

**MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**  
**of**  
**Thursday, May 10, 2018**

**Commissioners Present:** Charles Knoche, Chairman  
George Kain, Secretary  
Marianne Coffin  
Joseph Savino  
Stephen Saloom

**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 7:10pm by Chairman Knoche.

**Agenda Item #1**

Chairman Knoche asked if there would be any changes to the agenda. There were none.

Chairman Knoche stated that there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the Public Session.

**Agenda Item #2**

Chairman Knoche requested a motion to accept the minutes of the April 19, 2018 Police Commission meeting. Commissioner Saloom pointed out an error in the Executive Session attendees listed on the April 19<sup>th</sup> minutes submitted; this was corrected. Commissioner Coffin motioned to accept the amended minutes; Commissioner Kain seconded the motion.

**Vote:** In Favor - All  
Against - None

**Amended Minutes of the April 19, 2018 Police Commission meeting accepted.**

**Agenda Item #3a Commission Voice Mail**

Commissioner Kain reported that there was a voice mail from the owner of Audrey Road at 7 Bailey Avenue with concerns about the increasing number of vehicles going the wrong way on Bailey Avenue.

Commissioner Kain stated that he was unable to make contact with the owner but left his card and will follow up on this concern. Commissioner Kain did state that he observed the area while he was there and noted that there are two obscure one-way signs in place that need to be addressed and he would also suggest a review of the entrance and egress to the parking lot on Governor Street that exits onto Bailey Avenue. The traffic in this lot has increased due to the opening of the Ridgefield Thrift Shop in the Governor Street lot so some upgrades are needed.

Chief Roche will direct Traffic Sign Officer to review the area and report back to the Commission.

### **Agenda Item #3b Commission Correspondence**

#### Family Fourth Celebration

Chairman Knoche signed off on an application for a Highway Use Permit for the Family Fourth Celebration on July 4, 2018 (Rain date: July 5, 2018). This application will now be forwarded to the State DOT for their review/approval.

#### 77 Sunset Lane

The President of the 77 Sunset Lane Association sent a letter thanking the Commission for their response and suggestions regarding the association's concerns with parking once the ACT Theater Company begins their public events. The association will follow the advice of the Commission and contact ACT to work out a solution to the potential parking and traffic issues on the association's property.

Regarding the Department's offer to temporarily supply barriers/cones, they will discuss this at an upcoming meeting and will update the Chief on their decision.

#### Headquarters Renovation

Chairman Knoche read a letter from the Ridgefield Police Union informing the Commissioners of their official decision to oppose any improvements on the existing Headquarters building and support a new public safety headquarters to be shared with the fire department. This decision was the result of five years discussion by union members (Captains, Lieutenants, Sergeants and patrol Officers) and was a unanimous vote.

The members of the Commission discussed the Union's correspondence and asked the Chief to bring to the next meeting the documents regarding the planned renovation and expansion to include a financial breakdown of money spent to date; for further discussion.

#### Rockwell Road

Chairman Knoche discussed a letter (all the Commissioners received one) from a resident of Rockwell Road who wants to revisit her concerns regarding the safety issues present on this road. The Commission had addressed this issue in March and suggested some improvements that will be completed next week by the Traffic Sign Officer which will include upgrades to the signage.

Chief Roche also stated that he would like to request Town Engineer Fisher to conduct a count on the road to see the actual number of vehicles we are dealing with and then re-evaluate.

**Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report**Narcan

Chief Roche stated that Lt. Jeffrey Smith would provide Narcan training for the Police Commissioners. The training would last one hour and Chief Roche requested the Commissioners to advise him of their interest.

Correspondence

Chief Roche reported that a thank you was received from the First Selectman of Southbury for A.C.O. Kris Zulkeski for his assistance in April with domestic animals.

Training

- Capt. Terzian and Capt. Comstock attended the FBI Executive Leadership Conference in Providence, R.I.
- Det. DuBord attended Apple Legal Process Training in New Haven, CT.
- Lt. Smith, Sgt. Durling, Det. Ryan, and P.O. DiFalco attended Child Passenger Restraint System Re-certification in New Haven.
- Det. Ryan attended Vehicle Interdiction at POSTC.
- P.O. VanWattum attended the Fairfield County Detective School in Monroe.
- Sgt. Gogola attended EMR Re-certification in Waterbury.

