

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, February 13, 2020
7:00pm at Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Commissioners Present: Marianne Coffin, Chairperson
Nicholas Perna, Secretary
George Kain
Joseph Savino
Issy Caporale

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz

Absent: 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 Chairperson Coffin.

AGENDA ITEM #1 AGENDA REVIEW

Chairperson Coffin requested a motion to move Statistics NIBRS, presented by Capt. Terzian, from 4A to the beginning of the Agenda. Commissioner Kain motioned to accept the change and Commissioner Savino seconded the motion.

All in favor

Chairperson Coffin stated that there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the Public Session.

AGENDA ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Coffin requested a motion to accept the minutes of January 9, 2020. Commissioner Kain motioned to accept the minutes; Commissioner Savino seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Minutes of the January 9, 2020 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.

Agenda Item #4A Statistics NIBRS moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Capt. Bryan Terzian, Uniform Division Commander, gave an overall view of the NIBRS Statistics for the Ridgefield Police Department. The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is a crime reporting system the FBI uses to get specific details about crime and offenders. There are two categories for reporting incidents A and B. For A offenses, such as arson, burglary and fraud to name a few, the incidents have to be reported whether an arrest was made or not. For B offenses, such as bad check, DUI, Family Offense non-violent to name a few, the cases are only reported to NIBRS only if an arrest was made. NIBRS is an additional reporting system the Ridgefield Police Department uses for the stats.

This past year we had a 20 percent clearance rate. Capt. Terzian stated that this will increase due to the fact that some cases are still under investigation and arrest warrants have been applied for. The clearance rate is classified by an arrest or an exceptional clearance. Ninety-five percent of what the Ridgefield Police Department clears is by arrest. Captain Terzian reported that the officers are doing a great job. Capt. Terzian stated that a good takeaway from this report is that violent crime is low.

AGENDA ITEM #3 COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**A. Voicemail**

Commissioner Perna reported there was no voicemail correspondence for the month of January.

B. Written Correspondence

Commissioner Perna reported there was no written correspondence for the month of January.

AGENDA ITEM #4 CHIEF'S REPORT**A. Statistics**

Chief Kreitz reported that for the month of January 2,153 incidents were reported. There were 3 DUI's, 6 domestics including criminal, verbal and civil, 13 foot patrols and 68 alarms to name a few.

Chief Kreitz stated that all personnel had excellent in-house low light training which was taught by Det. Papstein, Lt. Fowler and Det. Dardis. They did a great job!

- The Citizens Police Academy started this past Tuesday. Capt. Patt

and Det. Dardis are running the class.

- Chief Kreitz reported that the State has followed up on requests for review that have been sent to them. Chief Kreitz read an email that he received from the State DOT following up on sight line concerns that were voiced by residents last year of the intersection of Route 7 and Ashbee Lane. The State DOT performed a study and conducted a field visit. As a result the State DOT has issued a work order for the relocation and replacement of the existing Route 7 advance combination Intersection/Curve warning signs approaching the intersection from both the northbound and southbound directions to meet current standards. Post delineators will be provided on each of the new sign posts to further enhance the conspicuity of the warning for motorists approaching from Route 7. In addition, the clearing of vegetation surrounding the signs will be performed to maximize visibility to approaching motorists. The work order detailing the updates along Route 7 (Ethan Allen Highway) has been sent to the Office of Maintenance will be completed as scheduling permits.

Furthermore, CTDOT's Highway Management Unit (HMU) has been asked to perform an investigation to confirm the sight line obstruction and determine corrective measures that may be considered. The Department will provide the results of the investigation when completed.

- Chief Kreitz read another email that he received from the State DOT following up on sight line concerns at the intersection of Route 116 and Maple Shade Road. The State DOT performed a study and conducted a field visit. As a result the State DOT has issued a work order for the replacement and relocation of the traffic warning signs approaching the intersection and the clearing of vegetation to increase visibility to the existing signs along North Salem Road (Route 116). In addition, the Department will replace the existing stop signs on Maple Shade Road and Saw Mill Hill Road. The work order will be completed as scheduling permits.
- A resident of Fox Hill requested a crosswalk near the Fox Hill/Ridgefield Park and Recreation area on Danbury Road. All agreed that a midblock crosswalk is not recommended due to safety concerns. Chief Kreitz stated that a sidewalk extending from Parks and Recreation to the intersection of Danbury Road at

Copps Hill Road is planned as part of the combined use path project. This will allow people to cross at the intersection and walk along the sidewalk to access Parks and Recreation.

