

Seymour Police Department
Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Chief John Bucherati, Deputy Chief Michael Fappiano, Inspector Joe Matusovich, Several Officers, Mike Stewart, four Candidates and members of the public

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

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Public Comment: Gayle Warhola of 85 West Street, Seymour, CT spoke to the Board Members about three road safety suggestions. The first request is for a crosswalk across Broad Street. Chief Bucherati stated that it is pending approval because it is a state road. The second request is for branches to be trimmed on West Street at Falls Hill and install a warning flashing red light sign ahead because of the blind curve. The third request is to close South Main Street at Maple Street during parades because it is difficult to turn around on South Main Street and Broad Street. Chief Bucherati stated that it is in their plan.

4) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on October 8, 2025

Motion to accept minutes from October 8, 2025 by Duke/Kulas

Motion Passed 4-0-1

5) Management Report:

Chief Bucherati stated that Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at Central Connecticut State University, Tyler Tomasella will be graduating from Post Academy and is the first of four recruits that will be graduating. Chief Bucherati discussed the overtime budget, speed grant funds, comp time and vacancies. The annual Pink 5k race took place with no incidents. Chief Bucherati attended several meetings throughout the month of October. They went over federal immigration efforts and local law enforcement. In the Supervisors meeting, they issued a new policy concerning the Police Department's compliance with the CT Trust Act. Also, Chief Bucherati gave trend statistics for Seymour Police Department comparing 2024 to 2025 and then commended the patrol division on doing a great job. A special election for referendum on Bungay School was held and no issues were reported. Administration was made aware of a personnel issue and the State's Attorney was notified. There was a loudermill hearing in conjunction with Human Resources and the Chief of Administrative Officer of the Town regarding an employee which is pending at this time. The trunk or treat took place with no incidents.

6) Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Kulas would like to discuss some things that Chief Bucherati mentioned in the report. Commissioner Koskelowski stated that the Board Members received a letter from the Seymour Police Department showing their appreciation of Chief Bucherati since coming on board and commended the police officers and would like a list of each officer's name and their badge number. Commissioner Kelley and Commissioner Bitso commended police officers on doing a great job with all of the community events that took place in October.

7) Old Business:

- a. Patrol Reports – Commissioner Koskelowski asked about Pine Street and several people stated that patrol will park on that street to do radar on Derby Avenue.
- b. Detective Reports – no comments
- c. K-9 Reports – Commissioner Koskelowski asked about a second K-9 dog and Chief Bucherati stated it will go on next month's agenda.
- d. SRO Reports – Commissioner Koskelowski commended Officer Tomasella for all that he does for the schools and for going to the students outside activities.
- e. CPO Reports – no comments
- f. Car Reports – no comments

1. Enterprise Fleet Management Presentation

Chief Bucherati stated that last month Mike Stewart from Enterprise came to do a presentation on managing their fleet. Mike spoke to the Board Members about the flexibility of leasing the vehicles. All Board Members are interested if Mike from Enterprise could present the information to the Board of Selectpersons and the Board of Finance for approval.

Motion for Mike Stewart from Enterprise to present the Fleet Leasing Agreement to the Board of Selectpersons and then to the Board of Finance by Koskelowski/Duke.

Motion Passed 5-0

8) New Business:

- a. Executive Session – Candidate Interviews

Motion to go into executive session at 7:13 p.m. for four candidates to be interviewed with the Board Members, Chief Bucherati, Deputy Chief Fappiano, Inspector Matusovich and each candidate separately by Koskelowski/Duke

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion to return from the executive session at 7:58 p.m. by Kelley/Duke with no actions or votes taken.

Motion Passed 5-0

- b. Possible Action on Executive Session

Motion to make a conditional offer of employment to each of the four candidates interviewed by Duke/Koskelowski

Motion Passed 5-0

c. **Executive Session – Personnel Matters**

Motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters with all Board Members, Chief Bucherati, Deputy Chief Fappiano and Inspector Matusovich at 7:58 p.m. by Duke/Koskelowski

Motion Passed 5-0

Motion to return from executive session at 9:14 p.m. with no actions or votes taken by Koskelowski/Duke.

Motion Passed 5-0

- 9) **Correspondence:** - Commissioner Koskelowski requested to donate \$500 from the Community Funds for Emergency Services for the Food Drive and \$500 to be put towards Team Toys 4 Kids. Under the discussion, Commissioner Kulas moved to amend it to change the amount from \$500 for each to \$1,000 for each and seconded by Koskelowski and Kelley. Chief Bucherati received commendation for Sergeant Friedlander and Officer Tomasella for a missing juvenile from the school and the juvenile was quickly located. Commissioner Bitso read a letter from the Seymour Police Department addressed to the Chief of Police and the Police Commissioners regarding their appreciation for the positive changes that have been implemented since being hired as Chief of Police at the Seymour Police Department and requested it to be included with the monthly minutes for November 2025. Chief Bucherati commended everyone.

Motion to donate \$1,000 from the Community Funds for Emergency Services to the Food Drive and \$1,000 to Team Toys 4 Kids by Kulas/Koskelowski

Motion Passed 5-0

- 10) **Other Business:** - no comments

- 11) **Commissioner Comments:** - Commissioner Kulas stated that he received a call about complaints regarding cars parking on cul-de-sacs and requested all cul-de-sacs to be checked.

- 12) **Union Business:** - no comments

- 13) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting by Koskelowski/Duke

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Motion Passed 5-0

Dear Chief of Police and Police Commissioners,

We, a group of dedicated Seymour Police Officers serving in the Town of Seymour, are writing this letter to express our sincere appreciation for the positive changes you have implemented since being hired as our Chief. In a time when police recruiting and retention face unprecedented challenges—such as negative public perceptions, staffing shortages, and the impacts of civil unrest and policy changes—your leadership has been a beacon of hope and progress for our department.

From the outset, you have demonstrated a commitment to fostering a supportive work environment. Your initiatives, including enhanced training programs, improved communication channels, and recognition of officers' efforts, have significantly boosted employee morale. We have seen firsthand how these improvements have helped us navigate the demanding recruiting climate, where attracting qualified candidates has become increasingly difficult due to factors like long hours, pension concerns, and shifting societal views on law enforcement. Despite these obstacles, your strategic approaches—such as outreach to universities and innovative recruitment strategies—have begun to yield promising results, bringing in new talent and revitalizing our department.

Your focus on officer well-being, professional development, and community engagement has not only strengthened our internal cohesion but also enhanced our ability to serve the public effectively. We feel more motivated and valued under your guidance, which has translated into higher performance and a renewed sense of purpose in our roles.

Thank you, Chief, for your visionary leadership and unwavering dedication. We look forward to continuing this positive trajectory together and supporting your efforts to build an even stronger department.

Sincerely, A Group of Grateful Police Officers

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Christa Venturini #217

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223

Det. Michael Johnson #223