

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Thursday, April 14, 2016

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Joseph Savino, Secretary
Thomas Reynolds
Charles Knoche
Marianne Coffin

Also Present: Chief John Roche
Major Stephen Brown

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Kain.

Agenda Item #1

Chairman Kain requested a motion to change the Agenda by moving Agenda Item 5a (Schlumberger Citizen Committee) to the top of the agenda. Commissioner Knoche motioned to amend the agenda; Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion.

Vote: In Favor – All

Agenda changes approved.

Chairman Kain stated that there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the Public Session.

Agenda Item #5a Schlumberger Citizen Committee

Chairman of the Schlumberger Citizens Committee, Richard Larson, thanked the Commission for putting him on their agenda. Mr. Larson showed the Commissioners slides of the project area and updated them on what the committee has been doing. Mr. Larson stated that the Schlumberger property consists of thirty acres located between Old Quarry Road and Sunset Lane with one entrance and one exit on Old Quarry Road. Mr. Larson continued to state that the Schlumberger Committee has analyzed the results of their September and January surveys and has begun to develop recommendations that will be brought to the Board of Selectmen in May. The January survey included three options: 1) Municipal Use Option (Town Hall/Annex, Public Safety complex), 2) Cultural Use Option (theater, outdoor amphitheater/stage), and 3) Land Bank Option. Mr. Larson stated that the property currently has three buildings on it which will be preserved (Philip Johnson building (business has expressed interest in this building), an existing auditorium (theater group has expressed interest in this building and an existing skydome building off of Old Quarry Road. Mr. Larson stated that the preferred use from the citizen survey is to go with the cultural use option and the Schlumberger Citizen Committee is prepared to submit a

recommendation to the Board of Selectmen this May.

Chairman Kain stated that the Board of Police Commissioners would have input on the proposed entrance and exit to the property (existing access/exit).

Commissioner Coffin stated that she thinks one-way traffic to enter and exit is good and that most of the events that would be made available to the public would be off-peak hours so it would not adversely affect traffic flow.

Commissioner Knoche stated that the existing driveways had been used for years (peak and off-peak) by employees and never posed a traffic glitch.

Commissioner Savino stated that he was okay with the existing driveways and prefers that they are away from Sunset Lane.

Commissioner Reynolds is also comfortable with the driveways as they are proposed.

Mr. Larson invited all the Commissioners to the Schlumberger Citizens Committee April 28th final workshop meeting at the Recreation Center at 6:30pm. Mr. Larson again thanked the Police Commissioners for their time and the Commissioners thanked Mr. Larson for his presentation.

Agenda Item #2

Chairman Kain requested a motion to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2016 Police Commission meeting. Commissioner Savino motioned to accept the minutes; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

Vote: In Favor - All

Against - None

Minutes of the March 10, 2016 Police Commission meeting accepted as written.

Agenda Item #3a Commission Voice Mail

Commissioner Savino reported that the voice mail was quiet since the last meeting.

Agenda Item #3b Commission Correspondence

Peaceable Street

Commissioner Kain stated that in response to a request received from the Ridgefield Public Schools' Transportation Coordinator requesting "*School Bus Stop Ahead*" signs on both sides of 49 Peaceable Street (blind curve), Traffic Sign Officer Caswell surveyed this area and reported that there are *Dangerous Curve Ahead* signs currently installed on the curved area of this road. Officer Caswell recommended additional signage to ensure the safety of the children.

Officer Caswell also recommended that the school bus drivers survey their routes and advise the Commissioners when *School Bus Stop Ahead* signs are no longer needed due to updated bus routes.

Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report**Statistics**

Chief Roche stated that the incident total for the month of March was 2,205. During the month, the Department responded to 85 Alarms, 24 Medical Assists, 24 Fingerprints, 10 Identity Theft incidents (23 for the year), 13 Foot Patrols, conducted 13 Traffic Details, 8 Radar Details, issued 842 Motor Vehicle Enforcement violations, processed 18 Pistol Permit applicants (50 for the year), investigated 47 Motor Vehicle Accidents, participated in 27 Public Relations interactions, completed 6 Controlled Substance arrests and 5 DUI arrests.

Rube Goldberg Expo

Chief Roche reported to the Commissioners that he was a judge at this expo which was held on March 21st at East Ridge Middle School.

Sign Report

- Installed a *Speed* limit sign at Ridgebury Rd/Old Saw Mill Rd at the Town border.
- Repaired *Stop* sign at White Birch Rd/Silver Spring Lane.
- Replaced *Stop* sign at North Street/Copps Hill Road.
- Replaced *Stop* sign at Copper Beech Lane/Lee Road.
- Replaced *Stop Sign Ahead* on Haviland Road.
- Replaced *Speed Limit* sign at Chestnut Hill Road (graffiti damage).
- Installed/repaired *Speed Limit* sign on Whipstick Road.
- Straightened damaged *Stop* sign at Lakeside Road/Cross Hill Road.
- Repaired *Arrow* signs on Silver Spring Road.
- Replaced *Stop* sign at Ridgebury Road/Ledges Road.
- Replaced *Stop* sign at Shadow Lake Road/Briar Ridge Road.
- Replaced *Speed Limit* sign on George Washington Road.
- Installed two *School Zone* signs on High Ridge Avenue (St Mary School).
- Replaced *Speed Limit* sign on Scotts Ridge Road.