- Discussion regarding crosswalk installation on Ligis's Way as part of the combined-use path, tabled until next meeting.

B. Training/PR Report

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

**RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING & COMMUNITY POLICING/PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT
January 2020**

January 8	PO Ekstrom, PO VanWattum and PO Williams attended Low Light Firearms training at the Ramapoo Gun Range.
January 14	Sgt. Gogola and SRO Daly attended Low Light Firearms training at the Ramapoo Gun Range.
January 17	Lt. Smith, Lt. Durling, Sgt. Murray, PO Capozzi and PO Samoskevich attended Low Light Firearms training at the Ramapoo Gun Range.
January 13-17	Capt. Terzian, Lt. Gates, Lt. Raines, Sgt. Knoche, PO Romero, Det. Dardis and PO Hartling attended POST Recertification Training at WCSU.
January 14-16	Dispatcher Szantyr attended Telecommunication Training at the CT Police Academy in Meriden, CT.
January 27-29	All officers completed Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure Control training at Headquarters.
January 29	SRO Luis and Det. Dardis attended "How to Spot a School Shooter" training at Bloomfield PD.
January 30	Chief Kreitz and PO DiFalco attended the Law Enforcement Torch Run Kickoff held at Dunkin

Donuts Park in Hartford, CT.

A total of 23 Public Relations were performed during the month to include:

- Multiple car seat installations.
- Multiple stop and talks at houses of worship.
- Multiple Social Media posts of police activities.
- PD Tours and Safety Talk Presentations.
- Various talks with downtown shop owners and community members.

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

C. **Sign Report**

There was no sign report by Officer Caswell for the month of January.

AGENDA ITEM #5 UNION PARTICIPATION

There was no Union participation for the month of January.

AGENDA ITEM #6 NEW BUSINESS

A. **Officer of the Year**

This was moved to the Executive Session.

AGENDA ITEM #7 OLD BUSINESS

A. **Approval of Chief's Goals**

Ridgefield Police Chief's Goals for 2020

1. **Police Headquarters**
Continue planning and efforts to move forward on needs and design of a new police headquarters which includes central dispatch.
2. **Hiring New Police Officer**
Fill position restored to budget, taking steps to get the officer on board as soon as possible.
3. **Professional Development**
Attend a minimum of one professional development conference with law enforcement colleagues

as approved by the Board of Police Commissioners.

4. **Physical Fitness**
Participate in the department's voluntary fitness program.
5. **Police Officer Survey**
Continue the annual officer survey process. Incorporate lessons learned from 2019's revised Survey.
6. **Continue with Officer Wellness Initiative**
Develop and implement improvements to help facilitate the mental and physical health of the Officers of the Ridgefield Police Department.
7. **Department Training**
Insure that all department personnel participate in current and emerging training programs and Conferences as appropriate. The goal is to promote the continuing high level of professionalism of the department.
8. **Community Partnership**
Continue to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the community.
9. **IT Systems**
Overall IT improvements with the department and vehicle fleet. Implement the electronic scheduling program. Monitor cost and effectiveness.
10. **Officer Evaluations**
Oversee revision of officer evaluation process. Review revised evaluation forms and process with supervisory staff. Oversee implementation of the new format and schedule.
11. **Evaluate Opportunities to Improve Traffic Flow**
This is a necessary task to ensure public safety.
12. **Continue to Explore Opportunities for Increasing Effectiveness and Efficiency**
13. **Policy Review and Consolidation**
Begin the process of reviewing police department regulations, orders, rules and updating policies and procedures and eliminate overlap and ambiguity.

Commissioner Savino made the motion to approve the Police Chief's Goals for 2020; Seconded by Commissioner Caporale.

All in Favor

B. Feasibility Study/Needs Assessment Update

Chief Kreitz reported the study is moving forward with Kastle Boos representatives. He is pleased how the study is progressing.

Commissioner Savino made a motion to go into Executive Session at

8:13pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Kain seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Savino made the motion to elect P.O. Louis Geller as Ridgefield Police Department's Officer of the Year for 2019. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

Congratulations to P.O. Geller on a job well done!

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 8:30pm.

Commissioner Caporale made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 8:31pm. Seconded by Commissioner Savino.

All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Nick Perna
Police Commission Secretary