

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, October 13, 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: John Frey, Chairman
Marianne Coffin
Sharon Dornfeld
Ralph Money

Absent: Issy Caporale, Secretary

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 7:05pm by Chairman Frey. A moment of silence followed for the officers involved in the Bristol tragedy.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Money to amend the minutes of September 8, 2022 as written:

Commissioner Money asked the Chief whether or not the department has policies and procedures in place whereby members of the department are not allowed to join or become members of any organization which has, as a purpose, to overthrow or interfere with any lawfully constituted government of the United States (so-called extremist organizations). Commissioner Money noted that he is bringing up this question due to recent national press reports on the subject impacting other law enforcement agencies. The Chief replied that such policies are in place and this is not an issue with the Department.

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to accept the amendment to the minutes. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Minutes of September 8, 2022 Police Commission Meeting were approved as amended.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

None

B. Written Correspondence

Chief Kreitz stated he received a letter from residents of Stonehenge Estates stating their concern of the Norwalk River Valley Trust (NRVT) proposed Ridgefield Ramble Trail, which would run through their neighborhood. They stated their proposal for part of the trail plus traffic concerns. They would also like to be notified of any upcoming public hearings on the matter.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division of Professional Standards Yearly Report

Capt. Jeff Raines started out by thanking the Police Commission for the opportunity to present the annual report and to Chief Kreitz and Major Platt who have been an asset to his transition. He stressed how well trained the police officers are – going above the state mandated amount of a minimum of 60 hours of in-house and in-service training over a three-year period to stay certified. Officers have participated in over 40 classes this past year. The instructors are POSTC certified either from the police academy or from the Ridgefield Police Department itself.

The State requires 400 hours minimum for the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program. New recruits go through this program once they graduate from the academy.

Capt. Raines concluded by saying that after attending several training meetings, that the Ridgefield Police Department not only keeps up with current trends but they take a proactive approach in training the officers to stay ahead of the curve.

Chief Kreitz praised Capt. Raines for an excellent job in his new position.

Commissioner Money stated the Commission was unanimous in its appreciation of the Professional Standards Report and was particularly impressed with three aspects of the report.

He stated that members of the department consistently exceed required training requirements and that such training makes Ridgefield a safer and better prepared community. The Commission wanted be on record to salute our well trained officers.

He also noted that several department members are certified trainers and are respected in their areas of expertise not only by our department but by other police departments. The Commission wanted to be on the record to acknowledge the leadership of these officers.

And lastly, he stated that the department is fortunate to have a strong cadre of Field Training Officers that help form and train our new officers. The Commission appreciates the commitment of time and expertise of the FTO's.

B. Ridgefield PBA Annual Fundraising Letter

Chief Kreitz referred to a letter from the PBA President Officer Chris DiFalco advising the Police Commission of their upcoming mailing of their fundraising letter during the month of October.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Safety Building Update

Jake Muller (Director of Facilities and Purchasing) continues to assess the building site layout.

B. Consolidated Dispatch

Chief Kreitz and Major Platt have met with the RFD personnel and IT regarding this transition. Updates will be forthcoming.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

Chief Kreitz stated he would recommend having the CT DOT look at the Barry Avenue and High Ridge Avenue intersection for crosswalk installation.

The crosswalk on Main Street is reported to be ahead of schedule.

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
September 2022**

Training Attended:

- Sept. 12&13:** Captain Smith attended the 2022 Intelligence Liaison Officer Conference in Hartford, CT.
- Sept. 15&16:** Captain Fowler, Detective DuBord, Officer Seibert and Officer Williams completed EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) recert at HQ, taught by Captain Smith and Sergeant Caswell.
- Sept. 16:** Major Platt, Captain Fowler, Captain Smith and Captain Raines attended the John Bailey Seminar (Legal Updates), via Zoom.
- Sept. 19-30:** Sergeant DiFalco and Sergeant Caswell attended First Line Supervisor at RWU (Roger Williams University) in Bristol, RI.
- Sept. 26-30:** Officer Seibert attended PEER-2-PEER training at the Danbury Police Department. (hosted by Danbury PD & Hartford PD)

P/R Events:

- Sept. 1:** Captain Raines attended a Faith & Blue conference via Zoom.
- Sept. 11:** Chief Kreitz, Major Platt, Captain Fowler, Captain Raines, Lieutenant Knoche (HG), Officer Luis (HG) and Officer Geller (HG) attended the annual 9/11 remembrance ceremony at Ridgefield Parks & Recreation.
- Sept. 30:** Captain Raines attended the annual MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) awards ceremony/luncheon at Mohegan Sun. This year's recipients were Lieutenant Murray (who couldn't attend) and Officer McKnight (who attended with his wife Cassie). Deacon Kain was also present and attended the Death Notification training class.
- Oct. 2:** The PBA Safety Day was on October 2nd, at the East Ridge Middle School. Despite the weather and Eagle 2 canceling, we had a good turn-out.

Oct. 5: The PBA was at Bobos Café on October 5th from 11:00am to 1:00pm for National “Coffee with a Cop” day. The event went well.

Upcoming Events:

Oct. 29: National Drug Take Back day will be held at HQ from 10:00am to 2:00pm. The Ridgefield Prevention Council will be assisting us once again.

Oct. 31: Trunk or Treat will be at the Lounsbury House, in the parking lot from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Registration forms were sent out to potential participants.

A total of 15 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at the Shir Shalom Temple.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- 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 September 2022 was 1,294. He also highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

7. UNION PARTICIPATION

None.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – To Discuss Matters of Security and Deployment of Personnel.

Commissioner Dornfeld made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:00pm to discuss Matters of Security and Deployment of Personnel. Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 8:48pm. No votes were taken.

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 8:49pm. Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

John Frey
Police Commission Chairman