
MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

**of
Thursday, March 7, 2019
at
7:00pm to be held at Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Charles Knoche
Joseph Savino
Nicholas Perna

Absent: Marianne Coffin, Secretary

Also Present: Chief Jeffery Kreitz

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

The meeting was called to order at 07:00pm by Chairman Kain.

AGENDA REVIEW

Chief Kreitz requested to move 7A to 1.

AGENDA ITEM #1 JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD PRESENTATION BY DET. DARDIS

Youth Officer Det. Dardis gave a presentation of an overview of establishing a Juvenile Review Board (JRB) in the town of Ridgefield. This would be a community-based diversion program for juveniles under the age of 18 who are first time offenders. Det. Dardis stated that this would be a great idea for the town of Ridgefield. Of the 169 towns in the state of Connecticut, 133 towns participate in this type of program.

Commissioner Joseph Savino questioned "how many cases are there?" He also asked "what type of crimes committed by juveniles would qualify them for this program?" Det. Dardis stated that the case load would vary and that misdemeanors would qualify. Some examples of misdemeanor crimes are larcenies, criminal mischief, a small amount of marijuana, breach of peace are types of types of crimes which would be accepted into this program. Det. Dardis stated that both the parent(s)/guardian(s) as well as the child must agree to take part in the program, and cooperate with law enforcement officers in order to qualify for the program. Det. Dardis added that any serious crimes would not be accepted. This board is designed to promote responsible behavior by offenders. It is designed to help the juvenile be more responsible for their actions so that they hopefully won't make the same mistake again. This would be a positive alternative to the Juvenile

Justice System. The Ridgefield Police Department be only one of many possible referral sources for the program. Referrals could come from schools or from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) in Families With Severe Needs cases (FWSN). Commissioner Kain also suggested the JRB would have options and services that could help, and that research has shown that the JRB is, in many cases, better able to assist juveniles and their families to receive the kind of help, assistance and supervision that they need. Det. Dardis stated that the JRB's are comprised of combinations of parents, clergy, school members, police etc. Commissioner Kain also suggested the JV Court has a lot of avenues to help. Commissioner Kain stated review boards now consist of parents, clergy, school members, police etc. Chief Kreitz feels that this program would be great for the town of Ridgefield. He stated that this would be in the best interest for the youth in our community. Det. Dardis stated that the juvenile court in Danbury is now closed. For Ridgefield, the juvenile cases have now moved to Bridgeport. Therefore, a juvenile, who is given a summons, must appear at the juvenile court in Bridgeport. Commissioner Savino requested a list of crimes that would be eligible for the JRB. All agreed that this seems to be a program that can benefit the community.

AGENDA ITEM #2 MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Commissioner Knoche requested a motion to accept the minutes of February 14, 2019. Commissioner Perna seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written. All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM #3A COMMISSION CORRESPONDANCE VOICEMAIL

Chief Kreitz stated there was a request from 113 North Street for a Hidden Driveway sign. Chief Kreitz had pictures of the area of concern. Chief Kreitz stated that this type of sign is not approved by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Chief Kreitz stated he will have Officer Caswell evaluate the area and report back.

AGENDA ITEM #3B COMMISSION WRITTEN CORRESPONDANCE

Chief Kreitz stated there was a written request for a crosswalk on Laurel Lane between the two driveways of Ullman Devices. Chief Kreitz had pictures of the area of concern. Chief Kreitz stated that this was requested by Ullman Devices so that employees could cross the roadway. Chief Kreitz stated that there is minimal traffic on this roadway and that he will have to have Officer Caswell evaluate the area and report back.

AGENDA ITEM #4 CHIEF'S REPORT

- A. **Statistics.** Chief Kreitz stated that the number of calls year to date is 3,161 which is exactly the same number year to date as in 2018. Chief Kreitz stated that the officers continue to be proactive.

B. Training and PR Reports.

The following report was presented by Captain Shawn Platt, Division of Professional Standards:

**RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING & COMMUNITY POLICING/PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT
FEBRUARY 2019**

- February 4-8 The following Officers attended Recert Training at WCSU Campus: Capt. Comstock, Lt. Fowler, Det. Papstein, P.O. Caba, P.O. Murray, P.O. Daly, P.O. Ladue, P.O. McMahon and P.O. VanWattum.
- February 25-March 1 Capt. Platt attended Media & Public Relations training at WCSU Campus.

