

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Thursday September 8, 2016

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

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 7:03pm by Chairman Kain.

Agenda Item #1 Agenda Review

Chairman Kain stated there will be an Executive Session following the Public Session for personnel matters.

Chairman Kain requested a motion to move Agenda Item 5b to the beginning of the Agenda, to accommodate the UDC Commander. Commissioner Reynolds motioned to accept the change to the Agenda line-up; Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Chairman Kain requested a motion to move Agenda Item 5e to the beginning of the Agenda, to accommodate Wayne Addessi who would be in attendance. Commissioner Knoche motioned to accept the change to the Agenda line-up; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Agenda Item #2 Minutes

Chairman Kain requested a motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2016 Police Commission meeting. Commissioner Coffin motioned to accept; Commissioner Savino seconded the motion.

In favor – 4

Abstain - 1 (absent from 7/14 meeting)

Minutes of July 14, 2016 accepted.

Agenda Item #5b – Uniform Division Annual Report

Captain Terzian, Uniform Division Commander greeted the Commissioners and proceeded to report:

Personnel: 32 Officers:

1 Captain, 5 Lieutenants, 5 Sergeants and 21 Patrol Officers.

Equipment:

Captain Terzian stated that the Officers' uniforms and equipment are replaced and upgraded as necessary. He stated that the Officers continue to do a great job of maintaining their uniforms and Department-issued equipment and he is very pleased with their care of the Department's equipment.

Captain Terzian stated that the Division has eight Patrol cars (six of these are SUV's), 2 Supervisor cars (one is an SUV), 1 K-9 car for Officer Murray and K-9 Loki, 1 unmarked car for Special Patrol, and 3 SRO cars (assigned for school use).

The fleet also consists of two Hummers which were given to the Department by the Federal government.

All of the patrol cars are now equipped with radar - additional units were obtained through Grants. One vehicle has an LPR (license plate reader) providing Officers with up-to-date DMV information of all vehicles within range. In addition to fixed radar units, the Department has three hand-held laser units.

Records:

Captain Terzian stated that the Records Division is managed by Ann Touhy and Alison Heibeck and that both of these individuals do an outstanding job of organizing and maintaining the Department's records. Captain Terzian stated that this position is a huge responsibility and both employees perform their jobs well. Captan Terzian also stated that the new Bookkeeper, Cheryl Arnett, has proven to be a great addition to the Department.

Captain Terzian stated that the whole support staff at Headquarters, to include the Custodian, Tara DePalma; do a great job of making everything run smoothly.

Division Statistics:

Statistics from September 9, 2015 through September 7, 2016 are as follows:

September 9, 2014 – September 8, 2015				September 9, 2015 – September 7, 2016			
DUI:			48	DUI:			51
Narcotics:	Arrests – 20	Violations – 57		Narcotics:	Arrests – 18	Violations – 41	
MVA:			649	MVA:			622
Summons:	2,256	WW	1,872	Summons:	1,698	WW	2,246
Radar Summons:	2,178	WW/R	2,022	Radar Summons:	1,303	WW/R	1,605
Check Wellbeing:			194	Check Wellbeing:			204
Domestic Incidents:			79	Domestic Incidents:			61
Domestic Arrests:			40	Domestic Arrests:			45
Missing Person:			26	Missing Person:			20
Attempt to Locate:			31	Attempt to Locate:			43
Possession Alcohol/Minor:			8	Possession Alcohol/Minor:			18
Burglaries:			10	Burglaries:			14
Larcenies:			120	Larcenies:			72
Deaths:			7	Deaths:			7
Medical Assists:			305	Medical Assists:			311

Other Activities handled by the Uniform Division:

