There was also a conversation about how large trucks have difficulty making a right turn off Route 58 at the intersection of Route 302. Comm. Rubino made a motion to get a minimum of 3 signs for Judd Avenue, that include restricted truck weight and hill grade percentage; Request DOT to study the Route 58/302 intersection; Request Public Works to replace the guardrail. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved. Sgt. Zavatsky said he will follow up on all three issues.

5. New Business:

Monthly Reports, UCR: There were no questions or discussion.

Speed Grant: Chief Pugner said there is a new grant coming out in January for speed enforcement equipment the department has a good chance of getting. He will know more in November or December.

New Dispatcher Step: A new certified dispatcher will be starting next week and Chief Pugner recommended his pay be at Step C of the union contract. Comm. Kolwicz made a motion to start the new dispatcher at Step C at completion of his training. Seconded by Comm. Morton.

New Policies: There were no new policies.

Winter Fest./Tree Lighting: Comm. Cleary made a motion to use barriers on School Street for the Winter Fest./Tree Lighting to deter traffic without closing the road. Seconded by Comm. Kolwicz. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

Chimney Drive: Chief Pugner recommended speed enforcement and Sgt. Zavatsky will follow up with the complainants tomorrow.

6. Correspondence:

A note praising Sgt. Emerson for apprehending a subject breaking into cars and a letter praising Officers Hoffman, Cardi, and Calle for help during the flooding, were shared with the commission.

7. Chief's Report:

Sickness & Injury and Personnel Hiring Update/Recruitment:

Chief Pugner said there is one officer out until November and Officer Morris will be retiring as of September 25th. The next new officer to be sworn in is tentatively scheduled for October 23rd. There were interviews for another new dispatcher done on Tuesday. He noted that the new LPR is up and running on Stony Hill Road and it already helped to solve two larcenies at Target. He would like to get a second unit approved from the town.

8. Executive Session

At 6:57 pm, Comm. Rubino made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Lieutenant interviews, inviting Chief Pugner and Secretary Kavallines.

Comm. Rubino made a motion to exit Executive Session at 7:08 pm. Seconded by Comm. Morton. Vote. All in favor, motion approved.

9. Commissioner's Comments

Comm. Cleary brought up that there have been complaints of oil spills and garbage from trucks parking on Henry Street. Sgt. Zavatsky said he will evaluate the situation and possibly suggest No Parking signs, which can be discussed at next month's meeting.

Comm. Morton said that landscaping trucks have been parking on McNeil Road. Sgt. Zavatsky said he will look into it.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Comm. Kolwicz at 7:09 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Kavallines, Recording Secretary