A total of 26 Public Relations incidents were recorded during the month to include:

- February 27,28 Officers met with Jesse Lee preschoolers.
- Ten car seats installations
 - Multiple stop and talks at houses of worship
 - (3) Jesse Lee Day School Safety Talk Presentations by P.O. McKnight and P.O. Gjodesen
 - Monthly Youth Commission meeting was attended by Det. Dardis

- Various talks with downtown shop owners and community members.

This report was submitted by Captain Shawn Platt, Division of Professional Standards.

C. **Sign Report.** Traffic Officer Mark Caswell reported the following:

Regarding: Blue Ridge Road and Laurel Lane

On February 23, 2019, I spoke with Ron Giustino from 99 Blue Ridge Road and Representatives from Ullmann Devices located at the intersection of Danbury Road and Laurel Lane. I explained to both parties the results of my survey and the recommended solutions. I advised them that the Police Commission concurred with my recommendations and the signs would be installed in late March.

Both parties were very appreciative of the efforts of the Ridgefield Police Department and the Police Commission.

D. **Chief's Goals – Update.**

- **New Officer – Hiring Process.** There are now 30 applicants for the position of Ridgefield Police Officer. The deadline for the submission of applications is March 22, 2019.
- **Community Partnerships.** Chief Kreitz read at St. Mary School as part of Read Across America. Chief Kreitz was a judge for the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year. He stated it was an honor To be a part of the process.

AGENDA ITEM #5 UNION PARTICIPATION

None.

AGENDA ITEM #6 NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Department Staff Meeting.** Chief Kreitz advised the Board of Police Commissioners that the Board of Selectmen reduced the Animal Control Canine Supplies line by \$500.00. He also stated that the \$3,700.00 Holiday Pay line was removed from Animal Control line as well due to the fact that he does not receive holiday pay. Chief Kreitz stated that \$3,500.00 was

moved from the Police Overtime line to the Animal Control Overtime line. Chief Kreitz stated that for the current fiscal year, the Animal Control overtime is over budget. He explained that this is because ACO Zulkeski is available 24/365 and is often called out after hours. Chief Kreitz stated that currently there is a dog at the shelter that ACO Zulkeski has been trying to find a home for over two months, however he has had no luck, but he has put in a tremendous amount of effort. Chief Kreitz stated that ACO Zulkeski must come in after hours to take care of the dog. Commissioner Kain stated that we should look into ways to reduce ACO Zulkeski's overtime hours. Chief Kreitz stated that he has spoken with ACO Zulkeski and has explored a variety of options, however, there are contractual obligations that the town must fulfill when he responds after hours. Chief Kreitz stated that ACO Kris Zulkeski works extremely hard and always goes above and beyond to serve the residents of Ridgefield. We will explore ways to reduce overtime going forward.

AGENDA ITEM #7 OLD BUSINESS

- A. **New Building – Feasibility Study-Needs Assessment**
Chief Kreitz stated that they met with Brian Humes from Jakunski and Humes.
- B. **Scenic Roads.** Chief Kreitz stated he talked with the town's attorney, Dave Grogins to come up with language to change the town's ordinance on speed limits to address town roads. He stated that he has a meeting with him next week and would present the language at the next Police Commission meeting.
- C. **Plan on Conservation and Development.** Chief Kreitz reported he and Commissioner Savino met with Glenn Shabler to talk about the facilities, the department's needs and traffic concerns. Chief Kreitz stated that they also discussed exploring traffic calming devices as well as a way to determine the town's most problematic intersections.
- D. **233 Danbury Road.** Commissioner Savino stated that there is a 30 unit complex near the Ridgefield Recreation Center and asked whether signage would be helpful for traffic. After discussion it was determined that additional signage would not assist traffic flow.
- E. **Sewer Project.** Chief Kreitz reported that Captain Byran Terzian went to the town meeting to discuss the sewer project and to give input regarding the roadway work. He stated that Captain Terzian recommended that the work be done at night

on Rt. 7 and that Captain Terzian plans on meeting with the contractor prior to installation work beginning. He advised that electronic signs would be deployed advising motorists prior to the work beginning in an effort to ease traffic delays.

Commissioner Knoche made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:15 pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Perna seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 8:38 pm. No votes were taken.

Commissioner Kain made a motion to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Police Commission at 8:40 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Knoche. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Kain
Police Commission Chairman