- Bicycle Patrol: Sgt. Durling and Sgt. Gogola, Officers Luis, Daly and Romero are our Bike Patrol Officers. Captain Terzian stated that bikes are a great community tool, keeps the Officer out with the people and allows for thorough security checks. Captain Terzian stated that Ed McGill (Ridgefield BMW) and the Ridgefield Bicycle Company made it possible for the Department to obtain two more bicycles (now have four) and the Department is very grateful to them for making this happen.
- Foot Patrols: performed by all Officers on all Shifts (to include Midnights) with positive feedback from business owners. This continues to promote a great Community-relations bond.
- School Security and Walk-Throughs (performed by all Officers.)
This is our Park-Walk-Talk program for schools where the Officers actually have contact within the school as well as patrolling the exterior. Direct interaction with students and personnel is stressed for this patrol.
- DARE: Officer Samoskevich assists the SRO's with teaching DARE. These Officers get positive feedback from those they teach and even though Officer Samoskevich is not an SRO, he has a great rapport with the students and teachers in the schools. All Officers perform an outstanding job and have good interaction with the students.
- Special Patrols: includes plain clothes Anti-Narcotic, Alcohol and Vandalism Patrols which have been working very well and the Officers enjoy the detail. This program has been successful and the Officers performing the details are extremely good at what they do.
- Public Relations: tours and crime prevention talks. Members of the Department also meet with local business owners to establish familiarity.
- Security and traffic control of all major Town events. The Officers always make sure everything runs smoothly during any event in Town and that all involved are safe.
- K-9: PO Murray and K9 Loki complete patrol tours, assist other departments, perform demonstrations and help in fellow officer's arrest incidents – they are a great asset to the department.
- Texting and Radar Grants: The Ridgefield Police Department was a testing ground for this program and because of its success here it was introduced across the country. We will continue these details.
- Serious Accidents: Lt. Platt and Sgt. Durling are Re-constructionists and perform a major service for the Department in the aftermath of any serious accidents.
- Monthly Roll Call Training and Community Relations:
Captain Terzian stated that when he accepted the position of UDC Commander, he told himself that he wants to create change and grow with each year. To this end, this program was initiated.

- Each month, Supervisors are required to pick a minimum of three current topics to train and discuss with Officers at Roll Call.
- In addition, each week, Supervisors are required to assign Officers to Community-relation type activities (speak with bike riders, meet with campers at Park & Rec, visit businesses, mingle at Carnivals, fairs, etc.)
- Supervisors and Officers are encouraged to come up with special activities designed to improve relations with the Community. Both Supervisors and Officers have responded well and exceeded my expectations with their thoughts and enthusiasm.
- At the end of the month, the Lieutenant submits a report to me outlining the activities/undertakings for the month.

Commissioner Kain asked Captain Terzian what the difference was between fixed radar and hand-held radar. Captain Terzian stated that the vehicles have the display on the dash or visor, they stay stationary – the hand-held units can be utilized while out of the car, giving the Officer a bit more leeway while on detail.

Commissioner Reynolds asked Captain Terzian if the current statistics were a little off from last year. Captain Terzian stated that motor vehicle enforcement numbers are down a bit due to the fact that the State removed the speed grant which allowed the Department to assign details which would be covered by the grant – it allowed us to increase the manpower at no cost to the Town.

Commissioner Knoche asked if there was anything that Captain Terzian would like or need for his division. Captain Terzian stated that he has had discussion with Chief Roche about new flare equipment and Chief Roche is looking into the possibility of getting this as it would be a good addition for Officer safety. Captain Terzian stated that he would really like a pick-up truck and is looking toward the Department of Defense in the hope of picking up a used one as the cost of a new one is quite expensive.

Captain Terzian stated that he also has a new License Plate Reader in his Capital budget (\$18,000) as the one we have now that was obtained with a grant is really outdated.

Commissioner Kain stated that he thought Captain Terzian's Roll Call training and Community Relations program was a creative strategy and suggested he publish an outline of this for other departments to view and maybe adopt and expand upon. He complimented Captain Terzian for his initiative on this plan.

Captain Terzian stated that his officers work well together and make his job easy – they bring the Department to a higher level.

The Commissioners thanked Captain Terzian for his time and for a good presentation.

Agenda Item #5e – Wayne Addressi

Commissioner Kain invited Wayne Addressi to the meeting who was there to discuss traffic issues, backups and congestion, in Town. Mr. Addressi thanked the Commissioners for placing him on their agenda and stated that, as a long-time business owner in Town, he has had it with the traffic congestion. Mr. Addressi stated that the delays in traffic affect how people shop – it is easier to go online than travel into Town and in order to avoid main stream traffic, drivers are resorting to back roads which bypass Main Street where the businesses are. Mr. Addressi stressed that the delays affect peoples' work, shopping, home closings, appointments, etc. and he feels there must be a better way. Mr. Addressi stated that he has reached out to the police department, town officials, DOT and he is willing to help in any way he can to help solve this issue.

Mr. Addressi stated that he was out driving and it was suggested to him that a crosswalk be installed at the post office (Catoonah Street) for pedestrian use. Chief Roche responded that Catoonah Street is a State road and the State would be reticent about putting a crosswalk mid-block due to safety concerns. Commissioner Coffin stated that she feels a crosswalk would create more of a traffic issue as the one outside the Gap on Main Street does. The cars have to stop for someone and then miss the light and traffic sits and begins to build.

