

**Town of Ridgefield Police Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm**  
**Meeting Location: Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Sharon Dornfeld (Chair), Issy Caporale (Secretary), Ralph Money (by phone), John Frey (from 7:07 pm)

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Stephen Riebling

**ALSO PRESENT:** Major Nick Fowler & Amy Platt

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

**Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Ralph Money to approve the March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026 Special meeting minutes. Seconded by Issy Caporale. Motion carried 3-0.

Motion made by Ralph Money to approve the March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026 meeting minutes. Seconded by Issy Caporale. Motion carried 3-0.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT – None**

**3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. Voicemail – None**

**B. Written Correspondence**

- 1) Request for Highway Use Permit for the Memorial Day Parade route on May 25, 2026.

Motion made by Issy Caporale to approve the permit. Seconded by Ralph Money. Motion carried 3-0.

- 2) Request for Highway Use Permit for Mother's Day 5k Road Race on May 10, 2026.

Motion made by Issy Caporale to approve the permit. Seconded by Ralph Money. Motion carried 3-0.

**4. OLD BUSINESS – None**

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**A.** Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) requests input from the Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC) regarding the application for renovations and additions at Ridgefield Academy, 223 West Mountain Road by 4/21/26.

Issy Caporale moved to communicate to the Planning and Zoning Commission that the Board of Police Commissioners has reviewed the plans and has no objection to the applicant's proposal. Ralph Money seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**6. CHIEF'S REPORT** – Nick Fowler reported on behalf of Chief Kreitz**A. Traffic / Sign Report** – Submitted by Sgt. Matt Seibert**Sign Repair/Maintenance:**

1. Pedestrian Crossing @ Prospect Ridge/Ivy Hill Intersection
2. Bobby's Court stop sign was repaired
3. Electronic Speed sign was removed from Route 7 for maintenance
4. Flashing Lights removed from Farmingville Road Stop Sign at Ligi's Way
5. No Parking Sign installed on Sunset Ln near Grove St. intersection
6. Main St/King Ln Crosswalk Sign replaced
7. Curve Right Sign installed on Spring Valley Road
8. Ridgebury/Ledges Stop Sign repaired

Order was placed with East Coast Sign for additional speed limit signs, stop signs, sign posts, and other miscellaneous signs needed around town.

**Follow-up on February Meeting Discussion Re: ATSED:** Since 2021, there have been eight accidents specifically mentioning sidewalks that included vehicles crossing crosswalks or sidewalks in the town, not caused from being struck by another vehicle.

- (2) pedestrians at fault, (3) DUIs, (2) E-bike's were involved
- An incident at the intersection of Main St. and King Ln. involved two pedestrians who were struck by a motor vehicle and expected to recover from their injuries. The operator was cited for failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk.
- These accidents are not considered speed-related.

**B. Training & Public Relations Report** – Submitted by Cpt. John Knoche

Throughout the month of March, several officers were assigned to meet with the business owners and employees at the Main Street businesses to gather input on recent complaints. Officers also met frequently with religious institutions.

As the weather warmed up, checks of Main Street, Ballard Park and Ballard Green were completed. During these checks, the Officers spoke to residents, while at the same time, monitoring activity. It has been a positive interaction thus far with the businesses, as well as the parents/youth. We continue to check-in with the businesses and monitor areas for improvement.

**COMMUNITY POLICING:**

There were 13-foot patrols on Main Street in March, and 1,000 security checks, which consisted of schools, bank checks, businesses, vacant properties, churches/synagogues and neighborhoods.

**Public Relations Events:**

A total of 57 public relations events took place during the month to include:

- K9 Odin/Officers Kay & McKnight met Girl Scout troop at Farmingville Elementary School
- Citizen Ride-a-Long with Kay (Public Safety Facilities Committee Member)

- Officers Luis/Pagliuco did a meet and greet/safety talk to children at Jesse Lee Day School
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regard to Police Activities & Safety Messages
- Capt. Knoche/Det. Dardis spoke to staff at Ridgefield Library about building safety
- Capt. Knoche/Lt. VanWattum spoke to staff at Ridgefield Rec. Center about building safety
- Ride to Branchville Elementary School in a cruiser-school fundraiser
- Det. Ryan spoke at RVNA about ways to protect yourself from fraud/scams

**Trainings Attended:**

March 2-6	Capt. Durling & Ofc. Giglio attended Officer Recertification
March 3	Capt. Knoche attended the Fairfield County Police Trainers Assoc. meeting
March 11 & 25	Lt. Van Wattum & Sgt. Olivares attended Regional Emergency Response Trng.
March 12-13	Several Officers attended the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Training
March 23-25	Capt. Raines & Capt. Durling attended FBI Regional LEEDA
March 23 & 24	18 Officers attended CPR/AED Training lead by Ofc. Pagliuco
March 30 & 31	Capt. Durling instructed all Officers on their new body worn cameras
March 23-27	Sgt. Olivares attended Supervisor Training thru FBI LEEDA
March 31	Sgt. McMahon completed Lethality Assessment Training

**Upcoming Events:**

1. The Citizen Police Academy will continue through the month of April.
2. Fairfield County Trainer’s Association Meeting is in takes place in Norwalk on 4/7/26.

**C. Department Statistics**

- Major Fowler shared the Department’s monthly incident statistics.

**D. Miscellaneous** – Nothing to report.

**7. UNION PARTICIPATION** – No Union business was discussed.

With no further business, Ralph Money moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. John Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**REMINDER: Next meeting Thursday, May 14, 2025 at 7:00pm**