

Seymour Police Department
Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 8, 2025

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

Members Absent: Robert J. Koskelowski and Kyle Kelley

Also Present: Chief John Bucherati, Deputy Chief Michael Fappiano, Inspector Joe Matusovich, Lieutenant Matthew Butler, Mike Stewart, one Candidate and members of the public

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

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Public Comment: None

4) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on September 10, 2025

Motion to accept minutes from September 10, 2025 by Duke/Kulas

Motion Passed 3-0

5) Management Report:

Chief Bucherati discussed the budget, vacancies, the speed grant and the State Asset Forfeiture Funds. Seymour Police Department received the official Tier 2 and Tier 3 Designations, and received \$5,000 from the Matthies Grant. Chief Bucherati attended a department head staff meeting and Chief Bucherati and Deputy Chief Fappiano attended the John M. Bailey Seminar concerning legal updates. Chief Bucherati was deposed concerning a second amendment lawsuit on Succow vs. Bondi et al. Chief Bucherati also met with Enterprise regarding fleet management and Mike Stewart will be presenting during this meeting. Chief Bucherati is currently planning ammunition orders to stay two years ahead and photos are currently being taken to issue new ID's. The Pumpkin Festival was a success.

6) Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Kulas asked why Matthies cut \$15,000 and Chief Bucherati stated he did not know the reason. Commissioner Kulas also asked if the deposition was in the Federal Court and Chief Bucherati stated that it is a Federal case against himself, the Chief in Norwich and respected State's Attorney in this jurisdiction. Berchem Moses Attorneys are handling the case for the Town of Seymour.

7) Old Business:

- a. Patrol Reports – no comments
- b. Detective Reports – Inspector Matusovich discussed impounded cars that were held for some time and needed to be released to free up space in the garage. Chief Bucherati stated that some cars will stay impounded for evidence.

- c. K-9 Reports – no comments
- d. SRO Reports – no comments
- e. CPO Reports – no comments
- f. Car Reports – no comments

8) New Business:

- a. Enterprise Fleet Management Presentation

Chief Bucherati discussed ways to manage the fleet in the future and is looking to reduce the maintenance and repair budget. Mike Stewart from Enterprise Fleet Management spoke about leasing the vehicles. Chief Bucherati stated that he is currently working on a list of cars and what the costs will be and would like to get the Board's approval by December.

Motion to table the fleet management to next month's meeting by Duke/Kulas.

Motion Passed 3-0

- b. Executive Session – Candidate Interview

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:48 p.m. for one Candidate to be interviewed with the Board Members, Chief Bucherati, Deputy Chief Fappiano, Inspector Matusovich and the Candidate to be called in when the Board is ready by Kulas/Duke

Motion Passed 3-0

Motion to come back from the Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. by Duke/Kulas with no actions or votes taken.

Motion Passed 3-0

- c. Possible Action on Executive Session

Motion to make a conditional offer of employment to the Candidate interviewed this evening by Duke/Kulas

Motion Passed 3-0

- d. Use of Asset Forfeiture Funds to purchase new patrol rifles

Chief Bucherati discussed the need to replace all of the old patrol rifles with new patrol rifles because they are several years old and would like to get new state of the art rifles and put suppressors on the end to help support their ear drums from being damaged. Chief Bucherati stated that the funds will be taken from the Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds and the total amount needed is \$31,712 which includes trading in the old rifles and then they will schedule Firearms Training within a month after getting the new rifles. Commissioner Bitso asked a question on behalf of a Board member not present this evening if the Police Department will need 18 rifles and why? Chief Bucherati said that they do need 18 rifles because they want to outfit each patrol car. Also, some will be set aside for the Detective Bureau. Commissioner Duke said he is one hundred percent in support of this.

Motion to take the money out of the Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds to purchase new rifles and trade in the old rifles for a total of \$31,712 by Duke/Kulas.

Motion Passed 3-0

- e. Donation from Community Fund for the Trunk or Treat Candy

The Board agreed to donate \$2,000 towards the Trunk or Treat and for some other events including the parades.

Motion to donate \$2,000 from the Community Fund for the candy purchase by Duke/Kulas.

Motion Passed 3-0

- f. Discussion regarding Supernumerary Officer's Role

Commissioner Duke asked about the roles of the Supernumerary Officers and what the need is to keep them. Chief Bucherati stated that they filled many of the overtime spots inappropriately prior to him being the Chief of Police. It needed to be changed once it was found on the electronic scheduling. Then, they stopped getting the first calls for the overtime because they need to abide by the new contract and they have hired some new ones. The policy needs to be changed so they must work a certain amount of hours each month. Commissioner Duke asked about revamping the policy and if they fall under the bargaining unit as representing members. Chief Bucherati stated that they are represented members, but fall outside of the normal schedule. Commissioner Duke asked if they can get them to work a certain amount of hours each month and would they be required to be paid for a certain amount of hours? Chief Bucherati stated that he will look into the costs.

Commissioner Bitso asked if they would like to explore a different route and what the cost will be. Chief Bucherati would like to incorporate the Supervisors for their opinion since they work closely with them.

9) Correspondence: - no comments

10) Other Business: - no comments

11) Commissioner Comments: - Commissioner Bitso commended the officers for a great job at the Pumpkin Festival. Commissioner Duke looks forward to seeing everyone at the Trunk or Treat.

12) Union Business: - no comments

13) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Duke/Kulas

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Motion Passed 3-0