Mr. Addressi asked about synchronization of all the traffic lights on Main Street. Chief Roche stated that Rudy Marconi had contacted the State regarding the synchronization and he (Chief Roche) thinks it is as close as possible – the thorn is the light at the CVS/Prospect Street intersection. Hopefully, this will be taken care of with the completion of the proposed re-alignment of this area.

Mr. Addressi stated that in his discussions on this issue, the implementation of Traffic Police to address the traffic flow was presented and Chief Roche responded that the police department used to have traffic agents on duty to monitor the traffic flow and every year he places this line item back in his budget but it is denied every year. Chief Roche stated that the traffic agent had access to the traffic box and could monitor the flow of traffic during high volume time. Chief Roche stressed the need for the public to support his budget.

Mr. Addressi emphasized the need to do something be it signage, traffic officers, installation of a small rotary at the entrance to the Parks & Recreation drive – just need to do something different to help alleviate this congestion.

Discussion about the tie-up with the State work by Fox Hill ensued and Commissioner Savino asked if the Department gets notice of when they will be working. Chief Roche stated that we do and we post any notice on Facebook. Commissioner Savino asked if the Department had any say in where the signage put in place by the State regarding road projects is located. Chief Roche stated

that he can request the signage be placed in the best locations to alert drivers so they can find an alternative route.

Some discussion followed about diverting traffic to side roads and Commissioner Kain stated that he would not be in favor of that and those living on the side streets are expressing concerns now about the influx of vehicles and speeding on their streets which are not main roadways.

Commissioner Kain stated that those on the Commission are not traffic experts so they defer to the State engineers who are experts in this field and try to work with them to do what is best for Ridgefield. Chief Roche will address the signage with the State and we will continue to pursue the improvements at the CVS/Prospect Street intersection.

Agenda Item #3a Commission Voice Mail

Commissioner Savino reported that there were several voice mail messages since the July meeting:

- 1) Resident expressed concern for children crossing at the crosswalk at Main Street and King Lane due to speed and volume of traffic. A request was made for a cone to be placed at the crosswalk to alert drivers of the crosswalk.

Chief Roche stated that the cone requires an application to the State of Connecticut and an explanation for its use; someone would also need to put out and take in the sign. Chief Roche also stated that since this area is not a high pedestrian crosswalk and is located at an intersection with adequate signage, these factors would be considered.

- 2) Resident had a question about the use of golf carts on streets and a sharp turn at Armand Road and Old West Mountain Road.

Chief Roche stated that he directed Traffic Sign Officer Caswell to review this area and Officer Caswell reported that there have been no accidents in the last ten years at Old West Mountain Road/Armand Road and that the turn existing at this location is no sharper than any of the other corners on Old West Mountain Road. Officer Caswell does not recommend a *Sharp Curve* sign be installed.

Golf Carts: Officer Caswell reported that his research did not reveal any ordinance that specifically allows the use of golf carts so at this point, they are not allowed.

- 3) Resident on Mulberry Street expressed concerns about speed and the use of Mulberry Street as a pass-thru road.

Chief Roche directed Traffic Sign Officer Caswell to review this area and Officer Caswell reported that there is only one *25mph* speed limit sign on Mulberry Street. Officer Caswell recommended the installation of an additional speed limit sign, periodic radar enforcement and use of the speed trailer to help monitor/enforce the speed limit. Officer Caswell

stated that the use of speed bumps to control speed, as suggested by the homeowner, is not a viable solution.

4) Wilton Road West

Application for a review of the speed limit on Wilton Road West between Wilton Road East and the Route 35 intersection was submitted to State DOT for follow-up.

Agenda Item #3b Commission Written Correspondence

A packet was received outlining a proposal for expansion of the Boehringer Ingelheim's parking facility. After being advised that this change would not increase traffic flow but would only accommodate current vehicles in their facility, Chief Roche, after receiving approval from the Board of Police Commissioners, gave their approval for this proposed project.

Commissioner Kain signed off on two State Highway Use Applications:

- 1) Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot – November 24, 2016
- 2) Holiday Stroll – December 2, 2016

These will now be forwarded to the State for review and approval.

Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report

Sign Report July 2016

- Installed *25mph* sign on Beaver Brook Road.
- Installed *School Bus Stop Ahead* sign at 52 Nod Hill Road.
- Replaced *Stop* sign at 165 West Lane.
- Replaced/Installed a *Stop* sign on Mamanasco Road.
- Fixed and straightened a *Corner Arrow* on High Ridge Avenue.
- Replaced a *Stop* sign on Chestnut Hill Road.
- Replaced a *Stop* sign on Spring Valley Road.
- Replaced a *Corner Arrow* sign on Wilton Road East.
- Replaced a *Stop* Sign on Prospect Ridge Road/Ivy Hill Road.
- Replaced and installed a *3-Way Stop* sign on Ivy Hill/Prospect Ridge Road.
- Replaced a *Stop* sign on St Johns Road/Silver Spring Road.
- Replaced a *Stop* sign on St Johns Road/Silver Spring Lane.
- Straightened a *Stop* sign at Silver Spring Park/Silver Spring Lane.
- Replaced a *Stop* sign on St Johns Road/Silver Hill Road.
- Straightened a *Stop* sign on Silver Hill Road/Donnelly Drive.
- Replaced a *Stop* sign at Forest Drive/White Birch Road.
- Replaced four *No Parking Any Time* signs on Prospect Ridge Road.

In response to Commissioner Kain's question, Chief Roche stated that the *Stop* signs being installed are the bigger ones and that we also use a break-away pole now. Chief Roche also stated that the Department partnered with the Highway Department in purchasing a pneumatic pounder to assist with preparing the hole for pole installation.

Sign Report August 2016

- Straightened the *No Parking* sign on Barlow Mt. Road.
- Installed Stop sign on Barlow Mt Road at Barlow Mountain School.
- Replaced *25mph* speed limit sign on Ridgebury Rd near Chestnut Hill Rd.
- Straightened *Stop Ahead* sign on Bennetts Farm Rd near Bates Farm Rd.
- Replaced *25mph* speed limit sign on Mopus Bridge Road.
- Straightened the *Stop* sign at the intersection of Old Sib Rd / Tackora Trail.
- Removed bent street sign and replaced *Stop* sign at Lookout Point.
- Installed a *Stop* sign on South Shore Road at the entrance to the ballfields.
- Installed two *25mph* speed limit signs on Dlh Court.
- Installed a *25mph* speed limit sign on Mulberry Street.
- Straightened the speed limit sign on Kellogg Street.
- Replaced *25mph* speed limit sign on Whipstick Road.
- Straightened *25mph* speed limit sign on George Washington Highway.

Correspondence

- Thank you letter to Ridgefield Police Department and P.O. DiFalco from Jesse Lee ASP for accompanying youth volunteers back to Ridgefield.
- Thank you letter to P.O Caba and P.O Romero for their compassion and good work at a medical call.
- Thank you to P.O Ryan for installation of a car seat – thorough and knowledgeable. Also a thank you to the Department for their Child Seat Program.
- Thank you letter to P.O. Caswell and P.O. Boulware for their quick and thorough response to a residential alarm.
- Thank you letter to P.O Romero for his kind and professional help with a disabled motorist.
- Thank you letter from Chief Finch of Bethel P.D. to P.O VanWattum and P.O. Ekstrom for their assistance with traffic and patrol at a wake.

Department Statistics:

Chief Roche highlighted the statistics for **July** 2016, a total of 2,303 incidents, to include: 110 Alarms, 20 Check Wellbeing, 35 Medical Assists, 4 Controlled Substance Violations, 3 DUI's, 15 Radar Details, 7 Traffic Details, 53 Foot Patrols, 839 motor vehicle enforcement violations, 45 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 20 Pistol Permits and 26 Public Relations contacts. There were three (3) K9 assists in July.

Chief Roche highlighted the statistics for **August** 2016, a total of 2,309 incidents, to include: 106 Alarms, 33 Medical Assists, 3 Controlled Substance violations, 29 Fingerprint applicants, 48 Foot Patrols, 11 Radar Details, 4 Traffic Details, 918 motor vehicle enforcement violations, 42 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 4 Pistol Permits (118 to date) and 24 deployments of the Smart Trailer. There were seven (7) K9 assists in August.

South Salem Road

In response to a resident's request for a centerline rumble strip on Route 35 (South Salem Road) similar to the one on Route 7, Connecticut DOT determined that this would not be installed as the criteria did not require the installation.

