

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, March 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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Chairman Frey

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Frey requested a motion to accept the minutes of the February 9, 2023 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Minutes of February 9, 2023 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

There was no voicemail received by Commissioner Caporale for the month of February.

B. Written Correspondence

Three Highway Use Permits were signed by Chairman Frey-

- Run Like a Mother 05/14/23 0800-1000
- Memorial Day Parade 05/29/23 1100-1300
- Triathlon Ridgefield 06/04/23 0700-1100

4. NEW BUSINESS**A. Chief's Goals**

Chief Kreitz, along with the Sub-Committee, constructed the Chief's Goals for 2023.

Chairman Frey requested a motion to accept the Chief's Goals for 2023. Commissioner Coffin made the motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

All in Favor

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

B. Chief's Contract

This was presented in Executive Session.

C. Citizen Survey

Chief Kreitz stated the Citizen Survey, which is sent out every three years to residents of Ridgefield, provides valuable feedback from the public. After slight editing, Commissioner Money made a motion to approve the survey which was seconded by Commissioner Dornfeld.

All in Favor**D. State DOT Crosswalk Upgrade**

- **Rt. 7 & Cains Hill Rd./Topstone Rd.**
- **Rt. 7 & Laurel Ridge/Stonehouse Commons**

Chief Kreitz stated he received correspondence from the State DOT Project 0174-0452 about the two above mentioned possible crosswalk upgrades. Both crosswalks already have a button and concrete pad for pedestrians to cross however, no visual/and no pedestrian crossing signal. Keeping safety in mind, he, nor the Police Commission, wants to encourage pedestrian traffic at those two locations.

With that, the State is planning the upgrade to meet the latest Department and Federal Standards. Chief Kreitz stated that he will follow up with the State DOT regarding the project.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Frey stated that he received an email from the Charter Revision Commission looking for comments/suggestions from all town boards and departments. After discussion, no suggestions are recommended.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

The following report was submitted by Sergeant Mark Caswell.

March 7, 2023

Regarding: Crosswalk Request at Prospect Ridge / Quail Ridge

On March 3, 2023, Mr. John Gardell submitted a request that a crosswalk be installed on Prospect Ridge at Quail Ridge. Mr. Gardell states that the justification for a crosswalk would be that during the school year, the Quail Ridge students meet the bus at the tennis courts having to cross Prospect Ridge. He also feels there is plenty of pedestrian traffic crossing from Halpin Lane and Quail Ridge to Governor Park, to use the rail trail and/or walk to the town center. He also is concerned for the foot traffic in regards to the Parks & Recreation activities that are held in the area. Mr. Gardell is also concerned for vehicles speeding and parking between the tennis courts and Governor Field softball field. The police department is aware of the situation and does run radar enforcement details in the area.

On March 6, 2023 the area was surveyed. Prospect Ridge, in that area, is a one-way road with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour. I would recommend that the temporary speed sign be installed for a week to get a daily traffic count as well as the speeds that are reached on that area of the road. I would also recommend that the bus stop be relocated to the east side of the road near the Quail Ridge entrance. This would give the students crossing the road to board the school bus the added protection of the school bus's flashing warning lights.

I have sent Mr. Gardell an email advising him that his request is being looked into and once the data is received he will be notified what the Police Commission decides.

- Chief Kreitz stated that Bailey Avenue will be partially converted to two lanes of traffic for the upcoming construction project in approximately two weeks. Capt. Fowler has been in contact with the builder.

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
February 2023**

Training Attended:

- Feb. 16:** Lieutenant Knoche attended Risk Protection Order Investigation (train the trainer) at POSTC.
- Feb. 20-24:** Captain Raines, Sergeant DiFalco, Detective Dardis, Officer Samoskevich and Officer Vasquez attended Tri-Annual Re-cert training at WCSU.
- Feb. 24:** School Resource Officer Giglio, SRO Seibert and SRO Williams attended Digital Threat Assessment training online, via ZOOM.

P/R Events:

- Feb. 1:** Chief Kreitz, Major Platt and Captain Raines attended the Farmingville Elementary School DARE Graduation, hosted by SRO Giglio.
- Feb. 17:** Captain Raines attended a safety meeting at the Ridgefield Library, which was held for all employees.

Upcoming Events:

The Ridgefield Prevention Council is hosting a dinner on March 16th, which Captain Raines and Lieutenant Knoche are attending.

The RVNA is hosting its annual Health Fair on March 25th at the East Ridge Middle School, which Captain Raines is attending.

The Citizens Police Academy will begin on March 15th.

A total of 20 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 a safety talk for two classes at Jesse Lee School.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.

C. Department Stats

Chief Kreitz reported the total number of incidents for the month of February 2023 was 1,310. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

Chief Kreitz stated that he received a letter from Lt. Shawn Murray informing him that he will be retiring on March 23, 2023. Chief Kreitz stated that his K-9 partner, Loki, will be retiring as well. The Board of Police Commissioners acknowledged Lt. Murray and Loki for their dedicated service to the Town and wished them well.

Chief Kreitz provided an update on the officers currently on Field Training. He commended the FTO's for their dedication and hard work.

7. Union Participation

None.

8. Executive Session

A. Discuss Town Safety & Security

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 08:13pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

All in Favor

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 08:56pm.

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to renew Chief's Contract, which expires 10/25/23. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Commissioner Dornfeld made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 08:57pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously,

Respectfully Submitted,

John Frey
Police Commission Chairman