

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, February 8, 2024 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: Sharon Dornfeld, Chairperson
Issy Caporale, Secretary
Marianne Coffin
John Frey
Ralph Money

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz
Major Shawn Platt

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Chairperson Dornfeld

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to amend the minutes of the January 11, 2024 Police Commission Meeting as no votes took place in the Executive Session. Commissioner Caporale made a motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

All in Favor

**Minutes of the January 11, 2024 Police Commission Meeting
accepted as amended.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

Commissioner Caporale stated she received one voicemail for the month of January, which was addressed by Chief Kreitz and Commissioner Dornfeld.

B. Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence for the month of January.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Town E-mail Addresses

Over the next 5 months the Town is transitioning to all Town business utilizing a Town email address. The Police Commission will be contacted by I.T. for setup.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Safety Building Update

A follow-up meeting between the Board of Police Commissioners and the Board of Selectpersons will take place on February 13th.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

The following report was submitted by Sgt. Mark Caswell, Sign Officer.

Re: February 2024 Sign Report

Sign Repair

Repaired the Stop sign at Continental Dr and Barrack Hill Rd

Repaired the Keep Right sign at Limekiln Rd and Lee Rd

Repaired the Stop sign at Florida Hill Rd and Florida Rd

Replaced the 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Florida Rd

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
January 2024**

Training Attended:

Jan. 3-5: Officer Olivares attended Field Training Officer at POSTC.

Jan. 4: Detective Dardis and Detective DuBord attended Report Writing for Detectives and Criminal Investigators (Online).

Jan. 8-12: Sergeant Brown attended mandatory tri-annual recertification at

Western Connecticut State University.

- Jan. 17:** Captain Raines attended Social-Media in Public Safety: Does Your Agency Have it Right? (Online)
- Jan. 24:** Detective Ryan attended Exploring the Five Key Real Estate Scams (Online).
- Jan. 30:** Captain Raines attended The Importance of Achieving Accreditation for your Agency (Online).
- Jan. 31:** Detective Dardis and School Resource Officer Williams attended Active Shooter Response Training in White Plains, NY, hosted by Homeland Security.
- Jan. 31:** Officer Biros, Officer Conrad and Officer Matos attended pre-NREMT test training at Easton EMS, hosted by EMT Margie Arnold.

P/R Events:

- Jan. 24:** K9 Officer McKnight and K-9 Odin performed a demonstration at the Barlow Mountain Elementary School for one of School Resource Officer Seibert's DARE classes.
- Jan. 31:** School Resource Officer Giglio attended one of his fifth grade DARE culminating activity sessions, which is a new concept that was received very well.

Upcoming Events:

There are no upcoming events posted for the month of February yet.

A total of 13 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 tours of HQ for several groups of children.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police

Activities & Safety Messages.

C. DEPARTMENT STATS

Chief Kreitz stated the total number of incidents for the month of January 2024 was 1,580. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

Chief Kreitz stated that he spoke with State Representative Aimee Berger-Girvallo, Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee, regarding the traffic backup on Danbury Road in the area of Copps Hill. Chief Kreitz stated that the backup is caused by the timing of the traffic control signals at the Danbury Road/Copps Hill Plaza and the Danbury Road/Farmingville Road intersections. Chief Kreitz stated that the State DOT has been notified numerous times regarding the timing, however, due to the age of the signal at Copps Hill Plaza the timing cannot be improved. He noted the signal at Danbury Road/Farmingville Road intersection was updated a few years ago. Chief Kreitz stated that this is an ongoing issue and that he believes if the traffic control signal is updated at Danbury Road/Copps Hill Plaza traffic will flow better through the area because the lights can communicate more efficiently. State Representative Aimee Berger-Girvallo stated that she spoke with the State DOT and an onsite visit is going to be scheduled in the near future.

Chief Kreitz also mentioned that the Ridgefield Police Department is offering Citizens Police Academy every Wednesday night, from March 20th – May 8th, from 6pm – 9pm. This is a great opportunity to learn all about the Police Department and how they protect and serve the citizens of Ridgefield. You can go to the Police Department website to sign up.

Chief Kreitz stated positive feedback was received from enforcing the speed limit.

7. Union Participation

None.

8. Executive Session**Personnel Matter: Officer of the Year 2023**

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:25pm to discuss candidates for Officer of the Year 2023. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 7:45pm.

Commissioner Frey made a motion to name Officer Brian Kay as Ridgefield Police Department's Officer of the Year 2023. Commissioner Money seconded the motion. The Police Commission was unanimous in their decision, and agreed that all candidates were excellent and that they recognize and appreciate their contributions.

All in Favor

Commissioner Frey made a motion to adjourn at 7:53pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Issy Caporale
Police Commission Secretary