

**MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday, July 13, 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  
Issy Caporale, Secretary  
Marianne Coffin  
Sharon Dornfeld  
Ralph Money

**Also Present:** Major Shawn Platt

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

Chairman Frey called the meeting to order at 07:05pm

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Frey requested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2023 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

**Minutes of June 8, 2023 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.**

Commissioner Money made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2023 Police Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

**Minutes of June 13, 2023 Police Commission Special Meeting accepted as written.**

Commissioner Money made a motion to accept the minutes of the June

29, 2023 Police Commission Special Meeting minutes. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

**Minutes of June 29, 2023 Police Commission Special Meeting accepted as written.**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**

**A.** Commissioner Caporale stated there were no voicemail correspondence received for the month of June 2023.

**B. Written Correspondence**

Chairman Frey stated he received an email from a resident questioning the paint stripes for the crosswalk in front of CVS Main Street parking lot. The resident asked if there was going to be white lines or color stripe lines painted. Major Platt stated he would follow up with First Selectman Rudy Marconi. This intersection is governed by the State, as Main Street is a state road.

Major Platt stated a resident is concerned about traffic speed on South Salem Road. Major Platt added that Sgt. Mark Caswell has already been in contact with her, and is addressing their concerns.

Wayne Addressi stated his concern about Ridgefield's Pursuit Policy. Capt. Nick Fowler has addressed this concern in the past and has explained that Ridgefield Police Department policy follows the Statewide Police Pursuit Policy. Major Platt said the police are doing what they can within the limits of the law.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Citizen Survey**

Major Platt stated the Citizen Survey is out. Results will be forthcoming.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Hiring Update**

Major Platt stated we are in the process of hiring a police officer from the current list.

**B. Public Safety Building Update**

Chief Kreitz and Major Platt met with Jake Muller. Minor changes were made to the revised plan. Major Platt will meet with Jake next week.

**6. CHIEF'S REPORT**

**A. Traffic/Sign Report**

Sgt. Mark Caswell, Sign Officer, submitted the following report.

Re: June 2023 Sign Report

Sign Maintenance:

1. Installed 2 25 mph Speed Limit signs on Oscaleta Road.
2. Repaired the "T" intersection sign on Bennett's Farm Road.
3. Moved the Stop Sign on North St/Copps Hill Rd 10 feet to the north to improve traffic safety.
4. Installed a Traffic Advisory sign "Oncoming Traffic Does Not Stop" on Old Sib Road/Blue Ridge Road
5. Replaced the Stop Sign Rita Road / Limestone Road.
6. Repaired the Dead End sign on Limestone Terrace.
7. Replaced the Stop sign on Limestone Terrace.
8. Replaced the Curve sign on Gilbert St.
9. Replaced No Parking sign on Ridgebury Rd.

Sign Follow Up:

1. The Traffic Advisory sign was installed on Old Sib Road and Blue Ridge Road to address the concerns about the safety at the intersection which was addressed at last month's commission meeting. A request was also made to Town Highway to trim the foliage at the intersection.
2. On June 27 I received an email from Billy Gramajo regarding the school bus stop located between 8 and 66 South Salem Road. Due to the blind curve in the area, visibility for a stopped school bus is limited. I contacted the State DOT as Route 35 is a state road requesting the additional signs. They are looking into the situation and Mr. Gramajo has been notified.
3. A request was made to review and reduce the speed limit on Mulberry Street. The current speed limit, as approved by the Office of the State Traffic Administration (OSTA), on the street is 25 mph and the road is .25 miles long. Pursuant to Section 14-218a of the Connecticut General Statutes, (OSTA) is responsible for approving speed limits on all public roadways in this state. Speed limit certificates are issued by the OSTA to local municipalities desirous of establishing speed limits for individual town roads. Effective October 1, 2021: Pursuant to Public Act 21-28, the Local Traffic Authority of any town, city or borough may establish, modify and maintain speed limits on all local streets, highways and bridges or in any parking area for

ten cars or more or on any private road wholly within the municipality under its jurisdiction, without approval from the OSTA. I researched the incidents on Mulberry Street for the past 10 years and found the 6 accidents occurred during that time frame. 4 were weather/sun glare related, 1 was operation/backing related and 1 was speed related. The department also performed 29 radar details during that same period. The highest speed recorded was 45 mph. 8 warnings and 7 infractions were issued. It is my recommendation that radar details continue regularly and that the speed sign be installed to record the speed and traffic count to determine if a speed limit change is warranted.

The Police Commission praised Sgt. Mark Caswell for a thorough job.

### **B. Training/PR Report**

Capt. Jeff Raines, Division of Professional Standards, submitted the following report.

### **Ridgefield Police Department Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report June 2023**

#### **Training Attended:**

- June 1:** Detective Ryan attended Gun Crimes training at POSTC.
- June 5-16:** Officer Williams attended D.A.R.E. Instructor training at POSTC.
- Junes 7:** Sergeant Clarke, Sergeant DiFalco and Sergeant Caswell attended A Proactive Approach to Officer Wellness and Suicide Prevention at the Sacred Heart University.
- June 9:** Detective Ryan attended Multidisciplinary Response to Near Fatal Strangulation in Hartford, CT.
- June 13:** Captain Fowler attended FOIA/Records Management for Law Enforcement Seminar in Greenwich, CT.
- June 15:** Captain Raines attended Taser Instructor recertification at the Westport PD.
- June 27-July 3:** Officer Giglio, Officer Seibert and Officer Williams attended the 2023 NASRO (National School Resource Officer) conference in Indianapolis, IN.

**P/R Events:**

- June 3:** Several members of the department participated in the the Special Olympics of CT Torch Run.
- June 9:** The RHS Intern (Madison Klein) successfully completed her Internship with our department.
- June 22:** Promotional and Awards ceremony took place at the Lounsbury House. Lieutenant Clarke, Sergeant Geller and Sergeant VanWattum were all formerly promoted to those ranks. Officer of the Year 2022 was presented to Officer McKnight, as well as several other awards over the past year (MADD, Exceptional Service).
- June 28:** Members of the PBA volunteered at a "Tip-A-Cop" event at the Hideaway Restaurant. This event benefited Special Olympics of Connecticut.

**Upcoming Events:**

- July 11:** The three School Resource Officers were invited to Channel 3 News in Rocky Hill, CT to take part in a school related safety video that departments throughout CT are participating in.
- July 13:** Officer Brandon Romero graduated from the Connecticut Municipal Police Academy with the 377<sup>th</sup> Session.
- July 21:** The Ridgefield Police Honor Guard will once again be marching on the field prior to the Yard Goats game in Hartford, CT as part of First Responders Night.
- July 24-28:** We will be hosting our annual Junior Police Academy (JPA) at Headquarters.

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A total of 15 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

- Officers met with the staff at the Shir Shalom Temple.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- Officers gave several Rides-To-School. (Gift Certificate Recipients).

**C. Department Stats**

Major Platt reported the total number of incidents for the month of June 2023 was 1,136. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

**7. Union Participation**

None.

**8. Executive Session**

A. To Discuss Status of the Probationary Officers.

**Commissioner Money made a motion to go into Executive Session at 07:36pm. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously**

**The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 08:00pm. No votes were taken.**

**Commissioner Coffin made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 08:00pm. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously,**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Issy Caporale  
Police Commission Secretary