Seymour Police Department

Board of Police Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2026

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 10/21/26
TIME: 3:52pm
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Members Present: David Bitso, Tom LaPaglia, John Duke and Robert J. Koskelowski

Members Absent: Kyle Kelley

Also Present: First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis, Chief John Bucherati, Deputy Chief Michael Fappiano, Inspector Joseph Matusovich, Officer David Gallo, Officer David Parratt, and members of the public.

1) **Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.**
2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
3) **Public Comment:** James Leonard, of 98 Meadow Street, Seymour CT, raised concerns about dangerous traffic in the neighborhood. He noted that because P&S Paving and Lena Construction are working in the area, drivers are not obeying the Stop Sign on Spruce Street. Additionally, motorists coming off Route 67 are speeding when driving up Robert Street, Meadow Street and Garden Street and are also going through the Stop Sign. Commissioner Bitso stated that Chief Bucherati will look into the matter.
4) **Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting on September 9, 2026**

Motion to accept regular minutes from September 9, 2026 by Duke/Koskelowski
Motion Passed 4-0

5) **Management Report**

Chief Bucherati stated that the budget is in good standing, with the exception of overtime, which is over budget by $57,000. The two officers who were on short-term disability have returned to work. There are currently two vacancies, and two officers are enrolled in the academy. Additionally, Officer Chacho has completed the Field Training Officer (FTO) program and is now patrolling independently. Throughout September, Chief Bucherati attended several meetings. Regarding community events, the Pumpkin Festival experienced a low turnout due to inclement weather, but no issues were reported. Chief Bucherati also commended Officer Soares and Officer T. Martin for effectively subduing an armed individual using de-escalation techniques and the use of a taser. Chief Bucherati attended a meeting with all Chiefs regarding ALPR recommendations and attended another meeting with legislatures and South Central Chiefs to discuss areas of concern in law enforcement such as taxes, recruitment retention, FOIA, election law and ALPR's especially with FOIA requests on body camera and how one case can be extremely time consuming to gather all digital footage from every officer involved. The State is looking at ways to recoup the costs.

6) **Commissioner Comments**
Commissioner LaPaglia commended SRO's for doing a great job regarding cyberbullying. Commissioner Koskelowski commended Chief Bucherati for his monthly administrative reports and discussed using general funds for overtime.

7) **Old Business:**
   a. Patrol Reports – no comments
   b. Detective Reports – no comments
   c. K-9 Reports – Officer Gallo stated it's been a busier month and Officer Herrera and K-9 Izzy are progressing well in the academy and emphasized that no one is allowed to pet Izzy since he is in training.
   d. SRO Reports – no comments
   e. Car Reports – The pickup truck is on order.

8) **New Business:**
   a. Discussion/Possible Action on SRO Challenge Coins
   Chief Bucherati discussed that the SRO's came up with the idea of the Challenge Coins and it's a way to give students a reward as a positive reinforcement and then requested $2,196.26 from the Community Fund to purchase the coins to give to the SRO's.

Motion to take $2,196.26 from the Community Fund to purchase the Challenge Coins and give it to the SRO's by Duke/Koskelowski

Motion Passed 4-0

Commissioner Bitso stated that he was informed last Friday, via an email from the First Selectperson's office, that Board Members will not be represented in the union contract negotiations. He noted that two years ago, the Board was told in person that it would have representation, and he would like to know why this policy changed. According to Commissioner Bitso, an email from the Human Resources (HR) Director Christopher Pelosi indicated that neither HR nor the Union wants the Board represented. Commissioner Bitso recalled that Commissioner Koskelowski served on the negotiating committee many years ago. However, the FOP (Fraternal Order of Police) negotiator stated that Police Commissioners have never sat on the negotiating committee. Annmarie clarified that, according to Christopher Pelosi and FOP representative Steve Eagan, the exclusion of Police Commissioners was established in the ground rules. Commissioner Duke expressed skepticism, asking if a union representative truly requested that rule. Annmarie confirmed that is what Christopher Pelosi stated to her. When Commissioner Duke asked Officer Parratt for clarification, Officer Parratt agreed, stating that in his experience across a dozen negotiations, Police Commissioners never sat on their side of the table. Commissioner Duke objected, noting that the Board was promised a seat at the table by the person who runs the Town of Seymour, yet someone representing their side agreed to exclude them. Commissioner Duke reminded the room that Board Members are elected by the residents to do what is best for the Town of Seymour and the Police Department. While they do not want to run the negotiations and understand where the line is drawn, they ultimately have to enforce the final contract as Board Members, which is why they should be present when that contract is being drafted. Commissioner Duke personally feels that they are not trying to derail the negotiation and that they understand where the line is. However, as Board