Crime Prevention Report

- Citizen Academy ongoing.
- Det. Ryan gave a safety talk at a local preschool.
- Sgt. Durling manned a table at the RVNA Health and Wellness Fair.
- Sgt. Knoche worked the Drug Take-Back Event in partnership with Bissell Pharmacy.
- A total of five child passenger restraint systems were checked/installed during the month of April.

Upcoming Events:

- 5/17 Exchange Club Statewide Officer of the Year dinner at the Aqua Turf.
- 5/24 Annual Police Memorial Ceremony at the Lounsbury House.
- 5/29 Fair and Impartial Policing: HQ, 5pm to 9pm (Police Commissioners invited)

Statistics

Chief Roche stated that the incident total for the month of April was 1,771. During the month, the Department responded to 104 Alarms, 14 Medical Assists, 11 Foot Patrols, conducted 11 Radar Details, issued 689 Motor Vehicle Enforcement violations, processed 9 Pistol Permit applicants, investigated 50 Motor Vehicle Accidents, participated in 33 Public Relations

interactions; completed 2 Controlled Substance arrests, 1 Narcotic arrest and 2 DUI arrests. There were 5 (five) K-9 assists in April.

#### North Salem Road/Danbury Road

Chief Roche advised the Commissioners that he received communication from the State DOT advising of changes to be made at the above location.

As you approach the intersection (coming from the Mobil station), there are left and right hand signs indicating the flow of traffic.

The DOT will add a *Right Turn* sign from Danbury Road (Rt 35) onto Rt 116 (by Tony's Deli); along with a *Right Turn Arrow* on the roadway.

The *Left Turn Arrow* on the roadway, and signage, will be removed for thru traffic onto Main Street.

Chief Roche will contact DOT with any concerns the Commission may have.

#### East Ridge Road/Branchville Road

Chief Roche reported that the State DOT has completed the requested changes, submitted by the Commission; upgraded the signage at the crosswalk and placed strips on the existing poles for safety.

#### ID System

Chief Roche reported to the Commissioners that the Department/Town have purchased a new ID system and once all is working smoothly, he will have them come in to get a new ID.

### **Agenda Item #5a New Business - None**

### **Agenda Item #6a Pedestrian Crossing**

#### Grove St/Prospect Street/East Ridge Road Pedestrian Crossing

Previously, Chief Roche offered suggestions for improving pedestrian safety in this area:

- 1) Upgrade all four Stop signs and add strips on the posts
- 2) Warn of Pedestrian Zone by installing pedestrian crosswalk signs with lime strips on the posts on both sides of Grove Street/Prospect Street

Chief Roche reported to the Commission that Traffic Sign Officer Caswell will address this area this month and report back to the Commission in June.

### **Agenda Item #6b Main Street**

#### Main Street (Fountain) Traffic Light

Previously, Chief Roche stated that in the response to the resident requesting a traffic light at the location of the fountain, the resident was informed that Rep. John Frey would be contacted to research the history of the fountain – on National Registry for Historic Places?

Chief Roche reported to the Commissioners that he has not received any

correspondence from Rep. Frey as of this May meeting.

**Agenda Item #6c No Turn on Red**

Prospect Street/Main Street, Danbury Road/Grove Street

Chief Roche reported that this is part of the Main Street Renovation project. No updates or communication has been received from the State DOT on this issue as of the May meeting.

**Agenda Item #6d St Mary Crossing**

Previously, Chief Roche reported that he received an email from David Sawicki of the State DOT confirming receipt of the proposal for installation of a crosswalk on High Ridge Avenue at Catoonah Street. Mr. Sawicki stated that the request has been forwarded to the Division of Traffic Engineering for their review and response. When Chief Roche receives an update, he will inform the Commissioners. As of the May meeting, Chief Roche has not had communication from the DOT.

Chief Roche had submitted a request to Eversource to replace the existing utility pole at the location of the proposed crosswalk. He will contact them again to see if there is any update on this request.

**LifeSkills**

Commissioner Saloom touched base with the Commissioners regarding his request for them to view the LifeSkills webinar. Commissioner Saloom stated that the Board of Education is on board and he will work out the particulars to make this happen.

Commissioner Kain motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for discussion on personnel matters; Commissioner Savino seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

**Public Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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George Kain  
Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE  
POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**

**Commissioners Present:** Charles Knoche, Chairman  
George Kain, Secretary  
Marianne Coffin  
Joseph Savino  
Stephen Saloom

**Also Present:** Chief John Roche  
Major Stephen Brown

Executive Session commenced at 8:12pm.

**Executive Session adjourned at 8:21pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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George Kain  
Secretary