

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

**Thursday, April 21, 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
John Frey, Secretary
Marianne Coffin
Issy Caporale
Sharon Dornfeld

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz

Absent: Major Platt

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Chairman Kain.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

All in favor

2. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

Commissioner Frey stated there were no voicemail messages.

B. Written Correspondence

There were no written correspondence reported for the month.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. NEW BUSINESS**A. 34 Bailey Avenue presented by Bob Jewell**

Bob Jewell and Patrick Downend gave a thorough presentation of the proposed 34 Bailey Avenue project which consists of three (3) commercial units on the first floor along Bailey Avenue and twenty-five residential units above and behind the commercial units. The project consists of demolishing the existing structures, removal and remediation of previous environmental contamination and restoration of watercourse and upland review areas. The proposed building would sit back 10 feet from where the current building is located. A sidewalk is proposed and the proposal drive will be a separate way in and a separate way out. This project would take approximately fourteen (14) months to complete.

A traffic study conducted as part of the proposal concluded that the proposed development "will not have an adverse impact on area traffic operating conditions and that further traffic studies are not warranted for the development."

Chairman Kain request a motion to accept 34 Bailey Avenue presented by Bob Jewel as proposed. Commissioner Frey made a motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Commissioner Frey requested that they explore installing a bollard as to protect pedestrians on the proposed sidewalk specifically where traffic exits from Big Shop Lane. Commissioner Frey expressed concern for pedestrian safety because of the steep grade during slick roadway conditions.

Chief Kreitz stated that there will be an increase in pedestrian traffic as part of this project and recommended the installation of a crosswalk at the stop sign located at the Yankee Ridge/Bailey Avenue driveway. Chief Kreitz recommended that the concrete barrier currently in place be removed and curbing with a bump out be installed in its' place so long as it followed the MUTCD guidelines. He stated that this would increase visibility for pedestrians and motorists.

B. State Project 0174-0449

The Connecticut Department of Transportation State Project 0174-0449 consists of signing and pavement marking installations at unsignalized state road intersections in District 4. Of the 128 locations

identified 8 locations are in Ridgefield. This plan is to help lower the risk for accidents. The project is expected to be completed in January 2023. Chief Kreitz will be contacting the State DOT to determine exactly what signs and markings will be installed at each location.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Safety Building Update

Jake Muller has been working on sight layout of the building with Kaestle Boos.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

The following report was submitted by Sign Sergeant Mark Caswell.

Re: March Sign Report

Sign Maintenance:

1. Replaced the Stop Sign at Bloomer Road.
2. Installed a Stop Sign on Bloomer Road.
3. Replaced the Stop Sign at Peaceable Street / Peaceable Ridge Road.
4. Replaced the Stop Sign on Norrans Ridge.
5. Installed 25 mph speed limit sign on Nod Road.
6. Installed Bridge Chevrons on Old Branchville Road.
7. Replaced the Stop Sign at Riverside Drive / Longview Drive.
8. Replaced the Stop Sign at Druid Lane / Riverside Drive.
9. Repaired the Stop Sign at Riverside Drive / Bobbys Court.
10. Replaced the Speed Limit Sign on Eleven Levels Road.
11. Replaced the Stop Sign on Serfilippi Drive.
12. Repaired the Crosswalk Sign on Grove Street.
13. Replaced the No Parking Sign on Prospect Ridge.
14. Replaced the Stop Sign at Barlow Mountain Road / Ledges Road.
15. Repaired the Curve Sign on Ledges Road.
16. Repaired the Stop Sign at Split Level Road / Wilton Road East.
17. Replaced the Stop Sign at Silver Spring Lane / Silver Spring Road.
18. Repaired the Stop Sign at South Ridge Court / Silver Spring Road.
19. Repaired the Curve Sign on Silver Spring Road.
20. Replaced the Stop Sign on Deer Hill Drive / Country Club Road.
21. Replaced the Stop Sign at Mead Ridge Road / Mead Ridge Lane.
22. Replaced the Pedestrian Crossing sign on Governor Street.
23. Replaced the Stop Sign at Donnelly Drive / Silver Hill Road.
24. Repaired the Stop Sign at Cranberry Lane / South Olmstead Lane

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
March 2022**

Training Attended:

Mar. 7-9: Captain Fowler and Detective Dardis attended “SRPO” Special Response Patrol Officer training in Newtown, MA from March 7th through March 9th.

Mar. 8: Sergeant DiFalco attended Dementia Friendly Training at Ridgefield Station.

Mar. 8: Detective DuBord attended “Evidence Management” via Zoom.

Mar. 14-17: Sergeant DiFalco, Caswell and Shimko attended “First Line Supervisor” at POST.

Mar 15: Officer Ladue attended Dementia Friendly Training at Ridgefield Station.

Mar. 24: Sergeant Caswell attended Dementia Friendly Training at Ridgefield Station.

Mar. 30-31: Thirteen members of the police department completed EMR recertification, taught by Captain Smith at HQ.

P/R Events:

Mar. 15: The 2022 Citizens Police Academy started on March 15th and will end on May 3rd. Six weeks are complete.

Mar. 15: Officer Romero performed two speaking engagements for a group of students at the Jesse Lee Day School in regards to safety.

Mar. 18: Detective Ryan performed a speaking engagement for a group of girls at the East Ridge Middle School in regards to internet safety.

Mar. 28: K-9 Lieutenant Murray and K9 Loki performed a K-9 demonstration for the Law and Justice class at the Ridgefield Alternative School.

Upcoming Events:

Members of the PBA will be volunteering at a “Tip-A-Cop” event at Posa Restaurant on 04/20/22 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. This event is in conjunction with Special Olympics of Connecticut.

Captain Raines and members of the Ridgefield Prevention Council will be participating in National Drug Take Back on April 30th from 10:00am to 2:00pm at HQ.

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.
- 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 March 2022 was 958. He also highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

D. Hiring Update

This was moved to Executive Session.

7. UNION PARTICIPATION

None

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION - to discuss personnel matters

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to go into Executive Session at

7:58pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 8:28pm. No votes were taken.

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Special Meeting at 8:29pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

John Frey
Police Commission Secretary