

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 7:00p.m.
Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Anyone requiring special accommodations due to disability is asked to contact Headquarters at 438-6531 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Present: John Frey, Chairman
Issy Caporale, Secretary
Sharon Dornfeld
Ralph Money

Absent: Marianne Coffin

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz
Major Platt

These minutes are an overview of the meeting; not a verbatim text.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Frey

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Frey requested a motion to accept the minutes of the May 11, 2023 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Minutes of May 11, 2023 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Coffin was absent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

West Mountain Road resident Susan Consentino, who was present at the meeting, voiced her concerns about some of the roads/intersections in town. One intersection of her concern is the intersection of Old Sib Road and Blue Ridge Road.

She stated that an advisory sign stating that traffic does not stop would be beneficial as well. The Chief and the Commission agreed and advised her that Sgt. Caswell will be reviewing the intersection. Chief Kreitz stated that the Highway Department has already been notified regarding cutting back the foliage for improved sight lines.

Susan was also requested for us to review the speed limit on Mulberry Street. Sgt. Caswell will review the area and offer recommendations. She was also concerned about the truck traffic on the road. Chief Kreitz explained the limitations with making the road a "No Thru Truck" roadway.

Susan also requested radar enforcement on West Mountain Road and was instructed to fill out a speeding complaint form.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

There was no voicemail received by Commissioner Caporale for the month of May.

B. Written Correspondence

Chief Kreitz stated he received one Highway Use Permit, which was signed by Chairman Frey-

Southwest Café Margarita 5K 07/29/23 1900-2030

4. NEW BUSINESS

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Hiring Update

Chief Kreitz stated that conditional offers have been given and we are now in the background phase of the hiring process for the police officer positions.

B. Public Safety Building Update

Jake Muller (Director of Facilities and Purchasing) continues to be in contact with Kaestle Boos.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

Sgt. Caswell provided follow-up on two resident request/concerns.

The first one was a request for a crosswalk installation on Prospect Ridge at Quail Ridge. Sgt. Caswell reviewed the area and the resident's concern from March 3, 2023 and determined the following:

Sgt. Caswell spoke with the supervisor at the school bus company and she stated the bus stop is on the east side of Prospect Ridge at the entrance to Quail Ridge. There is no reason for the children to be crossing the road prior to the buses arrival. Due to the fact that Prospect Ridge is a one-way street with low traffic volume as well as the bus stop location, a crosswalk is not recommended at this time.

The second was a request from an Old Sib Road resident who expressed safety concerns over the intersection of Old Sib Road and Blue Ridge Road. The concerns include the speed at which vehicles are traveling down the hill on Blue Ridge Road as well as the sight lines. The resident stated that previously there was a stop sign at this intersection, which has been removed.

Approximately four years ago Town Highway accidentally installed a stop sign at the Old Sib Road / Blue Ridge Road intersection. Sgt. Caswell received a number of calls from the residents stating that there was never a stop sign at that intersection and it needed to be removed. Research of the area showed that the stop sign was never approved for that intersection and it was removed within a few weeks. In order to place a stop sign at the intersection, it would need to be configured as a three way stop, similar to the Mamanasco Road / Tackora Trail / Old Sib Road intersection. Sgt. Caswell researched the traffic history of the intersection and found that since 2001 there have been no accidents at that intersection. The traffic volume is much lower due to the high school traffic using Tackora Trail and Mamanasco Road to get to school. Sgt. Caswell would recommend that radar details be set up during the high school rush as well as having the foliage trimmed back to improve visibility. Turning that intersection into a 3-way stop is not recommended at this time.

B. Training/PR Report

The following report was submitted by Capt. Jeff Raines, Division of Professional Standards.

**Ridgefield Police Department
Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report
May 2023**

Training Attended:

- May 8-12:** Department members attended Active Aggressor Training at the Veterans Park Elementary School. The class was instructed by Detective Dardis and Officer Van Wattum.
- May 9:** School Resource Officer Giglio and Detective Ryan attended Successful Collaboration of Sexual Assault Investigations at the Greenwich PD.
- May 16-18:** Officer McMahon and Officer Vasquez attended (FTO) Field Training Officer training at the Farmington PD.
- May 18:** Captain Smith, Captain Raines, Detective Dardis, Detective DuBord and Detective Ryan attended Responding to and Investigating Bomb Threats and Swatting Hoaxes (online).
- May 22-24:** Dispatcher Zaffina and Dispatcher Bell attended Telecommunicator Training at the Cromwell FD.
- May 31:** Captain Smith attended Car Seat Instructor recertification training at the Middletown PD.

P/R Events:

- May 25:** The Annual Police Memorial Ceremony was held at the Lounsbury House.
- May 31:** The annual GRADD ceremony took place in front of Town Hall.

Upcoming Events:

The RHS senior intern (Madeline Klein) started her internship with us on May 8th and will be with us until June 9th.

We will be hosting our annual Awards Ceremony (Sgt. / Lt. Swearing-In) on June 22nd @ 1000 hours at the Lounsbury House. All are encouraged to attend.

A total of 20 Public Relations were performed during the month to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at the Shir Shalom Temple.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- Officers gave several Rides-To-School.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.

Chief Kreitz stated the Special Olympics Torch Run was a success once again this year.

C. Department Stats

Chief Kreitz reported the total number of incidents for the month of May 2023 was 1,434. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

7. Union Participation

None.

Commissioner Money made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 7:52pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously,

Respectfully Submitted,

Issy Caporale
Police Commission Secretary