

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Thursday, May 12, 2016

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Joseph Savino, Secretary
Thomas Reynolds
Charles Knoche
Marianne Coffin

Also Present: Chief John Roche
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 Chairman Kain.

Agenda Review

Chairman Kain asked the Commissioners if anyone had any adjustments to the agenda; there were none.

Chairman Kain stated that there would be no Executive Session after the Public Session tonight.

Agenda Item #2

Commissioner Savino motioned to accept the minutes of the Police Commission meeting on April 14, 2016; Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion.

Minutes of April 14, 2016 accepted as written.

Agenda Item #3a Commission Voice Mail

Commissioner Savino reported that the Commission voice mail was checked and there was a message from a resident on Old Sib Road citing parking issues on that road. Commissioner Savino stated that after forwarding this voice mail to Chief Roche, he was made aware of the fact that Old Sib Road has a Connecticut side and a New York State side. Investigation by Captain Terzian revealed that the vehicles noted in the complaint were parked on the New York State side of the road. Captain Terzian spoke with the complainant and made them aware of this fact and also told them that if any other issues should arise to please contact the police. This matter was resolved and the resident was pleased with the outcome.

Commissioner Savino stated that he had a message from Chris McQuilken. Mr. McQuilken had read an article in the paper regarding ATM skimmers on bank machines. He was inquiring if the police make the public aware of such incidents. Chief Roche stated that in an incident such as that, the bank notifies those affected and, if deemed necessary, take the ATM down. Chief Roche stated that the police would put out a blurb, with general information,

to the public but usually, the banks have already contacted the owners of the compromised accounts. Chief Roche also noted that the article referenced was not a recent incident.

Commissioner Savino stated that he has not been able to speak with Mr. McQuilken but will continue to try to make contact.

Agenda Item #3b Commission Written Correspondence

Chairman Kain stated a request was received from a resident requesting the placement of a "School Bus Stop Ahead" sign in the area of 70 Nod Hill Road due to the current limited sight lines at this location and the speed of vehicles traveling on the road.

Chief Roche stated that he had Traffic Sign Officer Caswell survey the area and Officer Caswell reported that due to the topography and limited sight line in the northbound direction, visibility is limited; southbound sight lines are adequate and require no signage. Officer Caswell recommends installing a *School Bus Stop Ahead* sign in the northbound lane. Officer Caswell also recommends periodic radar details to enforce the speed limit.

Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report

Department Statistics:

Chief Roche stated that in April 2016, Officers responded to 82 alarms, 22 Medical Assists, issued 5 Controlled Substance violations and made 1 Narcotic arrest, conducted 21 Foot Patrols, initiated 24 Public Relations contacts, performed 9 radar details and 13 motor vehicle details, responded to 38 motor vehicle accidents, conducted 110 school safety checks and issued 967 motor vehicle violations. The Department responded to 2,217 incidents with four K-9 assists.

Training

- P.O. Hartling started POSTC.
 - All Officers attended Arrest and Control/OC/Baton and Handcuffing training at Yanity Gym.
Instructors: Captain Kreitz, Lt. Platt, Lt. Raines, Sgt. Knoche, SRO Luis.
 - P.O. Ryan attended Interview and Interrogation at POSTC.
 - SRO Giglio and SRO Luis attended Security Assessment training at POSTC.
 - Lt. Smith, P.O. Caba, P.O. Ryan attended Child Passenger Safety Seat Re-Certification.
 - P.O. DiFalco attended High Visibility Traffic Enforcement at POSTC.
 - Major Brown attended a negotiator's conference in Hyannis.
- April - Roll Call training on Exposure Control/Bloodborne Pathogens.

Public Relations:

- Captain Kreitz and Sgt. Durling participated in the RVNA Health Fair at ERMS.
 - Sgt. Durling spoke at the Rotary Sunrise Club meeting at the Lounsbury House.
 - P.O. Romero conducted a tour of Headquarters, presented a safety talk and showed a cruiser to a Cub Scout Troop.
 - SRO Giglio's DARE Graduation at Branchville Elementary School; Captain Kreitz attended.
 - Captain Kreitz: Drug take-back event in partnership with the Ridgefield Prevention Council and Bissell Pharmacy. A total of 59.5 pounds of unwanted/unused medication was collected.
- April - Three (3) child passenger restraint systems were checked/installed.

Accreditation Award

Chief Roche, Captain Kreitz and Accreditation Officer Lawrence Clarke attended a meeting to accept the Ridgefield Police Department's Tier III Certificate of Accreditation re-certification award for its voluntary compliance with required standards set forth by POST Council.

Chief Roche stated that he wanted to recognize Sgt. Lawrence Clarke for his outstanding job in helping the Department achieve this award – he has received many compliments about Sgt. Clarke and his excellent work.

