

Seymour Police Department
Board of Police Commissioners

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Members Present: Tom Lapaglia, John Duke, Robert J. Koskelowski and Kyle Kelley

Members Absent: David Bitso

Also Present: Chief John Bucherati, Deputy Chief Michael Fappiano, Officer Gallo, Candidate and a member of the public.

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

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

3) **Public Comment:** No Comments

4) **Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting on January 14, 2026**

Motion to accept special minutes from January 14, 2026 by Koskelowski/Kelley

Motion Passed 3-0-1

5) **Management Report:**

Chief Bucherati stated that the budget looks good except for overtime. There is one officer on administrative leave and there are two openings. Officer Baldwin is a lateral transfer who was sworn in and completed his FTO period and Officer Chacho was sworn in and is attending the POST Academy in Meriden. Officer T. Tomasella is progressing through his FTO phases. There is a sign-up sheet for several vacancies, Sergeant test which will be in March or April, K-9 Officer, SRO for the Seymour High School and a Community Officer. Interviews took place and Officer Herrera will be the K-9 Officer. Chief Bucherati met with town officials and Dave Martin from Northwest CMED to go over funding concerning the dispatch transition. Deputy Chief Fappiano completed the annual Pursuit and Use of Force reports and submitted them to the State of Connecticut. The annual body worn/dash camera report was also submitted. Chief Bucherati also testified in Federal Court for a Second Amendment lawsuit brought against him by a fellow police chief and the U.S Attorney challenging the law concerning the age limitations on pistol permits. The Entry Level and Certified Officer positions were reposted on the Police App for another year. There were several asset forfeiture submissions entered into the federal system because of a large case that our officer assigned to the DEA task force was involved in. Chief Bucherati went before the Board of Selectpersons to talk about the state of the Police Department along with the possible dispatch transition and went to the Callahan House to speak to the residents about various topics. A request was submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department and the Athletic Turf Committee to obtain left over turf to use at the firearms range. There was a snowstorm January 25th into the 26th and officers have been enforcing the winter parking ban. Commissioner Koskelowski asked Chief Bucherati if they can be given a

summary of the finance account with a starting figure. Chief Bucherati stated that he will get that for the Board Members.

6) Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Koskelowski stated he will talk at the last part of the meeting. Commissioner Duke welcomed Commissioner Tom Lapaglia to the Board of Police Commissioners.

7) Old Business:

- a. Patrol Reports – Commissioner Koskelowski asked if the reports can show the motor vehicle stops with violations and how many days and hours the officer worked on the road. Chief Bucherati stated he will have Inspector Matusovich add the reports back in like they were done in the past. Also, Commissioner Koskelowski stated that there are a lot of 911 hang ups. Deputy Chief Fappiano stated that people hit their Apple Watch or phone by accident. Chief Bucherati stated that stops have been down due to the bad weather in the past month. Commissioner Koskelowski stated that they need to increase patrol at the intersection of Pearl Street and Maple Street and Chief Bucherati stated that they are aware of it and will let patrol know.
- b. Detective Reports – no comments
- c. K-9 Reports – Commissioner Koskelowski asked about the two K-9 calls which were outside of Seymour. Deputy Chief Fappiano stated that the K-9 Officer was on vacation and was at the academy doing firearms training with the new recruits.
- d. SRO Reports – no comments
- e. Car Reports – no comments

8) New Business:

- a. Candidate Interview - Executive Session
Motion to add to the agenda under New Business 8a as Candidate Interview - Executive Session by Kelley/Koskelowski

Motion Passed 4-0

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:41 p.m. to interview the candidate with the Board Members, Chief Bucherati and Deputy Chief Fappiano by Duke/Koskelowski

Motion Passed 4-0

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. with no actions and no votes taken by Koskelowski/Kelley

Motion Passed 4-0

Motion to add to the agenda under New Business 8b as Action on Executive Session - Candidate Interview by Kelley/Koskelowski

Motion Passed 4-0

- b. Action on Executive Session – Candidate Interview
Motion to make an offer of conditional employment to candidate by Koskelowski/Lapaglia

Motion Passed 4-0

9) Correspondence: No Comments

10)Other Business: No Comments

11)Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Koskelowski stated his concerns about leasing vehicles due to not being able to view the agreement prior to signing the lease agreement. The Board Members would like to see a copy of the agreement. Commissioner Koskelowski contacted the Stratford Police Department because they lease vehicles and discovered there were some issues which are concerning. Commissioner Koskelowski stated that he is concerned about the cost of leasing in the future when they will be in need of vehicles all at once because there will be no equity from trade in vehicles like in the first year of leasing the vehicles. Commissioner Koskelowski also stated concerns about the dispatch transition to Northwest CMED due to the costs associated with it. Commissioner Koskelowski stated that it seems like a good thing for the Town of Seymour in the future, but does not think this year would be the year for it because finances are very tight. There will be meetings with the Board of Selectpersons and Board of Finance in the future and they will make the final decisions. Commissioner Duke stated that he was contacted by someone who has not lived in the State of Connecticut for about forty-five (45) years who stated they are concerned because there are rumors that are not accurate that they saw on social media. Commissioner Duke stated that he would like to caution the residents of Seymour, Connecticut stating they should not believe anything they see on Facebook or any social media platforms unless it's from the official channels such as being released by the Seymour Police Department, the Town of Seymour, First Selectwoman's page, Board of Finance or Board of Selectpersons.

12)Union Business: No comments.

13)Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Koskelowski/Lapaglia

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Motion Passed 4-0