**MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**

**Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 5:00pm via Zoom**

**In accordance with the Governor’s Executive Order 7B, the in-person open meeting requirements for a public agency have been suspended. As a result, the Public Commission will conduct a public meeting remotely using video/audio conference technology in real time.**

**Commissioners Present:** Marianne Coffin, Chairperson

**Via Zoom** George Kain, Secretary

Joseph Savino

Nicholas Perna

Issy Caporale

**Also Present:** Chief Jeff Kreitz

**Via Zoom** Major Stephen Brown

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:01pm by Chairperson Coffin. This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairperson Coffin requested a motion to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2021 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Perna made the motion and Commissioner Savino seconded the motion.

**All in favor**

1. **COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**
2. **Voicemail**

Commissioner Kain stated he received one voicemail from a resident questioning the speed limit on North Street. It was explained that the State sets the speed limits. The Local Traffic Authority and Chief Kreitz spoke to the complainant. They will do what they can to help the situation. They will put the speed sign out to deter speeding as well as having an Officer present when possible. A speeding complaint was also filled out.

1. **Written Correspondence**

Chief Kreitz stated he received a thank you for the Police Commission’s participation in the 2020 Census for the Town of Ridgefield.

1. **NEW BUSINESS**
2. **State DOT Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Project**

Chief Kreitz stated that he received an e-mail from the State DOT

proposing a potential project to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing

Beacons at select existing midblock (not at an intersection) cross-

walk locations on municipally-owned roadways. Chief Kreitz had PO

Mark Caswell, Sign Officer, check to see if any roads qualify for this

Project. He stated that there is not.

1. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

1. **CHIEF’S REPORT**
2. **Department Stats**

Chief Kreitz reported the total incidents for the month of January was 806. Chief Kreitz reviewed the yearly statistics for 2020. He stated that the overall number of incidents is lower than 2019. This was expected due to the effects of COVID-19 since fewer people were out in public. Chief Kreitz highlighted the fact that the number of stolen motor vehicles increased in 2020. Also, he detailed some of the department’s efforts to prevent and solve these larcenies. This has been an on-going issue for the department and area departments. He stressed the importance of residents locking their car.

1. **Traffic/Sign Report**

PO Mark Caswell, Sign Officer, received a resident’s concern that the paint has faded at the crosswalk located at King Lane and Main Street. Due to weather and scheduling issues it was not possible to be repainted this fall. When the weather clears the crosswalk will be repainted.

The State DOT is looking into the light cycle at the Copps Hill Plaza and Chase Bank intersection. An update is forthcoming.

1. **Training/PR Report**

The following report was submitted by Capt. Shawn Platt, Division of Professional Standards.

**Ridgefield Police Department**

**Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report**

**January 2021**

**Training Attended:**

**January 9 - 12:** All department staff attended a Bloodborne Pathogen/Covid-19

Training Presented by Lt. Smith.

A total of 7 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

* Various talks with downtown shop owners and community members at large.
* Continued stop and talks at houses of worship.
* Multiple Social Media posts of police activities & safety messages.

1. **UNION PARTICIPATION**

None

1. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**Commissioner Kain made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:39pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Perna seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 6:35pm.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Caporale to name Detective Victoria Ryan as Ridgefield Police Department’s Officer of the Year for 2020. Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. The Commission was unanimous in their decision, but praised all the Officers that were nominated.**

**All in Favor**

**Congratulations to Detective Ryan for a job well done!**

**Commissioner Kain made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 6:40pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.**

**All in Favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

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George Kain

Police Commission Secretary