

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, April 13, 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
Marianne Coffin
Sharon Dornfeld
Ralph Money

Also Present: Major Platt

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Chairman Frey

Chairman Frey stated there would not be an Executive Session.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Frey requested a motion to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2023 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Minutes of March 9, 2023 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.

Chairman Frey requested a motion to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2023 Police Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Minutes of April 4, 2023 Police Commission Special Meeting accepted as written.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**A. Voicemail**

Commissioner Caporale stated she received a voicemail from a resident concerned about feral cats in her neighborhood. Chairman Frey offered to follow up with the resident.

B. Written Correspondence

Major Platt stated Sgt. Caswell received an email from Tracy Bryggman, the Operations Manager at ACT of CT., stating they have had ongoing issues with "out of town patrons" getting lost trying to find the theater. They have contacted the State of CT. in an attempt to get some signage on Route 7 and also wants signage in town directing them to ACT of CT. Sgt. Caswell will follow up with Ms. Bryggman for clarification purposes.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Dave Buccitti, Highway Department Supervisor, emailed the Chief requesting the authorization to remove the island at the intersection of Lee Road and Farmingville Road once the sewage treatment project was complete. This would occur prior to the repaving of Farmingville Road. After a brief discussion, it was agreed by all to allow the Highway Department to remove the island at the intersection.

5. OLD BUSINESS**A. Central Dispatch Update**

Major Platt stated that the Central Dispatch is moving forward. The room has been updated by painting, new carpeting and lightning. Training has been ongoing as we approach the implementation date of April 25th for the consolidated dispatch with the FD.

B. State DOT Crosswalk Upgrade

Major Platt met with the State officials at the Rapid Flashing Beacon sight (State DOT Project 117-901), just south of the intersection of Rockwell Road and Main Street. The installed beacon, which meets State standards, and is operational at this time.

C. Hiring Update

Major Platt stated that he has received numerous applications for the police officer positions which are now open. This phase of the application process closes on May 5th.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT**A. Traffic/Sign Report**

Major Platt stated he received an email from Sgt. Caswell stating there was no signage installed for the month of March 2023. Sgt. Caswell, along with the Town Highway, will schedule sign installation and repair in the next few weeks.

B. Training/PR Report

The following report, presented by Major Platt, was submitted by Capt. Jeff Raines, Division of Professional Standards:

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

Training Attended:

- March 1:** Officer McKnight attended Breath Alcohol Instructor training in Meriden, CT.
- March 2:** Captain Raines instructed DUI for eight newly hired lateral transfers at the Danbury Police Department.
- March 6-8:** The entire department attended Low Light Shooting, instructed by Captain Fowler and Detective Dardis at the Ramapoo Range
- March 6-10:** SRO Giglio and Officer Hartling attended Tri-Annual Re-cert training at SHU.
- March 6-17:** Officer Seibert attended DARE training in Bridgewater, NJ.
- March 16:** Sergeant Clarke, Sergeant Caswell, Officer Gjodesen, Officer Ekstrom and Officer Ladue attended Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT.
- March 20-21:** Captain Smith attended a Parent Reunification Workshop in Milford, CT.
- March 22:** SRO Giglio, SRO Seibert and SRO Williams attended Advanced Digital Threat Assessment training online (via ZOOM).

March 22-23: Officer Geller and Officer McKnight attended National Honor Guard Academy training in Plainville, CT.

March 27-30: Dispatcher Campos attended Telecommunicator training at POSTC.

P/R Events:

March 3: Detective Ryan presented a safety talk for the seniors at Founders Hall.

March 16: Captain Raines and Detective DuBord attended an event hosted by The Ridgefield Prevention Council at Gallo Restaurant.

March 22: Detective Ryan presented a safety talk for the residents at #51 Prospect Ridge (Ridgefield Housing Authority).

March 25: Captain Raines attended the RVNA annual Health-Wellness Fair at the East Ridge Middle School

March 30: Detective Ryan presented a safety talk for the residents at #25 Gilbert Street (Ridgefield Housing Authority).

Upcoming Events:

Captain Raines and Detective DuBord will be attending the University New Haven Career Fair on April 13th to promote our upcoming hiring process.

Captain Raines will be holding a National Drug Take Back Day on April 22nd with members of the Ridgefield Prevention Council, outside of Bissell Pharmacy.

A total of 15 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) 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 performed two tours of HQ for the Ridgefield Girl Scouts.
- Officers performed two safety talks at the Jesse Lee day School.

- Officers gave several Rides-To-School. (Gift Certificate recipients)
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.

C. Department Stats

Major Platt reported the total number of incidents for the month of March 2023 was 1,269. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

7. Union Participation

None.

Commissioner Dornfeld made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 07:50pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously,

Respectfully Submitted,

Issy Caporale
Police Commission Secretary