Horizontal Curve Project:

The State DOT is continuing with this project to improve horizontal curve safety on eligible roads and have identified two roads in Ridgefield that would be considered (Neds Mountain Road and Old Stagecoach Road). The State submitted two signage views – one is similar to the curve signs on the road now and the other it a high visibility sign which is the one that the Commission approves. Chief Roche will contact the State with the Commission's decision.

Route 35 / Farmingville Road Multi-use Trail Project

The Ct DOT is improving the State's transportation system, with bicyclist and pedestrians in mind. A road safety audit is performed to assess the existing conditions of walking and biking routes and identify the issues that may discourage or prevent walking and bicycling. An assessment is ongoing for the Danbury Road/Farmingville Road area to make it more accessible for the proposed connection with the Rail Trail.

Local and State Intersections

Chief Roche stated that he directed Traffic Sign Officer Caswell to review the high accident intersection areas in 2016 and he reported:

East Ridge Road/Governor Street

All of the intersection-related accidents involved a vehicle traveling North on East Ridge failing to stop at the Stop sign and making contact with a vehicle traveling East on Governor Street. It is granted that all of the vehicles should have made complete stops on East Ridge, however, visibility is a factor to observe - the vehicle traveling East on Governor Street and operators traveling North on East Ridge may not see the vehicles as they are cresting the hill. It is recommended that Town Highway survey the area and determine if the sight lines can be improved.

Chief Roche stated at he does not believe anything can be done with the sight lines at this intersection – it is an open view.

Grove St/Old Quarry Road

There were three intersection-related accidents in this area. All of the accidents occurred when the vehicle turning South onto Grove Street from Old Quarry Road either thought the vehicle on Grove Street also had a *Stop* sign or the operator did not see the vehicle. Visibility for the operator looking North on Grove Street is a factor. Solution may include installing a flashing light on the *Stop* sign to draw more attention to the sign as well as making the sign state 'vehicles from the right do not stop'. Visibility can also be improved by re-engineering the berm and eliminating some brush and trees in the area to allow

a better line of sight down the hill. Due to limited sight lines traveling South on Grove Street, topography, and possible weather-related issues in the area, a *Stop* sign on the southbound side of Grove Street is not recommended at this time.

Main Street – Gilbert Street

There were three intersection-related accidents in this area. All of the accidents occurred when a vehicle making a right turn from the legal travel lane on Main Street onto Gilbert Street collided with a vehicle also making a right turn onto Gilbert from the breakdown lane. During rush hour, vehicles attempt to avoid traffic and pass vehicles on the breakdown lane to make the right turn. If space permits, a dedicated right turn lane may be a viable option to avoid future collisions. Due to the fact that this is a State road, the State DOT will need to make the final determination on any solution. This will be left as it is.

Farmingville Road/Ligi's Way

A survey of the area and research was conducted for this intersection. Over a five year period, it was found that five accidents in the area were intersection-related. In those accidents, two involved vehicles failing to stop at the *Stop* sign on Farmingville Road and making contact with a vehicle turning West on Farmingville Road from Ligi's Way. Two involved vehicles failing to stop at the *Stop* sign on Ligi's Way and making contact with a vehicle traveling West on Farmingville Road. One accident involved a vehicle entering the intersection from Ligi's Way and making contact with a vehicle traveling East on Farmingville Road. The operator stated that he thought the vehicle traveling East on Farmingville Road also had a *Stop* sign. It is recommended that nothing be changed at this intersection at this time. Concerns arise that an additional *Stop* sign on Farmingville Road may cause additional accidents as well as a back-up of traffic to Danbury Road.

Chief Roche pointed out the fact that at Ligi's Way/Farmingville Road there is no *Stop* sign coming from Danbury Road towards Ligi's Way. He stated he recommends a *Stop* sign be installed at this location and the Commission agreed with this.

Agenda Item #5a – Cruiser Bid Specifications

Lease

Chief Roche discussed with the Commissioners the specifications for the purchase of one (1) 2017 unmarked lease vehicle. The lease would be for three years – one time up-front payment. Chief Roche stated that he kept the same list of nine (9) makes of vehicles from Ford Explorer or Taurus, Dodge, Chevrolet, Nissan, Toyota, Jeep, Honda and Hyundai as possible selections. Chief Roche stated that the bid has a due date of October 20, 2016 by 11:00am.

Chief Roche noted that the current leased vehicle will be purchased by the Town and go to the First Selectman for his use.