Officer of the Year

Chief Roche stated that the Officer of the Year ceremony was held at the Leir Estate on April 21, 2016. Officer Mark Caswell received his award for Ridgefield Police Department's 2015 Officer of the Year at a well-attended, enjoyable event. Chief Roche extended a special thank you to the Leir Estate and the Exchange Club for making this event possible and special.

Chief Roche also noted that there will be a ceremony on May 19, 2016 at the Aqua Turf, hosted by the Exchange Club, honoring all of the Officer of the Year recipients for the State of Connecticut and all are invited.

Racial Profiling

Chief Roche had forwarded to the Commissioners a report on racial profiling for the State of Connecticut and the Chief and Commissioners discussed this issue and the parameters used to collect the data. Chief Roche stated that it has been noted that Chiefs of Police would prefer to be alerted to a possible problem in their department in a timely manner rather than wait for a year when the report is published.

Commissioner Savino also pointed out that consideration should be given to the fact that the driving population is different from the resident population; therefore, racial status would be affected.

Major Brown stated that Ridgefield had a high number of motor vehicle stops, had an equal balance of enforcement, and ranked second highest for gross amount of traffic stops. Chief Roche stated that the Ridgefield Police Department had no issues cited.

Agenda Item #5a Budget

Chief Roche stated that both the Town and Board of Education budgets passed. The Board of Education squeaked by with sixteen votes.

Chief Roche and the Commissioners discussed the two School Resource Officers who are carried under the Board of Education budget and the responsibilities the Board of Education assumed with the addition of these Officers. Chief Roche stated that the original School Resource Officer is funded by the Police budget.

Chief Roche stated that with the passage of the budget, the Department will be able to buy new furniture for the Training Room and Briefing Room and will go forward with other funding proposals in the budget.

Agenda Item #5b Memorial Ceremony

Chief Roche stated that the Department's annual Memorial Ceremony, honoring former Ridgefield Police members who have passed away, will be held on May 26, 2016 at the Lounsbury House at 10:00am.

Chief Roche noted that the first Memorial Ceremony took place in 1978 by then Chief Thomas Rotunda.

Commissioner Kain stated that he will attend the ceremony.

Agenda Item #5c Chief's Goals Update

Chief Roche reported:

#1 HQ Upgrade:

During budget presentation and subsequent meetings, Chief Roche worked with the architect, Police Commission, First Selectman and Town Engineer. The cost to update the renovation plans was refreshed and presented to the Board of Selectmen. This item has been tabled to a future budget.

#2 Training:

- Chief Roche reported that this is ongoing; the Training funds ('15-'16) have been depleted.
- In-house training continues: Arrest/Control, Taser, Handcuffing, Firearms, Public Acts/New Laws.
- Monthly report to Commission

#3 Community Partnerships:

Ongoing throughout the year, i.e.:

Walgreens, Bissell's Pharmacy, Ridgefield Prevention Council, RCCASA, Chamber of Commerce, PTSA Council (pending), PTSA Council (SRO Luis),

Rotary, Rotary Sunrise, Ridgefield Woman's Club, News Media Outlets, Town Departments and Commissions, Leir Foundation, Boys & Girls Club, Citizen Police Academy, local schools, local daycare, Boehringer Ingelheim, Men's Club (pending), local religious community, Safe Rides, Drug Take-Back Program.

#4 Central Dispatch:

With the on-going radio project, the Police HQ building has been established as the hub for the new Town-wide Communications system and brings us closer to Central Dispatch. The last component will be the Police HQ expansion/renovation.

#5 Local and State Intersections:

Pending

#6 Residential and Business Alarms:

Pending

#7 Professional Development:

Chief Roche stated in October 2016, he will be attending the IACP Conference.

#8 Police Officer Survey:

Pending

#9 Citizen Survey:

Pending

#10 Physical Fitness:

Pending

Radio System

In response to Commissioner Kain's question about the new radio system, Chief Roche gave an overview of this project:

Chief Roche stated that the PD will be the hub for town-wide radio services to Highway, Parks & Recreation, the OEM and the Fire Department. It is a microwaveable system (point to point) with a simulcast network. The system is designed to accommodate a combined dispatch center to be located at an expanded police department facility.

Chief Roche stated that the current tower (monopole) at the police department is at capacity and requires structural support – it needs to be strengthened and prepared for future growth. The town, along with T-Mobile, Verizon and Sprint will share the cost to reinforce the tower.

Chief Roche also stated that the tower used at Spruce Mountain is exceeding its limit and Moses Mountain is being explored for use as the North link for the system.

Commissioner Savino motioned to adjourn the Public meeting; Commissioner Coffin seconded.

Vote: In Favor – All
Against – None

Public Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Savino
Secretary