MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, February 9, 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
Marianne Coffin
Sharon Dornfeld
Ralph Money

Present by Phone: Issy Caporale, Secretary

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 7:05pm by Chairman Frey

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Chairman Frey requested a motion to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2023 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Dornfeld made a motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Minutes of January 12, 2023 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE
A. Voicemail
   No voicemail received for January.

B. Written Correspondence
   No written correspondence received for January.
4. NEW BUSINESS
   A. None.

5. OLD BUSINESS
   A. Crosswalk Safety
   North Salem Road resident Lisa DelGiudice, who was present at the meeting, gave a follow-up presentation about her concern about pedestrian safety and rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB’s) being installed at certain crosswalks in town. She stated that she first presented to the Police Commission in May of 2022 and requested an update. Lisa DelGiudice stated that she has been in contact with State Representative Aimee Berger-Girvalo and received an email from her earlier in the day with an update at the State level. Lisa DelGiudice shared the email with the Police Commission.

   Chief Kreitz stated that he, along with the Police Commission, agree that certain mid-block crosswalks should have RRFB’s installed. He stated that the State DOT assessed the crosswalk in the area of Main Street/King Lane as well as the one in the area of 90 Danbury Road. However, they did not meet the criteria for funding at that time. He stated that he has been in contact with First Selectman Marconi and State Representative Berger-Girvalo about securing funding for the projects. Chief Kreitz stated that the installation of a RRFB is currently underway at the mid-block crosswalk at Rt. 33/Rockwell Road and that one is being installed at Main St/Big Shop Lane in the near future.

   Lisa DelGiudice asked why the pedestrian markings had not been painted on Main Street. Chief Kreitz explained that the State DOT is responsible and that the temperature has not been warm enough for the painting to happen.

   Lisa DelGiudice also suggested sidewalks in front of the Recreation Center. A discussion was had as to why this has never been done. Chief Kreitz stated that he believes that the Town has plans to connect the Parks & Recreation walking/running path to the new boardwalk being installed on Ligi’s Way.

   Commissioner Money thanked Lisa for what she is doing.

   Lisa DelGiudice thanked everyone for their time.
6. CHIEF’S REPORT
   A. Traffic/Sign Report
      There were no signs installed or replaced since the previous meeting.

   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 2023

      Training Attended:

      Jan. 4-5: All department personnel attended CPR recertification training at HQ, taught by Captain Smith.

      Jan. 23-27: Lieutenant Durling, Lieutenant Knoche and Officer Romero attended Tri-Annual Re-cert training at the Newtown PD.

      Jan. 25: Detective DuBord attended Digital Evidence Search Warrant Preparation training online, via ZOOM.

      Jan. 26: Detective Ryan attended Evidence Collection and New Technologies at POSTC in Meriden, CT.

      Jan. 26: Sergeant Caswell attended Police Pursuits: Legal Liability and Best Practices training online, via ZOOM.

      P/R Events:

      Jan. 25: Captain Raines and Detective Dardis attended a safety meeting at The Prospector Theater, which was held for management.

      There were no other events held during the month of January.

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

A total of 18 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 attended a child’s birthday party.
- Officers performed a tour of HQ for some children.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.

C. Department Stats
Chief Kretiz reported the total number of incidents for the month of January 2023 was 1,385. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

Chief Kreitz provided an update on the consolidated dispatch and added that the projected date of implementation is April 25th.

Chief Kreitz also stated that the Police Department is in the process of hiring a new police officer to fill a vacancy.

7. UNION PARTICIPATION
None.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION
A. Discuss Employee Performance – Officer of the Year

Commissioner Money made a motion to go into Executive Session at 08:22pm. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 08:30pm.

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to name Officer Michael McKnight as Ridgefield Police Department’s Officer of the Year for 2022. Commissioner Money seconded the motion. By unanimous
consent, the commission applauded all the nominees for Officer of the Year. The Police Commission also complemented the Captains, Lieutenants and Sergeants, who took the time to write such thorough and thoughtful nominations for several outstanding officers.

All in Favor

Congratulations to Officer Michael McKnight for a job well done!

Commissioner Dornfeld made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 08:39pm. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously,

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Frey
Police Commission Chairman