Commissioner Knoche motioned to approve the bid specifications; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

Vote: In Favor: All
Opposed: None

2017 Lease Vehicle (1) Bid Specifications approved.

Marked

Chief Roche submitted specifications for four (4) Utility Interceptors or four (4) Sedan Interceptors, or any combination of these vehicles. Two of these vehicles will be funded by the Board of Education to replace two SRO vehicles.

Commissioner Knoche motioned to accept the 2017 vehicle specifications as presented by Chief Roche; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

2017 Ford Police Interceptors (4) Bid Specifications accepted as submitted.

Agenda Item #5b – Covered in beginning of meeting

Agenda Item #5c – Eligibility List

The current eligibility list has been exhausted. If necessary, a new testing process should be initiated. In response to Commissioner Savino's question, Chief Roche stated that the whole list was finished.

Agenda Item #5d – Update of Chief's Goals

Chief Roche reported (**updates highlighted**):

#1 HQ Upgrade

During budget presentation and subsequent meetings, Chief Roche worked with the architect, Police Commission, First Selectman and Town Engineer. The cost 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
- 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

Covered in Chief's Report above.

#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

Completed and being compiled for the October 2016 meeting.

#9 Citizen Survey

Completed 7/16

#10 Physical Fitness

Completed – 09/08/2016

Agenda Item #5e – Covered in beginning of meeting**Agenda Item #5f – Traffic Study Proposal**

Chief Roche stated that he had contacted Michael Galante of Frederick Clarke Associates in reference to performing a traffic study for the Town of Ridgefield to assist the Town in an evaluation of potential traffic and pedestrian impacts affecting traffic flow.

The Commissioners had been sent information received from Mr. Galante. Commissioner Savino stated that it covered mostly Main St and Route 35 – he would like some attention to secondary roads. Commissioner Savino stated that we are now sitting on a ten year old study and are in reactive mode. He would like to see a shift to proactive to correct the existing problems and not wait for the State or the Board of Selectmen. Commissioner Savino stated that the problem is now shifting to secondary road congestion.

The Commissioners expressed dismay at the cost factor involved in this study and feel that this should not be a police department expense but a Town or State expense.

Chief Roche will contact the State to see if they have any programs that would cover a project such as this and until we find out, this will be put on hold with Mr. Galante.

Agenda Item #6a – Cedar Lane

Under review by State DOT – nothing to report at this time.

Agenda Item #6a – West Lane 'S' Curve Improvements

Under review by State DOT – nothing to report at this time.

Agenda Item #6a – Depot Road

Under review by Metropolitan North and State DOT – no update to report.

Agenda Item #6a – Ligi's Way

Commissioners agreed to request to change the name of this road to Chief Ligi Highway.

Commissioner Coffin suggested just adding a sign on the road with Chief Richard Ligi Highway on it and leave everything else as is.

Chief Roche will contact First Selectman Marconi as the Board of Selectmen voted on this name.

Commissioner Knoche motioned to adjourn Public Session and open Executive Session; seconded by Commissioner Coffin.

Public Session adjourned at 9:00pm.

Public Session commenced at 9:25pm**Retirement Extension of Det. Papstein**

Commissioner Knoche motioned to accept Det. Papstein's request for an extension to his retirement. Motion seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

All in Favor

Extension to retirement granted to Det. Papstein.

Exception Service Awards:**P.O. Shawn Murray**

The Commendation Board recommends that Officer Shawn Murray receive the Ridgefield Police Department's Exceptional Service Ribbon for his off-duty actions on June 11, 2016.

Commissioner Reynolds motioned to accept the Commendation Board's recommendation that Officer Murray receive the Exceptional Service Ribbon and one day off for his actions on June 11th that resulted in a DUI arrest; seconded by Commissioner Coffin.

All in Favor

P.O. Murray to receive the Exceptional Service Ribbon.

Sgt. Brian Durling

The Commendation Board recommends the Exceptional Service Award and a day off to Sgt. Durling for his quick response, effective application of the AED and quality CPR actions on a Medical Assist that resulted in the patient making a full recovery.

Commissioner Coffin motioned to accept the Commendation Board's recommendation that Sgt. Durling receive the Exceptional Service Ribbon for his actions on June 26th in administering to an individual in cardiac arrest. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Sgt. Durling to receive the Exceptional Service Ribbon.

Commissioner Savino motioned to adjourn Public Session; seconded by Commissioner Coffin.

All in Favor

Public Session adjourned at 9:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Savino
Secretary

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

Also Present: Chief John Roche
Major Stephen Brown

Meeting commenced: 09:05pm

Meeting adjourned: 09:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Savino
Secretary