

Seymour Police Department
Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2025

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

Members Absent: David Bitso

Also Present: Chief John Bucherati, Deputy Chief Michael Fappiano, Inspector Joe Matusovich, Officer Parratt, Officer Tomasella, Officer Gallo, Officer Herrera, Officer Civitella and members of the public.

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

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Nomination and Election of Officers for 2026

Motion to nominate David Bitso as President by Koskelowski/Kulas.

Motion Passed 4-0

Motion to nominate John Duke as Vice Chairman by Koskelowski/Kelley

Motion Passed 4-0

Motion to nominate Kyle Kelley as Secretary by Koskelowski/Kulas

Motion Passed 4-0

4) Public Comment: None

5) Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on November 12, 2025

Motion to accept minutes from November 12, 2025 by Kelley/Kulas

Motion Passed 4-0

6) Management Report:

Chief Bucherati discussed that the budget is good except for overtime which is \$9,000 over. The Town of Seymour and an employee came to a mutual separation agreement. We are in the process of background checks on three of the four candidates and are continuing the interview process. The officers had firearms training and Chief Bucherati attended various meetings throughout the month. One new recruit, Ryan Marinella was sworn in and is currently in the Milford Academy. Detective Dempsey and Officer Ufferfilge spoke to the youths at the Seymour Middle School for Veteran's Day and Officer Tomasella facilitated the event. There was a great turnout by officers at the annual food drive at Stop & Shop. Patrol Officers and the Detective Bureau assisted the State with tobacco underage compliance checks at several businesses which were all compliant. The new patrol rifles were delivered and are being outfitted with the suppressors and optics and should be ready in a few weeks. Team Toys 4 Kids event took place and there was a great turnout. Chief Bucherati stated they are currently working on the revised OIC and Supernumerary Policies. The Christmas Parade was cancelled due to inclement weather.

7) Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Kulas requested speed cameras in high traffic locations. Chief Bucherati stated that the ordinance passed and he met with a representative regarding the CPCA event and someone will be coming in January 2026 to discuss locations. Commissioner Kulas spoke to Deputy Chief Fappiano about a woman in fear of a man who was trying doors at a home and hopes that patrol is pursuing this person to make it safer. Commissioner Koskelowski stated he does not support what was done by the Town of Seymour concerning the employee separation agreement, and wants to put it on the record that he thinks that it was totally wrong for the Town of Seymour to do what they did.

8) Old Business:

- a. Patrol Reports – no comments
- b. Detective Reports – no comments
- c. K-9 Reports – Commissioner Koskelowski stated that there were four incidents for K-9 use last month with two in Seymour and two in another town and they must look at that when looking into getting another K-9. There has not been a lot of use for K-9 in the last six months in the Town of Seymour.
- d. SRO Reports – no comments
- e. Car Reports – no comments

Motion to accept the reports by Kulas/Koskelowski

Motion Passed 4-0

9) New Business:

a. K-9 Discussion

Chief Bucherati discussed that he supports getting a second K-9 and it can be a different dog breed like a labrador or a bloodhound. The budget is already there for food and a vehicle. The expense would be getting another dog and the only cost would be the initial training. Officer Gallo discussed the training fees and foundations he works with. Commissioner Kelley stated that most of the costs for a K-9 are by donations. Ansonia just added a K-9 on duty and it will eliminate some calls for a K-9. Commissioner Kelley supports getting another K-9. Commissioner Kulas wants to know the average number of police officers to K-9's in the surrounding agencies and requested the statistics for the next meeting. Commissioner Koskelowski stated he thought there would be a K-9 on each shift and is concerned about finances and asked if the K-9 Officer works seven hours a day and Chief Bucherati stated yes because it is in the State Labor Law. Commissioner Koskelowski asked if an SRO is more important at the high school vs. getting another K-9. Chief Bucherati stated that the department needs both. Commissioner Koskelowski wants to see the town budget before making a decision on getting another K-9. Chief Bucherati stated he will get back to the Board Members with more information. The Board Members all agreed to table the discussion for getting another K-9 on next month's meeting agenda.

b. FY27 Preliminary Budget

Commissioner Duke stated that the preliminary budget is based on a fully funded budget. Chief Bucherati stated that this is the first stage of the budget and the SRO line has a large increase of 103% next to it because it was taken from the uniform line and moved to the SRO line to fund the high school and middle school. We can get it down 3-4% with getting rid of overtime, but needed to put in for overtime because we have spent 340k in the last few years. There is a place holder for one vehicle pending the town's approval for the lease program. Most areas stayed flat or there is a modest increase based on contractual raises. There are increases in the overtime line and in the vehicle line. The preliminary budget is about an 11% increase. There are some vacancies and may need to transfer it to the overtime line. Commissioner Duke stated that they must give them a fully funded budget and the Board Members agreed. It includes two K-9's and another SRO officer at the high school. Chief Bucherati also stated that the capital request is to include \$21,882 for a firearms evidence storage system.

10) Correspondence: - no comments

11) Other Business: - Commissioner Kulas stated last year they donated \$100 from the Community Fund to The Richard R. Pearson Memorial Fund which is a fund that raises money for Seymour's service men and women currently serving in active duty in the military for Christmas. Deputy Chief Fappiano stated that they had a very successful toy drive this year and they just received a \$75 donation to go toward Team Inc. which brings the total to a little over \$1000.

Motion to add to the agenda item 12 to donate to The Richard R. Pearson Memorial Fund by Koskelowski/Kulas

Motion Passed 4-0

12) The Richard R. Pearson Memorial Fund:

Motion to make a \$100 donation to The Richard R. Pearson Memorial Fund by Kelley/Kulas. Commissioner Koskelowski stated to increase the donation to \$200. Motion to donate \$100 to The Richard R. Pearson Memorial Fund by Kelley/Kulas Motion to amend motion and to increase the donation from \$100 to \$200 to The Richard R. Pearson Memorial Fund by Kelley/Kulas

Motion Passed 4-0

13) Commissioner Comments: All Commissioners commended everyone for a great job on all of the events in the past month.

14) Union Business: - The contract was signed by all parties.

15) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Koskelowski/Kulas

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Motion Passed 4-0