Traffic Signals

Chief Roche reported that the CT DOT will be conducting a renovation/installation of traffic signals at Danbury Road/Copps Hill Road and Ethan Allen Highway/Cains Hill Road. Chief Roche requested the Commissioners to submit to him any input they may have on these areas and the upcoming improvements. Commissioner Coffin suggested a delay be introduced on the traffic light at Haviland Road/Danbury Road when turning from red to green.

Main St Project

Chief Roche reported that the State DOT is actively working on the Main Street renovation project and he will keep the Commissioners posted on any updates he receives. Chief Roche noted that Mr. Charles Robbins is representing First Selectman Marconi on this project and keeping him updated.

Training

- Major Brown, Captain Terzian, Lt. Platt, Lt. Raines, Sgt. Clarke, P.O. Giglio, P.O. Caba, P.O.). Samoskevich and P.O. Caswell attended EMR Refresher training at Headquarters; instructed by Lt. Smith.
- Det. Dardis: Recruit Firearms instruction at POSTC.
- Det. Dardis: Recruit Firearms instruction at POSTC.
- Captain Kreitz and SRO Luis attended a Threat Assessment Seminar at the University of New Haven.
- Det. Dardis: Recruit Firearms instruction at POSTC.
- Major Brown, Captain Terzian, Captain Comstock, Captain Kreitz attended Labor Relations training in Rocky Hill.
- P.O. Capozzi attended Police Officer Re-Certification in Bridgeport.
- Major Brown, Captain Terzian, Captain Comstock, Captain Kreitz attended the POSTC Academy Graduation for P.O. Boulware and P.O. Geller.
- Dispatcher Admin Browning attended the Public Safety Answering Point Update Meeting in West Haven.
- P.O. Murray and K-9 Loki attended Narcotics Distraction and Exposure training in Groton.
- SRO Luis attended the Massachusetts Juvenile Police Officers Association Annual New England School Safety Conference.
- P.O. Caswell attended Sign Installation and Maintenance in Madison.
- Chief Roche, Major Brown, Captain Comstock, Captain Kreitz, Det. Papstein, Det. Dardis, Det. DuBord, and Det. Knoche attended an FBI terrorism briefing in New Haven.
- Det. DuBord attended 'Identity Theft' training at POSTC.

Crime Prevention Report

- SRO Luis read to students at St. Mary School.
- P.O. Samoskevich held his DARE Graduation at Barlow Mountain Elementary School.
- P.O. Samoskevich presented a safety talk/showed cruiser to students at a preschool in town.
- SRO Giglio held an Internet Safety Class for the fourth graders at Farmingville Elementary School.
- P.O. Romero presented a safety talk/showed cruiser to students at a preschool in town.

- P.O. Van Wattum presented a tour/safety talk at Headquarters to preschool students.
- Citizen Police Academy began – 20 participants are in the class.
- SRO Daly held his DARE Graduation at Ridgebury Elementary School.
- Sgt. Durling completed an informational tri-fold on bicycle safety. The tri-fold covers both motor vehicle and bicycle laws and is part of an awareness campaign in partnership with the Ridgefield Bicycle Co.
- Two (2) child passenger restraint systems were checked/installed.

Correspondence

Chief Roche reported that two letters were received thanking Lt. Nick Fowler for his kindness and service.

Agenda Item #6a Rules and Regulations 305.23

Chairman Kain stated that he updated Regulations 305.23 'Suspension' to include 'Administrative Leave'. The Commissioners discussed this change and felt that what was submitted was not clear. The Commissioners agreed to add the word 'however' to make the statement clear that the Board of Police Commissioners has the power of administrative leave or suspension but the Chief of Police or Executive Officer may impose same as an interim measure. The change will be made to the Rules and Regulations.

In response to Commissioner Coffin's question, Chief Roche stated that:

- Suspension occurs when one is being faulted for violating regulations/orders. A suspension is time off without pay.
- Administrative Leave may occur when a complaint has been made and due to the nature of the complaint, it may be in the person's best interest to take time off. Administrative Leave is time off with pay.

Commissioner Knoche motioned to approve the revision to the Rules & Regulations, Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

Vote: In Favor - All

Against - None

Revision to Rules & Regulations 305.23 accepted.

Commissioner Reynolds motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for discussion on personnel matters; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Public Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Savino
Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE
POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Joseph Savino, Secretary
Thomas Reynolds
Charles Knoche
Marianne Coffin

Also Present: Chief John Roche
Major Stephen Brown

Executive Session commenced at 7:51pm.

Executive Session adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Savino
Secretary