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**MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**

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**of  
Thursday, April 11, 2019  
at  
7:00pm to be held at Town Hall Annex  
66 Prospect Street**

**Commissioners Present:** George Kain, Chairman  
Marianne Coffin, Secretary  
Joseph Savino  
Nicholas Perna

**Absent:** Charles Knoche

**Also Present:** Chief Jeffery Kreitz  
Major Stephen Brown

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

The meeting was called to order at 07:00pm by Chairman Kain.

**AGENDA REVIEW ITEM #1 AGENDA REVIEW**

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM #2 MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2019 POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING, MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2019 POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING AND MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2019 POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

Chairman Kain requested a motion to accept the minutes of March 7, 2019. Commissioner Perna made the motion, Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. Commissioner Coffin abstained from voting as she was not present at the March 7, 2019 meeting. The minutes were approved as written, (4-0-1).

Chairman Kain asked for a motion to accept the minutes of March 21, 2019. Commissioner Savino made the motion, Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Kain made a motion to accept the minutes of March 25, 2019. Commissioner Coffin made the motion, Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA ITEM #3A COMMISSION CORRESPONDANCE VOICEMAIL**

There was no voicemail correspondence for the month of March.

**AGENDA ITEM #3B COMMISSION WRITTEN CORRESPONDANCE**

There was no written correspondence for the month of March.

**AGENDA ITEM #4 CHIEF'S REPORT**

- A. **Statistics** Chief Kreitz reported there were 1599 incidents for the month of March. There were 97 alarms and 533 security checks. He stated that the officers sign off when they are at each security check so the time is stamped when they were there. Chief Kreitz stated that the officers continue to be proactive. Loki, our K-9, was used once for the month of March.
- B. **Training /PR Report**

The following report was submitted by Captain Shawn Platt, Division of Professional Standards:

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**RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
TRAINING & COMMUNITY POLICING/PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT  
*March 2019***

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- March 11-13            The following Officers attended EMR Recert Training at the Ridgefield Police Department: Chief Kreitz, Capt. Terzian, Capt. Platt, Lt. Raines, Sgt. Clarke, PO DiFalco, PO Hartling, and PO Samoskevich.
- March 11-15            PO Capozzi attended Recert Training at Univ. of Bridgeport Campus.
- March 25-26            Lt. Fowler attend Low Light Firearms Instructor Course at the Sig Sauer training facility in Epping, New Hampshire.
- March 26                Chief Kretiz and Capt. Platt hosted the first of nine classes of the Citizens Police Academy.
- March 26-29            PO Geller attended Car Seat Installation class at Fairfield PD.
- March 27                Capt. Platt attended Career Fair at WCSU Campus.

March 29 Major Brown, PO Luis, and PO Gjodesen attended annual firearms training (make-up)

A total of 19 Public Relations incidents were recorded during the month to include:

- Multiple car seat installations
- Multiple stop and talks at houses of worship
- (3) Jesse Lee Day School Safety Talk Presentations by PO McKnight and P.O. Gjodesen
- Police Department tour given by PO Olivares
- Capt. Platt attended the monthly FCTOA meeting
- Monthly Youth Commission meeting was attended by Det. Dardis
- Various talks with downtown shop owners and community members

Chief Kreitz stated that future EMR courses will be on line.

Chief Kreitz stated the officers will be training in low light shooting. A lot of their training has been during the daytime but this would prepare them for low light encounters.

The Citizens Police Academy just had their third session. Commissioner Perna has joined this class and stated that he loves it. This is an eight week course to show the residents of Ridgefield exactly what the Police Officers do. Commissioner Perna stated this course is well done. It shows what tasks are performed in the police department. He stated the police knowledge should be publicized more. This course shows the public how well prepared the Ridgefield Police are. Commissioner Perna also mentioned the fact that each officer carries their own medical/survival kit.

Chief Kreitz stated that a Purchase Order was just signed for the cameras, which are top of the line cameras. We will have more cameras for the blind spots outside.

#### C. **Sign Report**

Reported to the Police Commission by Traffic Sign Officer Caswell:  
Regarding: North Street, Maplewood Road and Laurel Lane:  
On March 13, 2019 I spoke with Danielle Scesa in regards to the poor sight lines on both sides of Maplewood Road. I explained to her that the area has been surveyed in the past and the installation of signage is not possible due to the limited sight lines and topography. She is concerned about her children having to wait for the school bus on the busier roads. I advised her

to contact the bus company as well as town highway to see if alternative solutions could be reached.

On March 14, 2019 I spoke with Richard Sacridier and from Ullman Devices located on Laurel Lane and Frank Flaherty of 113 North Street. Mr. Sacridier requested a pedestrian/forklift walkway be installed between the two Ullman buildings located on either side of Laurel Lane. I advised Mr. Sacridier that painting a walkway would not be possible. I advised him to ensure that the property be maintained to make sure the line of sight was clear. I also advised him that the fork lift operator wear high visibility clothing as well as have a spotter with flags and high visibility clothing walk with the fork lift to ensure motorists can see the forklift.

