

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Thursday June 8, 2017

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

Also Present: Chief John Roche

These minutes are an overview of the meeting; not a verbatim text.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Savino.

Agenda Item #1 – Agenda Review

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

Chairman Savino stated that there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the public session.

Agenda Item #2 Minutes

Commissioner Reynolds motioned to accept the minutes of the Ridgefield Police Commission on May 11, 2017; Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion.

Vote: In Favor – All

Minutes of the May 11, 2017 Police Commission meeting accepted as written.

Agenda Item #3a Commission Voice Mail/Email

Commissioner Knoche reported that the Commission voice mail was checked and there were the following messages:

- 512 Bennetts Farm Road - requesting speed bumps due to increase in traffic/speeding and a recent accident that occurred outside of their home. Chief Roche will contact this resident.
- Limestone Road - requesting the yellow dividing line that is missing from the newly-paved portion of Limestone Road which is creating safety issues.

Chief Roche contacted this resident and explained that the line painting is slated for this road with the start of the new fiscal year in July. Chief Roche stated that in the meantime, he has directed the speed trailer be deployed at this location to assist with the speeding issue. The resident was pleased with the Chief's response.

- Main Street Crosswalk – concerns about seeing near-miss pedestrian accidents when using this crosswalk (no specific location identified but the Commissioners assumed it is the crosswalk by 440 Main Street.) Commissioner Coffin stressed the need for public education regarding crosswalks. Commissioner Coffin stated that a crosswalk is not a free pass to walk across the road; pedestrians need to be cautious when entering the crosswalk and be sure that drivers see them before they attempt to cross.
Chief Roche will contact the caller.

Agenda Item #3b Commission Written Correspondence

Chief Roche stated that due to a time restraint, he signed off (after receiving permission from Chairman Savino) on a State of Connecticut Road Closure Request for the July 4th Fireworks.

Chief Roche informed the Commissioners that a response letter was sent to the resident on Remington Road regarding speed control on said road.

Chief Roche informed the Commissioners that a response letter was sent to the resident on Mimosa Circle regarding speed control by the recreation area.

Run Like a Mother

Commissioner Knoche asked Chief Roche if there is a better detour that can be mapped out for road closures to accommodate events such as this. He stated that there was a back-up of about twenty cars waiting due to the way the detour was planned and he feels that there may be a better traffic pattern that would allow traffic to flow a bit easier during the event. Chief Roche stated that he will discuss this issue with Captain Terzian.

Road Closures

Chief Roche alerted the Commissioners to road closures due to a bridge replacement being performed by the Connecticut Department of Transportation on Rt. 7 just north of Rt. 102. Roads closed to thru traffic will be the intersection of Rt. 7/Rt. 35 and Rt. 7/Rt.102. A post has been placed on the Ridgefield Police Department Facebook page for residents' information.

Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report

Peace with Police

Chief Roche stated that the Department and the Ridgefield Boys and Girls Club held an evening of dialogue, games and food on May 26th between 7:00pm and 11:00pm; about 50-55 youths attended. Officers played games and then broke out into sessions where specific topics were discussed:

Search and Seizure, Use of Force, Drugs and Narcan, etc. These groups resulted in a back and forth session between the Officer and the teens. This program went well and is a continuing effort by the Department to reach out to the youth in the community in friendship and understanding. This event was initiated by Captain Kreitz and Sgt. Brian Durling.

Peachwave

In the same community spirit, Chief Roche stated that tonight, June 8th, the Officers were hosting a 'Froyo with the 5-0' event at Peachwave where they will mingle with the patrons and enjoy a fun night. This event was initiated by Captain Kreitz and P.O. Chris DiFalco.

Department Statistics:

Chief Roche highlighted the statistics for May 2017 as follows:
73 Alarms; 27 Medical Assists; 4 Controlled Substance Violations; 23 Fingerprint Applicants; 19 Foot Patrols; 17 Radar Details; 12 Traffic Details; 565 Motor Vehicle Enforcement actions; 50 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 7 Pistol Permit Applicants; 34 Public Relations contacts and 3 Smart Trailer deployments. There were a total of 1,715 incidents for the month with two K-9 assists.

Officer Boulware

Chief Roche stated that he received a letter of resignation from Officer Eric Boulware, effective June 2, 2017. Officer Boulware, originally from Ohio, has decided to return there to continue his law enforcement career. In his letter to Chief Roche, Officer Boulware stated that he is was grateful for the Chief's leadership, for the leadership of his supervisors and the professionalism, integrity and assistance of his co-workers. Commissioner Knoche motioned to accept Officer Boulware's resignation; Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion.

Vote: In Favor – All

P.O. Boulware's resignation accepted, effective June 2, 2017.

