

## **MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022 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:** George Kain, Chairman  
Marianne Coffin  
Sharon Dornfeld

**Absent:** John Frey, Secretary  
Issy Caporale

**Also Present:** Chief Jeff Kreitz  
Major Platt

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Chairman Kain.

### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Kain requested a motion to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2022 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Coffin made the motion and Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

Commissioner Dornfeld made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Police Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Kain seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 17, 2022 Police Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

Commissioner Coffin made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2022 Police Commission Special Meeting. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

**2. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. Voicemail**

There was no voicemail.

**B. Written Correspondence**

Chief Kreitz stated there are four (4) applications for Highway Use Permits. Two permits are for the Battle of Ridgefield scheduled for April 30 and May 1. The third permit is for the Triathlon which is scheduled for June 5. The fourth permit is for the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders 5K which is scheduled for June 12. The permits were signed by Capt. Nick Fowler and Commissioner Kain. They will be mailed to the Connecticut Department of Transportation Maintenance and Construction District 4.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

Due to scheduling conflicts a request was made by Chief Kreitz to reschedule the April 10 Police Commission Meeting to another day. An update will be forthcoming.

**5. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Public Safety Building Update**

The Board of Police Commissioners, the Board of Selectmen, Chief Kreitz, Major Platt, Fire Chief Myers, Assistant Fire Chief Grasso and Jake Muller, the Director of Facilities and Purchasing met to discuss the public safety building. Discussed was the placement of the building on the property as well as concerns over parking. Jake will contact Kaestle Boos regarding the concerns and will report at the next meeting.

**6. CHIEF'S REPORT**

**A. Traffic/Sign Report**

The following report was submitted by Sign Officer Mark Caswell.

Re: East Ridge School Signage

On December 29, 2021 a request was made to the State DOT to install flashing School Zone warning signs along the Route 102, Branchville Road frontage to East Ridge Middle School

On February 22, 2022 the State contacted me with their findings. The recommendation stated that no changes be made to the 30mph speed limit on Branchville Road. The reports stated that there is adequate signage. The state reports that between the research of the accidents in the area, as well as the speed data, and newly installed 15mph speed advisory signs no changes are necessary.

Attached to this report please find the State DOT Traffic Investigation Report.

I do recommend that additional speed limit signs as well as new school zone signs be installed on East Ridge Road in both directions.

**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 2022**

**Training Attended:**

- Feb. 2:** All three School Resource Officers attended “Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines Training” via Zoom.
- Feb. 3:** Detective DuBord and Ryan attended “Tic-Tok Investigations” via Zoom.
- Feb. 7-9:** Detective Ryan attended “Advanced Sexual Assault Investigations” at the Greenwich Police Department.
- Feb. 16:** Detective Dardis attended “Documenting the Death Scene- Murder, Suicide, Accident” via Zoom.
- Feb. 23:** Capt. Smith attended “Managing & Organizing Major Investigations” via Zoom.

**Feb. 24:** Detective Ryan attended “Death Investigations” at the Manchester, CT Police Department.

**Feb. 25:** Detective Dardis and DuBord attended “Investigating Social Media Threats” via Zoom.

**P/R Events:**

**Feb. 9:** Sgt. Murray performed a K-9 Demonstration at the Farmingville school with SRO Giglio.

**Feb. 11:** Captain Raines participated with a panel of speakers at the Boys & Girls Club. The subject matter was awareness for substance abuse, mental illness and substance use disorder.

**Feb. 14:** Officer VanWattum performed a speaking engagement for a group of students / Girl Scouts at the Ridgebury Elementary School in regards to safety.

**Feb. 18:** Captain Raines performed a walk through at the Ridgefield Library and attended their annual safety training and spoke to the staff.

**Upcoming Events:**

The 2022 Citizens Police Academy is planned to start on March 15<sup>th</sup> and end on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Detective Ryan will be performing a speaking engagement on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the East Ridge Middle School for a group of girls, in regards to internet safety.

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A total of 19 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at the Shir Shalom Temple on separate occasions.

- Officers assisted at Kane Funeral Home with a wake and funeral detail.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.

**C. Department Statistics**

Chief Kreitz reported the total incidents for the month of February 2022 was 807. He also highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

**D. Hiring Update**

Chief Kreitz reported that three conditional offers were given to the candidates that scored the highest in the hiring process.

**7. UNION PARTICIPATION**

None.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION - to discuss personnel matters**

**Commissioner Kain made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:20pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 7:45pm. No votes were taken.**

**Commissioner Coffin made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 7:46pm. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

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George Kain  
Police Commission Chairman