

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE RIDGEFIELD BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 8, 2018**

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

Present By Phone: Stephen Saloom

Also Present: Chief Jeffery Kreitz
Major Stephen Brown
Captain Bryan Terzian

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Knoche

Agenda Item #1 – Agenda Review

Chairman Knoche motioned to move 5A. the UDC Report, to Agenda Item #1A. All in favor.

Agenda Item #1A – Uniform Division Annual Report

Captain Bryan Terzian, Uniform Division Commander, reported that this is his 7th time reporting to the Police Commission.

Personnel: 32 officers:

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

Equipment:

Captain Terzian reported that the Officers' uniforms and equipment are replaced and upgraded as necessary. He reported that the new uniforms are well received by all officers.

Captain Terzian stated that the Division currently has 8 patrol cars (6 which are SUV's), 2 Supervisor cars (one is an SUV), 1 K-9 vehicle, 3 S.R.O. cars (these are assigned to the schools), 1 unmarked car, 1 pickup truck and 1 humvee.

All of the patrol cars are equipped with radar. One cruiser has a license plate reader (LPR) which gives Officers up to date DMV information. The Department also has 3 hand held laser units.

Commissioner Kain asked about the License Plate Reader. Captain Terzian mentioned how valuable it is to the department. It can read when cars are unregistered. The Police Department has one now. They have two more which they will activate when the two new cruisers are ready.

The Police Department stays active with speeding enforcement, DUI's, foot patrol, public relations where they visit local businesses to check on them and see if they have any concerns.

Division Statistics:

September 9, 2016 – September 8, 2017				September 9, 2017 – September 8, 2018			
DUI:			33	DUI:			29
Narcotics:	Arrests – 4	Violations –	20	Narcotics:	Arrests – 4	Violations –	56
MVA:			590	MVA:			635
Summons:	1,401	WW	1,775	Summons:	1,163	WW	1,285
Radar Summons:	1,435	WW/R	1,883	Radar Summons:	1,040	WW/R	1,676
Check Wellbeing:			219	Check Wellbeing:			250
Domestic Incidents:			97	Domestic Incidents:			87
Domestic Arrests:			45	Domestic Arrests:			30
Missing Person:			10	Missing Person:			22
Attempt to Locate:			38	Attempt to Locate:			30
Possession Alcohol/Minor:			5	Possession Alcohol/Minor:			1
Burglaries:			4	Burglaries:			6
Larcenies:			117	Larcenies:			69
Deaths:			15	Deaths:			17
Medical Assists:			300	Medical Assists:			271

Captain Terzian discussed unmarked patrols specifically looking for alcohol or narcotic violations. Commissioner Savino mentioned he sees alcohol arrests in the paper and asked if drug arrests are in the newspapers too? A press release is completed for every arrest.

Other Activities:

Bicycle Patrol:

Our bicycle patrol unit consists of SRO Luis, SRO Daly, Detective Romero Sgt. Gogola and Sgt. Durling. Captain Terzian said this program is well received.

Foot Patrol:

All Officers perform foot patrol. There has been positive feedback from the businesses. Captain Terzian said the officers have done a good job.

School Security and Walk-Throughs:

All Officers perform this function.

DARE:

Officer Samoskevich assists the SRO's with the DARE program. Officer Caba volunteered and is being trained for this program. The kids love them. They respond well to the program. This program is also a huge asset.

Agenda Item #2 Minutes

Chairman Knoche requested a motion to accept the minutes.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of October 11, 2018 and the minutes of October 25, 2018. A vote on the minutes of October 11, 2018 was carried in favor 3-0-2. Commissioner Savino and Commissioner Saloom abstained from voting.

A motion was made to amend the minutes of October 25, 2018 by Commissioner Saloom. Commissioner Saloom stated it was his understanding that the vote for the selection process for Chief of Police agreed to on October 11, 2018 should have to been a near unanimous decision vote on an inside candidate or the commission would have needed look outside the department for a candidate, because the commission did not find a "clear" winner. (The vote for the new Chief at the October 25, 2018 meeting was 3-2.) Commissioner Saloom mentioned he wanted it noted in the minutes that he was not comfortable going forward with the selection, due to his understanding of what he thought the vote of October 11, 2018 meant. Commissioner Kain stated that the motion that was made on October 11, 2018 did not contain language that stipulated that the vote for chief would have had to have been near unanimous, and that a 3-2 vote should be taken as a "clear" candidate choice. Commissioner Saloom withdrew his motion for the amendment to the minutes and agreed that further discussion will occur at the next Police Commission meeting December 13. A vote on the minutes of the October 25, 2018 meeting were tabled until then.

Agenda Item #3a Commission Voice Mail

Commission Kain mentioned that a resident of Florida Road voiced her concerns about traffic detours on Florida Road when there is a road closure on Ethan Allen Hwy. between Florida Hill Road and Branchville Road. The resident was concerned about the large trucks traveling on Florida Road when Ethan Allen Hwy was closed. The department already purchased folding signs that read "Narrow Road No Trucks" that can be deployed on either end of Florida Road in the event of a closure at the intersection of Florida Road/Branchville Rd and Florida Rd/Florida Hill Road.

