

Seymour Police Department
Board of Police Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 7/11/25
TIME: 3:50 PM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
C. H. J. A. 2025

Members Present: Steven P. Kulas, John Duke, David Bitso and Robert J. Koskelowski

Members Absent: Kyle Kelley

Also Present: Chief John Bucherati, Deputy Chief Michael Fappiano and members of the public

1) Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Public Comment: Patricia Drew of 142 Maple Street spoke about traffic and damage to her property over the years. Several mailboxes, shrubs, trees and her lawn have been damaged from accidents. People drive extremely fast and something needs to be done about it. Tavares Walton of 129 Maple Street spoke about a car that was inside the bushes in his front yard and would like more police presence because people need to slow down since it's very dangerous. Sulay Walton of 129 Maple Street expressed concern for her family's safety and stated some possible solutions would be speed bumps, stop signs, rumble strips, traffic light, bigger bold signage, warning signs, speed meter and increase police presence. Commissioner Bitso stated that the Commission does not need to give a response at this meeting, however Chief Bucherati replied to the public that they just secured a \$30,000 grant for police overtime in the summer to combat speeding and aggressive driving. Over the last five years, they collected the data on Maple Street and speed related crashes and acknowledged that there are speeding problems there. There is a speed sign for Washington Avenue and one will be for the intersection of Maple Street and Warren Drive. We do intend to fully address it. Speed bumps will not be approved because the speed limit is 30 mph which is too fast for speed bumps. It is possible for guardrails to be put up on the intersection of Maple Street and Warren Drive and he will let the Town Engineer know. Chief Bucherati will ask for rumble strips at the Board of Selectpersons meeting and will put in a request with OSHA. Commissioner Bitso requested for Chief Bucherati to also request the Town to cut back the vegetation on Maple Street.

4) Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting on June 18, 2025

Motion to make one correction to the June minutes on the second page regarding Commissioner Koskelowski asked about the speed sign on West Street and Pearl Street and requested one be put on Washington Avenue by Kulas/Duke

Motion Passed 4-0

5) Management Report:

Chief Bucherati discussed the budget and stated overtime was the big expenditure. We will be operating with six vacancies due to the resignation of a probationary officer. Two recruits were sworn in today and will attend POST in July. We will temporarily assign Officer Oczkowski, Sgt. Marra and Officer Tomasella back to patrol to alleviate the overtime. New candidates have signed their conditional offers and testing has begun. The Commander test will be on July 24, 2025. We had a supervisor meeting on June 4, 2025 with commanders and sergeants. We covered graduations for Seymour and Ansonia at the Seymour High School and everything went fine. On June 7, 2025, Chief Bucherati and Deputy Chief Fappiano came in at 2300 hrs. to place an Officer on Administrative leave. An IA-25-1 was opened and assigned to Deputy Chief Fappiano. The officer involved voluntarily resigned from the position with the Seymour Police Department. We received a \$30,000 grant to target speeding enforcement on five major streets which will be used in the summer months. Maple Street will be one of the streets for police enforcement because it's the one with the most accidents. On June 11, 2025, Chief Bucherati attended the staff meeting at the Town Hall with other Department Heads. There was a Communications Commission meeting on June 12, 2025 about a discussion on what to do with dispatch. Officer Marino and Officer Soares were nominated for the CT MADD award. Both officers stood out for their DWI enforcement for the 2024 year. We are looking into LexisNexis and implementing Buycrash to allow people to purchase accident reports online. It is still being evaluated. We received our Tier 2 and Tier 3 Accreditation. Chief Bucherati and Board Members commended Deputy Chief Fappiano and Sergeant Marra for getting it done. On September 11, 2025, we will go to POST and be presented with the official documents and then we will do a press release. We will interview a few more new candidates next week.

6) Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Koskelowski commented that under FOI, the next time there is a meeting to file the agenda for a special meeting 24 hours prior to the meeting at the Town Clerk's Office or Secretary of State to avoid a fine. Commissioner Duke stated that he drives on Maple Street daily and regarding the public comments, he has seen a lot of the stuff that happens on Maple Street and has seen an increase in police presence. Commissioner Kulas commented on the intersection of Rt. 67 and Franklin Street with a flagman instead of police officers. The flagmen need to use signs because it's easier to see vs. using their hands. Chief Bucherati stated that they were paving Rt. 67 and probably didn't have enough officers to fill the job. The contractors can use flagmen if we do not have enough officers. Commissioner Bitso commented on the intersection also and stated that the flagman was going against the lights and it was confusing.

7) Old Business:

- a. Patrol Reports – no comments
- b. Detective Reports – no comments
- c. K-9 Reports – no comments

- d. SRO Reports – no comments
- e. CPO Reports – no comments
- f. Car Reports – no comments

8) New Business:

1. End of Year Budget Transfers

Chief Bucherati is looking for a budget transfer of \$229,994 because the majority is overtime. We had some money left over in the other accounts. The first seven items will be transferred to overtime to cover \$213,000 and there was \$481 for Chief Bucherati's salary which was short. The first five items will go to the crossing guard account on Maple Street and Pearl Street. The last one is for longevity which is gradually fading due to the union agreement because some people are still eligible and others are not.

Motion to transfer \$229,994 by Koskelowski/Duke.

Motion Passed 4-0.

2. Department Social Media Discussion

Commissioner Duke stated that he received a call from a resident and they questioned why the scrolling marquee on social media of the mug shots was taken down. Chief Bucherati stated it was taken down because he received a lot of negative feedback. Commissioner Duke stated it is important to have something in its place such as the way Naugatuck does their posts on social media with a basic sheet of data. Commissioner Kulas requested for Deputy Chief Fappiano's photo to be updated on the Town website. Deputy Chief Fappiano stated that they will be updating the website.

9) Correspondence: - no comments

10) Other Business: - no comments

11) Union Business: - no comments

12) Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Koskelowski asked where the union contract stands since it ended June 30, 2025. Chief Bucherati stated that it appears the Union body took a vote and it will be extended for two years. They will change some language, but it will not affect the Town monetarily. Commissioners wanted to know when it happened because it's the first time hearing about it. Commissioner Kulas asked what would the Town do if the Board Members refused to approve the agreement? The Town needs to know it's a major decision. Commissioner Koskelowski stated that Human Resources should not be involved and the Board Members should have been in negotiations with the Union. All of the Commissioners discussed that based on the Charter, they need to always be involved in the contract negotiations. Anything discussed with the Board of Selectpersons should go through the Board of Police Commissioners and they must be informed on all decisions.

13) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Koskelowski/Duke

Motion Passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.