

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, January 12, 2023 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

Present by Phone: Issy Caporale, Secretary

Absent: Ralph Money

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 7:03pm by Chairman Frey

Chairman Frey stated 5A Old Business, 34 Bailey Avenue Project – Traffic Pattern and 4A New Business, Uniform Division Commanders Annual Report will be moved to the front of the meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Frey requested a motion to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2022 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Coffin made a motion and Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

All in Favor

**Minutes of December 8, 2022 Police Commission Meeting
accepted as written.**

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Money was absent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

Commissioner Caporale received a voicemail from a resident requesting to speak with Chairman Frey, which was addressed.

B. Written Correspondence

None.

OLD BUSINESS

A. 34 Bailey Avenue Project – New Traffic Pattern

Chief Kreitz presented a traffic pattern change for Bailey Avenue. Chief Kreitz stated that this change would be in effect for the construction phase of the project, which is scheduled to last for approximately 18 months.

The change would create two-way traffic from Yankee Ridge to the area of #37 Bailey Avenue. Chief Kreitz stated that this change is being suggested with motor vehicle/pedestrian safety in mind and that all signs and marking would be MUTCD compliant. Chief Kreitz added that Bailey Avenue would be completely closed to traffic during the demolition phase due to concerns over flying debris. The demolition phase should last no more than two days. The property owner, Patrick Downend, was present and answered questions. A scale drawing was provided by the traffic engineer for the presentation.

Main Street resident Andrea Beebe was present at the meeting and addressed her concerns over the project. She had concerns over the length of time the road would be closed and the inconvenience that the project may have on residents, school bus routes, access to areas and deliveries. Chief Kreitz, Capt. Fowler and Patrick Downend answered Andrea's questions.

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to approve the 34 Bailey Avenue Project – New Traffic Pattern as written for the construction phase and until the CO is issued. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

All in Favor

The motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Money was absent.

NEW BUSINESS**A. Uniform Division Commanders Annual Report**

Captain Nick Fowler stated he has been in charge of the Uniform Division for the past year. He is in charge of 32 officers, including 3 Lieutenants and 6 Sergeants. Some of his responsibilities include traffic control for events, highway use permits, extra duty jobs, court liaison, records division, NIBRS (statistics for FBI), IT, firearms (including training and purchasing), some grant writing, Dash/Body cameras, digital evidence, and electronic scheduling. Capt. Fowler gave an overview of the department statistics and stated that the number of incidents has increased since last year. Capt. Fowler praised the officers under his command for their dedication and commitment to the department and the community.

Chairman Frey wanted to recognize the officers who responded to Town Hall for the 1st Amendment audits how well they handled the incidents. He stated their actions were exemplary.

4. NEW BUSINESS**A. Uniform Division Commanders Annual Report**

Presented by Capt. Nick Fowler at the beginning of the meeting.

B. Review of Chief's Goals 2023

Chief Kreitz stated that he will meet with Chairman Frey and Commissioner Caporale to produce his 2023 goals for next meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS**A. 34 Bailey Avenue Project – New Traffic Pattern**

Presented by Patrick Downend at the beginning of the meeting.

B. SR822 (Barry Avenue & High Ridge Avenue Crosswalk)

Chief Kreitz stated that he heard back from the State DOT regarding his request for crosswalks at this intersection. The State DOT was in favor of the installation and stated that the Town is responsible for the installation of ADA compliant pads. Chief Kreitz stated that he met with Jake Muller at the location and that he (Jake) will be contacting the traffic engineer.

C. Public Safety Building Update

We are waiting for updated sight drawings, then a meeting with both boards will be scheduled.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

The following report was submitted by Sgt. Mark Caswell

Regarding: December 2022

Sign Maintenance:

- 1.** Replaced the Stop sign at Halpin Lane and Prospect Ridge.
- 2.** Replaced the Stop sign at Round Lake Road and Barrack Hill Road.
- 3.** Installed 2 No Parking signs at Lakeside Drive and Bennetts farm Road.
- 4.** Installed 2 No Parking signs at the end of Old Sib Road.

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 December 2022

Training Attended:

- Dec. 5-7:** Officer McKnight attended Field Training Officer (FTO) Training at POSTC.
- Dec. 6:** Lieutenant Knoche attended Breath/Alcohol Instructor re-cert training online, via ZOOM.
- Dec. 9:** Dispatcher Falzolgher, Disp. Monroe, Disp. Dennis and Disp. Rosa attended Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) training at HQ. The class was taught by RFD Capt. Duckworth and RFD Chief Myers.
- Dec. 12-14:** Officer Seibert and Officer Vasquez attended Basic School Resource Officer (SRO) training in Archbald, PA.

P/R Events:

- Dec. 1-15:** The PBA hosted “Toys for Tots” utilizing a collection box in the front Lobby a HQ. The box was over filled and the toys were dropped off at the Ridgefield Marine Corps. League.
- Dec. 9:** The three recruits (Theodore, Bloom and Luis) graduated from POSTC with the 375th Session. Chief Kreitz, Major Platt and Officer F. Luis attended the graduation.
- Dec. 18:** The PBA is postponed the annual Penguin Plunge, to benefit the Special Olympics of CT. It was postponed by SOCT, due to not enough participants and will be held at a later date.
- Dec. 27:** Recruit Brandon Romero was sworn in at HQ. He started at POSTC on December 30th with the 377th Session.

Upcoming Events:

There are no upcoming events posted for the month of January yet.

A total of 6 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 Kretiz reported the total number of incidents for the month of December 2022 was 1,088. Capt. Fowler highlighted some of the statistics in his Uniform Division Commanders Annual Report at the beginning of the meeting.

7. UNION PARTICIPATION

None.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. To Discuss Matters of Security and Deployment of Personnel

B. To Discuss Employee Performance

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to go into Executive Session at 08:13pm. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 08:54pm. No votes were taken.

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 08:55pm. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously,

Respectfully Submitted,

John Frey
Police Commission Chairman