Members, they must enforce what is in the contract and should be present during contract discussions to provide input. If they are kept out of that loop, they cannot reasonably agree to approve it. Annmarie stated that ground rules are already in place and the date is set for tomorrow. Commissioner Bitso added that he finds it hard to believe the FOP Union can dictate who is barred from sitting on the Board's negotiations committee. Commissioner Duke argued that if parties are negotiating in good faith, whoever the Board appoints should be permitted to participate. While Annmarie reiterated that the ground rules are already established, Commissioner Koskelowski countered that ground rules can be undone and he noted that he has served on the Board for 15 years, has been on the negotiating team multiple times, and previously served as First Selectman. Commissioner Koskelowski pointed out that the Town Charter's home rules clearly state they guide the conversation with the approval of the Board of Finance and the approval of the negotiations. Commissioner Koskelowski called the idea of a union deciding who represents the town on a negotiating team absurd and unprecedented. He added that if a Police Commissioner cannot participate, they are not doing their job, emphasizing that the First Selectwoman is the boss and has the authority to change the ground rules. Finally, Annmarie stated she would like to defer to the union representative, questioning whether changing the ground rules would require the town to give up a concession. The Commissioners' response was no because they have not yet started negotiations. Commissioner Bitso stated that he possesses the Town Charter and can read it, noting that its language is very clear. Commissioner Koskelowski raised a concern regarding potential grievances and stated that if a grievance is filed over a contract provision that the Commissioners did not agree to, but the town approved, the Commissioners would still be forced to defend it. This could lead to arbitration, which requires a Commissioner's presence. He questioned how they could handle arbitration for an issue they never discussed or agreed upon. Commissioner Koskelowski noted this stems from a 2019 town vote that permanently added one detective to the detective bureau and assigned another to a statewide task force for two years, starting January 1st. At the time, the First Selectman stated they had to vote on the matter because it was part of active negotiations. Commissioner Koskelowski argued that if one specific issue is considered part of negotiations, the entire contract should be open to negotiation. He added that moving these two individuals out of patrol has caused a significant amount of overtime. Furthermore, he stated that the Town Charter oversees state statutes, and even the state statutes align with the Charter's wording. Ultimately, the First Selectperson holds the power to make final decisions, not Human Resources or anyone else in that office. Annmarie stated that no one else in the Town of Seymour besides the Director of Human Resources has commented on the matter, and any further discussions must go through her. Commissioner Bitso reported that he spoke with the First Selectwoman, noting that someone else in town was interfering and attempting to cancel the meeting. However, Christopher Pelosi communicated via text with the Annmarie, confirming that the meeting could not be cancelled. Finally, Commissioner Koskelowski reiterated that HR should not have a say in this matter. Officer Parratt stated that following a discussion with HR, he did not know how the conversation was portrayed, but noted it was a mutual agreement. Commissioner Koskelowski clarified that they are not blaming the union; rather, it is the individual and the town representative who do not want it.

Commissioner Bitso stated for the record that he met with Annmarie in her office about a week ago. He informed her that he had not received any notice regarding the current situation. In response, she emailed Christopher Pelosi, admitting it was an oversight on her part for not sending the information to him. Ten minutes later, Commissioner Bitso received an email with the packet and asked, "You are the boss, so why aren't people listening to you?" Christopher Pelosi replied via text message to the Annmarie stating he could ask them, but it is ultimately up to the union, although he could inform them if that is what they want. The Commissioners agreed. Christopher Pelosi stated via text to the Annmarie that they could state they have signed ground rules. When Annmarie asked if they could change the ground rules, the Commissioners responded that they could since the first meeting had not yet occurred. Commissioner Bitso noted that if they are negotiating in good faith, this is a small ask. Commissioner Koskelowski questioned the Police Commissioner's role, noting that he remained silent during negotiations but later went to the town attorney to make suggestions. Christopher Pelosi's text to Annmarie stated to let the Commissioner know to show up and wait outside until invited in, asking if he should contact Steve Eagan to discuss the matter which Commissioners stated was not necessary. The meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at the Town of Seymour.

Correspondence: Chief Bucherati stated that he received a letter from the Konnik family expressing their gratitude for the honor guard for Retired Sergeant Edward Konnik's funeral services.

9) **Other Business:** No Comments

10) **Commissioner Comments:** Commissioner Koskelowski asked Officer Gallo whether the public could pet the new K-9, Izzy. Officer Gallo explained that his K-9 may be pet, but since Izzy is currently in training, it is best for people to refrain from petting him. The Commissioners commended everyone for doing a great job at the Pumpkin Festival. They also noted that a food drive will be held next, followed by a toy drive, and expressed their satisfaction that everything is going so well.

11) **Union Business:** No Comments

12) **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn meeting by Koskelowski/Duke
Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.
Motion Passed 4-0