Agenda Item #5a – PBA Fundraiser Letter

The Commissioners reviewed a draft of the annual Ridgefield Police Benevolent Association's letter to residents. This fundraiser is the primary source of funds to assist the Officers to continue their programs such as, *Shop with a Cop, Police Memorial, Ridgefield PBA High School Scholarship Program, Ridgefield Little League, Ridgefield Baseball League, MADD/SADD, Safe Kids, VNA, RHS Athletics*, etc. to benefit the residents of Ridgefield. A motion was made by Commissioner Knoche to permit the PBA to send the letter to residents in its current form; Commissioner Kain seconded the motion.

Vote: In Favor – All**Ridgefield PBA Annual Fundraiser Letter accepted for an October 2017 mailing.**Ridgefield Winter Club

Chief Roche told the Commissioners that he brought along the submitted plans for the hockey rink project that is proposed for 340 Peaceable Street. There was concern with this project which was tabled until the July meeting and due to their objections to this project; Commissioners Reynolds and Knoche will abstain from any voting. Commissioner Coffin will abstain also due the fact that she is related to the company involved with this project. All the Commissioners will listen to the project review but not all will vote. This item will be addressed at the July meeting (July 11, 2017).

Agenda Item #5b – Summer Schedule

After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed to table this decision to the July meeting which will be changed to July 11, 2017.

Agenda Item #6a Main Street / Bailey Avenue ParkingMain Street

Chief Roche stated that the DOT met with the owners of the CVS site, and then with Wayne Addressi and Jerry Rabin on May 19th as reported by Charles Robbins who is overseeing this project for the Town of Ridgefield.

The DOT Concept 5a, which proposes the changes to the intersection at Prospect Street/Main Street and maintains the current landscape of Main Street is agreeable to CVS.

Mr. Robbins stated that both Jerry Rabin and Wayne Addressi have reservations about the parking (removal of four spaces in front of their businesses) as proposed in Concept 5a and will continue to seek parking options.

Mr. Robbins stated that four parking spaces have been proposed for Bailey Avenue and one parking space will be gained on Main Street which would result in a zero loss of parking spaces with the implementation of Concept 5a.

At this time, the DOT will develop detailed plans for Concept 5a for presentation at a Fall public hearing. The proposed construction start date for the Main Street project is June 2019.

Bailey Avenue

Chief Roche stated that he assisted in measuring out and placing cones at the proposed four parking spaces for Bailey Avenue in order to get a visual of what it would look like.

Commissioner Kain stated that he is dead set against parking on Bailey Avenue. He stated that cars park there now illegally and once you add a few spaces, cars will just pull in and park wherever. Commissioner Kain feels that the Commission has to look more closely at this possible change.

Commissioner Coffin stated that cars park along the shops now illegally and there is no problem passing through the road. Commissioner Coffin feels that four additional parking spots would be good.

Commissioner Knoche is not in favor of parking on Bailey Avenue. He feels that it will be too close, trucks coming out of the back of Town Hall need the space to make turns, cars will stop along Town Hall to run in and out further narrowing the street, and trucks coming from Main Street will have a hard time. Chief Roche stated that there would be *No Parking* signs installed along the Town Hall side of the street but Commissioner Knoche feels that the signs will make no difference, people will still pull up for what they feel is a quick stop.

Commissioner Reynolds stated that he is not on board with the concept. He feels this is a very busy area and that we are trying to squeeze in spots that may not be feasible.

In the course of this discussion, the time limit for parking on Main Street came up – 1 hour, 2 hour? - Chief Roche will have the time constraints checked.

This item will be addressed at the July meeting after the Commissioners can review the area and the proposed parking spots.

Agenda Item #6b Juvenile Review Board

Nothing new to report at this time.

Agenda Item #6c I-84 Danbury Project – State DOT

Chief Roche informed the Commissioners that the DOT would be holding an Open House on this project on June 13, 2017 at Western Connecticut State University between the hours of 12PM – 8PM (walk-in anytime). They will have information about the project and would welcome input. Chief Roche stated that they are interested in hearing from those Towns affected by I-84 regarding congestion for emergency responders trying to get to Danbury Hospital, economic impact on Town from I-84, etc. – they would like feedback in order to improve safety, increase capacity and improve access. This project covers Exit 3 and Exit 8 in Danbury.

Agenda Item #6d Route 35/Recreation Center

Chief Roche reported to the Commission that the 'pothole' across from the Recreation Center entrance on Danbury Road has been fixed temporarily – it will need to be graded and corrected.

Agenda Item #6e Police HQ

No update to report.

Commissioner Knoche motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel matters; seconded by Commissioner Kain.

Public Session adjourned at 8:00pm.

Public Session commenced at 8:41pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kain to grant Lt. Michael Gates' request for an extension of his retirement date; seconded by Commissioner Knoche.

Vote: In Favor – All

Lt. Gates granted extension of his retirement date.

Commissioner Reynolds motioned to adjourn the Public Session; seconded by Commissioner Coffin.

Vote: In Favor – All

Public Session adjourned at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Charles Knoche
Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE
POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Thursday June 8, 2017**

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

Also Present: Chief John Roche

Executive Session commenced at 8:00pm.
Executive Session adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Charles Knoche
Secretary