A resident requested a stop sign be placed at Bennetts Farm Road and Maplewood Road. This area has been surveyed a number of times in 2016 through 2018. Dangerous Curve and "T" intersection signs were installed in both directions on Bennetts Farm Road to warn motorists of the intersection. A request was submitted in the past to have a Stop Sign installed on Bennetts Farm Road traveling east prior to Maplewood Road. That request was denied due to inefficient sightlines and topography that would make a Stop Sign in the area dangerous.

Agenda Item #3b Commission Correspondence

No new correspondence.

Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report

Chief Jeff Kreitz mentioned he reassigned his duties as Division of Professional Standards temporarily to Major Brown, Captain Terzian and Captain Comstock until a new Captain is appointed. Commissioner Coffin asked about the hiring process for Captain. The candidates go before 2 oral boards. November 12th is the deadline for the applications.

Training Report:

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|------------|---|
| October | Entire Department went through Firearms Qualifications at Wooster Mountain Range. |
| October 15 | Lt. Smith attended POSTC Skills Day for EMR. |
| October 17 | PO Caswell attended Search and Seizure for the Active Officer at POSTC. |
| October 18 | Lt. Platt, Sgt. Durling, PO Seibert attended the Law Enforcement Peer Support Training Program at the New Haven Police Academy. |

October 18 PO Caswell attended Use of Force-What Every Officer Needs To Know at POSTC.

October 22-26 Detective Van Wattum attended L.O.C.K. U.P. Ground Control Instructor in Manchester.

October 28- Nov 2 Detective Papstein attended Firearms Recruit Training at POSTC.

Community Policing/Public Relations Report

October 10 PO Hartling presented a tour of Headquarters.

October 27 Drug-Take-Back program

October 30 Lt. Platt attended the Sphere Halloween Party.

October 31 Halloween Party.

October A total of three (3) car seats were installed/checked during the month of October.

Agenda Item #5b Lease Vehicle Bid (2 Durango's)

Major Brown stated that the choice for two Durango's was because they were the lowest bid. Commissioner Knoche motioned to accept the motion. Commission Coffin motioned to accept. Commissioner Saloom seconded the motion.

Agenda Item #5c Capital Budget – Drafts

Chief Kreitz reviewed the items in the Capital Budget request for 2019-2024. Request for a laser Crash and Crime Scene Mapping System for 2019-2020, NICE Recording System Upgrade for 2020-2021, two License Plate Readers for 2021-2022, an I-Record System Update for 2021-2020, 50 Glock Handguns for 2023-2024. The Police Building estimate is dependent on the Public Safety Building Replacement Study, estimate is \$10 million. Chief Kreitz mentioned this is a middle of the road figure. Commission Savino mentioned he would like another study meeting.

Chief Kreitz stated the IT equipment request includes a continuation of a program to replace the mobile computers, the desk top computers and HP Server and Hardware.

Chief Kreitz stated there was one request from the Animal Control Budget

for a van which is slated for the 2021-2022 budget.
All were in favor of the 5 year plan except Commissioner Savino 4-1.

Chief Kreitz mentioned that the Crime Scene Mapping System is a huge asset to the department. It costs \$13,578. They can map crime scenes and incident scenes with better detail and the officers can be off the scene faster.

Four in Favor

Capital Budgets (Police, IT and Animal Control 2019-2024 accepted.

Agenda Item #5d Police Commission Election

As a result of the voting, the new Police Commission Chairman is George Kain. Commissioner Coffin made the motion and Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. The new Police Commission Secretary is Marcie Coffin. Commissioner Kain accepted the motion and Commissioner Saloom seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Major Brown presented Traffic/Sign Officer Mark Caswell's report

1. At the request of Carolyn Meyers of 14 Fillmore Lane, he surveyed the area of Ritch Drive for the need of speed Limit and School Bus Stop Ahead Signs to be installed. He found that there is currently no signage on Ritch Drive. It is recommended that 25 MPH signs be installed on each end of Ritch Drive and a School Bus Stop Ahead Sign be installed on the south bound direction of Ritch Drive prior to Fillmore Road. The Commission agreed to have the signs installed.
2. Old Branchville Road was resurveyed for a requested double yellow line. It can be installed at the beginning of both ends for approximately 50 feet but not for its entire length due to roadway width. The Commission agreed that the double yellow line will be painted as recommended.
3. A request was received to investigate the possibility of installing a crosswalk at the intersection of Danbury Road and North Salem Road. The State has been contacted in the past and they are not in favor of this. The Commission is not in favor of a crosswalk at this time.
4. On Monday 11/05/18 Traffic Officer Caswell met with Doug McMillan representing McMillan Architecture regarding a shared driveway on High Ridge Avenue. Officer Caswell, Doug McMillan and Assistant Fire Chief Grasso all agreed that having one common driveway for the 4 homes located in that area have access to one common driveway. This would improve egress from the property. The site lines are better for the driveway located north of the intersection of High Ridge Avenue and Catoonah Street. This is also better in case of an emergency

situation for the Police Department and the Fire Department for apparatus and safety concerns.

Public Session adjourned at 9:00p.m.

The Executive Session commenced at 9:05pm.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,

George Kain
Secretary