

**MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday, January 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  
Issy Caporale, Secretary  
John Frey  
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 Chairperson Dornfeld

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2023 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

**Minutes of December 14, 2023 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.**

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

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Laurie Schupmann, from 139 High Ridge Avenue, voiced her concern about speeding on the High Ridge Avenue/Main Street area and a disregard for stop signs. She wanted to make sure that High Ridge Avenue would be in consideration for the Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices (ATESD) for sustained speed control on the roadway, as one way to deter the speeding drivers. Chief Kreitz

stated the guidance was just released and both he and the commission are in the process of reviewing the parameters for the installation of ATESD's in town to determine what locations if any would be applicable.

Lisa DelGiudice, from 99 North Salem Road advised that she did not like the placement of the new intersection warning signs that were installed in front of her residence and that of her neighbors. She stated that she had contacted the State DOT and they would be moving them to their previous location. Lisa requested an update on the rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB's) that she requested at a previous meeting. Chief Kreitz stated the Town applied for Safe Streets Grant which was approved and are working on phase 1 of the process. Phase 1 will look at the mid-block crosswalks in town and assess the need for RRFB's at those locations. Phase 2 will address the installation of the RRFB's. Lisa stated the crosswalk signals on Main Street do not allow sufficient time for pedestrians to finish crossing once the red hand begins to flash. She also stated that the audible signal is not loud enough. Chief Kreitz stated that he would follow-up on this. Lisa voiced her concerns about the intersection North Salem Road and Maple Shade/Saw Mill Hill intersection and was wondering what could be done to improve safety. Chief Kreitz stated the State DOT was contacted to review the area and added additional signage and cut brush back for improved sightlines.

### **3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **A. Voicemail**

There was no voicemail for the month of December.

#### **B. Written Correspondence**

There was no written correspondence for the month of December.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Uniform Division Commander Annual Report**

Captain Nick Fowler gave an overall view of his duties as the Uniform Division Commander. Some of his duties include overseeing 32 Officers, Firearms Unit including training, maintenance, compliance of firearms, purchasing, Criminal Investigations, MVA Investigations, Extra Duty Assignments, overseeing Records Division, IT including troubleshooting for the Department, and repair requests to name a few. A primary function is to be visible to the public protecting them. Capt. Fowler answered any questions the Police Commission had pertaining to his duties. Chief Kreitz praised Capt. Fowler for his hard work and dedication

and for a job well done.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Public Safety Building Update**

Chief Kreitz stated that the recent meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Police Commissioners went well. All agreed that a project estimate by a third-party estimator be done. He said that schematic drawings are roughly 95% complete and that we will reconvene in the next few weeks.

**6. CHIEF'S REPORT**

**A. Traffic/Sign Report**

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

**Re: January 2024 Sign Report**

Sign / Traffic Follow-Up

I followed up with Greg Hutchings regarding the Rail Trail crosswalk. I explained that due to the sightlines and topography of the area a crosswalk is not recommended. He was also advised that new warning/advisory signs on the Rail Trail will be installed.

**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  
December 2023**

**Training Attended:**

There were no training classes attended during the month of December.

**P/R Events:**

**December:** Several tours of HQ were given throughout the month and the remainder of Ride-To School details were completed for all of the gift certificate recipients.

**Dec. 13:** Recruits Andrew Vincent and David Tamburino were sworn in at

HQ. They started at POSTC on January 5<sup>th</sup> with the 381<sup>st</sup> Session.

**Dec. 29:** Recruit Gary Girdvainis was sworn in at HQ. He also started at POSTC on January 5<sup>th</sup> with the 381<sup>st</sup> Session.

**Upcoming Events:**

Ofc. Benjamin Conrad and Ofc. Alejandro Matos will be graduating from the CT police academy with the 379<sup>th</sup> Session on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

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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 were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- 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 December 2023 was 1,525. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month. He highlighted a few of the annual stats from 2021, 2022 and 2023.

**7. Union Participation**

None.

**8. Executive Session**

**Letters of Extension – Retirement Date  
Probationary Status of New Officers**

**Commissioner Caporale made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:41pm. Commissioner Money seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Commissioner Frey made a motion to return to Public Session at 8:59pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Commissioner Frey made a motion to grant extensions to the retirement dates of Major Shawn Platt, Sgt. Bob Brown, and P.O. Fernando Luis. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Commissioner Caporale made a motion to adjourn at 8:59pm. Commissioner Frey seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Issy Caporale  
Police Commission Secretary