I then spoke with Mr. Flaherty. He requested Hidden Driveway signage be installed on North Street to warn motorists of the driveway in the area. I advised Mr. Flaherty that Hidden Driveway signs are no longer recognized by the state and cannot be installed. There is currently adequate signage in the area. I also surveyed the area and found that he has a large pillar at the entrance to his driveway which further limits his sightline. I advised him to clear as much of the area in front of his property to help improve his sightline. I also told him that the speed trailer will be used as well as increased radar enforcement to help slow down traffic.

Chairman Kain asked for a motion to accept the "No Parking" sign at Griffith Lane and High Ridge Avenue. Commissioner Coffin made the motion and Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

#### D. **Chief's Goals**

- **New Officer Hiring Process.** Chief Kreitz mentioned that there are 72 applicants for the position of police officer. The test will start April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am for the written and physical test. Chairman Kain stated the possibility of interviews will be discussed in executive session.
- **Autism Awareness**  
Chief Kreitz reported that April is Autism Month. The police department has received four Autism "go bags" to have in the supervisors vehicles. These bags have sensory friendly comfort items for persons with autism, or any youth. There are also autism magnets on the police cruisers to show their support. Sgt. Durling, and the PBA led the effort to get the bags and stickers.

E. **Wellness Committee**

Major Brown mentioned that the Wellness Committee consists of SRO Daly, Capt. Platt, Lt. Durling and Det. Seibert. Det. Seibert suggested family readiness. For officers to give information that their families can have. Major Brown stated that this committee would be a crisis team too. They would coordinate with the Chief to act in unison. The Union and PBA would all be on this committee to come together.

Some dates to remember for the police department to remember:

April 24            There will be the promotional swearing in of Sgt. Durling and PO Murray at 10:00.  
 May 7                Det. DuBord will be honored for "police officer of the Year" at the Leir Foundation at 4:00.

**AGENDA ITEM #5 UNION PARTICIPATION**

There was no written correspondence for the month of March.

**AGENDA IEM #6 NEW BUSINESS**

There was no written correspondence for the month of March.

**AGENDA ITEM #7 OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Scenic Roads**

Chief Kreitz stated he spoke with Rudy and David Grogins about the speed limit on scenic roads. Chief Kreitz and Rudy stated they would like specific language to be developed to read: " the speed limit on all roads designated as scenic, other than state roads, shall be as determined by the local traffic authority." The issue is on the agenda and will be taken up at the Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Chairman Kain suggested we wait for the State to finish the current project on town scenic roads and then evaluate each road separately prior to actually taking action to reduce the speed limit on any scenic road. Chairman Kain asked for a motion to approve the language of the proposed. Commissioner Savino approved the motion. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Kreitz also talked with Mr. Troy from Neds Mountain Road. He is satisfied with the current progress on the issue.

B. **Juvenile Review Board Discussion**

Commissioner Savino asked about the prospective Juvenile Review Board (JRB) in the town of Ridgefield. He was asking

about a list of the offenses that would qualify a juvenile for this program. Chief Kreitz stated that a felony would not qualify a youth for the program. There will be a step by step guide through youth services. Youths and parents would have to cooperate to be in this program. This program is designed to help the youths. This program was also recommended by Steve Sedensky from the State's Attorney Office. Commissioner Coffin stated that he would not recommend this to us if it wasn't safe. Commissioner Kain stated that this program is well established. He stated that we should bring someone in who knows the program. Det. Dardis would be the only police officer on this committee as he is the Youth Officer at the police department.

Commissioner Savino asked "what type of skills are needed to be on this board"? Chief Kreitz stated this board is for someone who has a genuine interest in the welfare of youths, and that specific individuals in specific roles in the community are listed in the JRB booklet handed out last month.

C. **New Building – Feasibility Study/Needs Assessment**

Chief Kreitz stated that three companies, by invitation only, are in the process of going before the review board.

D. **Coffee With The Commission**

The purpose of this is so the Commissioners can get to know the officers in an informal setting. The tentative dates are May 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:15 am to 7:30 am and May 15<sup>th</sup> 2;15 pm to 3:30 pm.

Commissioner Savino asked if there was anything new with The Planning and Zoning Committee. The next meeting is set for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**Chairman Kain asked to go into Executive Session at 8:00 pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Savino made the motion and Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 9:00 pm. Commissioner Savino made a motion to accept Officer Mark Caswell's request to extend employment, as he is now at age 55, and the Rules and Regulations require a vote to extend. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion. All in favor.**

**Commissioner Kain made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission meeting at 9:00 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Savino.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Coffin, Secretary  
Ridgefield Police Commission