

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, April 11, 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
Marianne Coffin
John Frey
Ralph Money
Present By Phone Issy Caporale, Secretary

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 7:01pm by Chairperson Dornfeld

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to accept the minutes of the March 14, 2024 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Frey made a motion and Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

**Minutes of the March 14, 2024 Police Commission Meeting
accepted as written.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Shupmann, from 139 High Ridge Avenue, was present for a follow-up on the traffic camera status on Main Street. She presented her concern at a previous meeting about speeding traffic on High Ridge Avenue/Main Street area, as well as Catoonah Street to West Lane. She was pleased with more patrols in the area, but would like it sustained. She would like to see a more comprehensive plan going forward to alleviate traffic concerns.

Chief Kreitz stated he addresses everyone's complaint about speeding.

The Chief also stated the Town received a grant to study rural roadways in Town, which has to be reviewed to implement change. This grant, through the state, dictates what streets will qualify. Chief Kreitz stated he will follow up with Jake Muller, Director of Public Works & Facilities, regarding if public input will be part of the grant application process. Chief Kreitz stated either Lt. Brian Durling or Sgt. Mark Caswell will get in touch with Ms. Shupmann.

Ms. Shupmann stated she welcomes the continuing patrolling.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

Commissioner Caporale stated she received one voicemail for the month of March, which she addressed.

B. Written Correspondence

Chief Kreitz stated he received one Highway Use Permit, which was signed by Chairperson Dornfeld.

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4. NEW BUSINESS

A. State Project 0174-0472 Traffic Signal Revisions

Chief Kreitz presented to the Police Commission a letter the Town received from CTDOT about plans to replace traffic signal controllers and cabinets at state-owned traffic signals. For Ridgefield, the intersections affected by this are RTE 7 at RTE 102 and Depot Road, RTE 35 at Grove Street, and RTE 7 at Regency/Laurel Ridge.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Safety Building Update

A meeting will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks regarding the building plans update.

B. Hiring Update

Major Platt stated so far 34 applicants have applied for the Police Officer position. This phase of the hiring process closes April 14.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

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

Re: March 2024 Sign Report
Sign Repair:

Redeployed the Speed Limit Sign from North Street to Ridgebury Road.
Installed a Stop sign at Birch Court and Walnut Hill Road.
Installed two 25 mph Speed Limit signs on Walnut Hill Road.
Installed a Stop Sign Ahead on Florida Hill Road.
Installed two 7 Ton Truck Weight signs on Cains Hill Road.
Installed a 7 Ton Truck Weight sign on Ramapoo Road.
Replaced the Stop sign on Grove Street and Sunset Lane.
Replaced the Stop sign on Downesbury Court and Florida Hill Road.
Repaired Slow School Zone Ahead sign on Governor Street.
Replaced Stop Ahead sign on Cooper Road.
Replaced a Multi Curve sign on Florida Road.
Replaced a 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Limestone Road.
Replaced the 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Charter Oak Court.
Replaced the 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Creamery Road.
Replaced the 25 mph Speed Limit sign and Curve sign on Split Level Road.
Replaced Curve sign and 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Soundview Road.
Replaced the 25 mph Speed Limit sign on Fieldcrest Drive.

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
March 2024**

Training Attended:

- March 4-8:** Officer Biros attended mandatory Tri-Annual Recert at Sacred Heart University (SHU) in Fairfield, CT.
- March 7-8:** Officer Clark attended mandatory ARIDE training at POSTC in Meriden, CT.
- March 14:** Captain Fowler, Captain Smith and Captain Raines attended Making Excellence the Norm for Your Police Department Operations at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, CT.
- March 14:** Officer Biros attended the 381st Session's Stations Day for Search & Seizure at POSTC in Meriden, CT.

- March 14-15:** Lieutenant Durling attended De-Escalation Principles and Practices training at POSTC in Meriden, CT.
- March 17-19:** Sergeant Geller attended the first of three training sessions for L.O.C.K.U.P. at the CT Department of Corrections in Cheshire, CT.
- March 18:** Captain Raines attended Professional Public Information Officer training at the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Police Department.
- March 18-20:** Lieutenant Durling and Lieutenant Knoche attended FBINAA Regional Command College training at the Foxwoods Resort.
- March 18-21:** Dispatcher Waller and Dispatcher Hall attended mandatory Telecommunicator training at POSTC in Meriden, CT.
- March 25-29:** Officer Olivares and Officer Clark attended Methods of Instruction (MOI) at the Berlin, CT Police Department.
- March 26-27:** Chief Kreitz, Major Platt, Captain Raines, Officer Giglio, Detective Dardis and Officer Vasquez attended mandatory Emergency Medical responder (EMR) training at HQ, taught by Captain Smith.

P/R Events:

- March 8:** Officer McKnight and K9 Odin performed a K9 demonstration at the Scotland School.
- March 19:** Detective Dardis assisted with a school safety meeting at the Cadence Academy Preschool.
- March 20:** Captain Raines and Detective Dardis started the 2024 Citizen Police Academy (CPA) at HQ, with twelve participants.
- March 21:** Officer McKnight and K9 Odin performed a K9 demonstration for the Ridgefield Housing Authority at Ballard Green.
- March 28:** Captain Raines, Officer McMahon and Officer Conrad (FTO) attended the Opioid Response Committee event, sponsored by The Ridgefield Prevention Council and The Meetinghouse.

March 28: Chief Kreitz, Major Platt and Captain Fowler attended the Newtown Police Department's awards ceremony. Sergeant Van Wattum was recognized for an incident he was involved in, as a member of the Regional SWAT Team.

Upcoming Events:

Captain Raines will be holding a National Drug Take Back Day on April 27th with members of the Ridgefield Prevention Council, outside of Walgreens Pharmacy.

Captain Raines will be participating at the Safe and Savvy Driving Workshop on April 29th along with the Ridgefield Driving School and Pamby Motors.

A total of 12 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/checks were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- Officers performed tours of HQ for several groups of children.
- 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

Chief Kreitz stated the total number of incidents for the month of March 2024 was 1,418.

7. Union Participation

None.

8. Executive Session: Personnel Matter

A. ACO Equipment

Commissioner Money made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:06pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 8:23pm.

Commissioner Money made a motion to adjourn at 8:24pm.

Commissioner Frey seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Issy Caporale
Police Commission Secretary