
MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**of
Thursday, May 9, 2019
at
7:00pm to be held at Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

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

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

Chairman Kain asked the Commissioners if anyone had any adjustments to the agenda.

Chief Kreitz requested to move Agenda Item # 6A to Agenda Item #1.
Commissioner Knoche requested a motion to accept the move.
Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. All in favor.

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

AGENDA ITEM #1 NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Officer Gjodesen Commendation Exceptional Service.** Chief Kreitz stated that Officer Gjodesen is being recognized for this award for his life-saving measures at an accident scene on Route 7. At the scene witnesses reported to Officer Gjodesen that the operator of the vehicle was unconscious, pale, with eyes slightly open and rolled back. Officer Gjodesen recognized all of these conditions as a possible drug overdose.

Officer Gjodesen administered Narcan to the operator, who became fully conscious within about two minutes. Officer Gjodesen monitored the patient until Ridgefield Paramedics arrived and took over. The operator survived the incident.

He was recommended for this award by his supervisor, Lt. Michael Gates. Congratulations to Officer Gjodesen! His family was there to see him receive this award.

- B. **Fire At Governor Park** Chief Kreitz updated the Commission on the incident. After consultation with the State's Attorney's office, no arrest will be made. The decision was based on the fact that no formal complaint was made to the police department and restitution for the damage was made to the town which was coordinated by the First Selectman.

AGENDA ITEM #2 MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2019 POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

Commissioner Kain requested a motion to accept the minutes of April 11, 2019. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written. All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM #3A COMMISSION VOICEMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

There was no voicemail correspondence for the month of April.

AGENDA ITEM #3B COMMISSION WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

There was no written correspondence for the month of April.

AGENDA #4 CHIEF'S REPORT

- A. **Statistics** Chief Kreitz reported there were 1778 incidents for the month of April. To include 278 summons issued, 3 D.U.I.s. and 31 public relations incidents. The Department took part in the Nationwide Distracted Driving Initiative the month of April.

- B. **Training / PR Report**

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

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

April 1-12	Sgt. Murray attended 1 st Line Supervision at Roger Williams University.
April 1-5	PO Loria attended Interview and Interrogation Training at CT. Police Academy in Meriden, CT.
April 2, 9 16, 30	Capt. Platt hosted the Citizen Police Academy.

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| April 23 | PO Romero, PO DiFalco, Det. Seibert, PO Shimko, PO Geller, PO McKnight attended Rescue Task Force Training. |
| April 23-26 | Chief Kreitz attended Chief Recertification at Sacred Heart University. |
| April 24 | Lt. Gates, Sgt. Gogola, PO Luis, PO Gjodesen, PO Caswell, PO Olivares, PO Hartling attended Rescue Task Force Training. |
| April 27 | Capt. Platt partnered with Bissell Pharmacy and the Ridgefield Prevention Council for the National Drug Take Back day. |

A total of 29 Public Relations incidents were recorded during the month to include:

- Multiple car seat installations
- Multiple stop and talks at houses of worship
- PD Tours and Safety Talk Presentations by PO Samoskevich, PO Gjodesen, PO McKnight.
- 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

This report was submitted by Captain Shawn Platt, Division of Professional Standards.

Commissioner Perna again stated his enthusiasm for the Citizens Police Academy. He stressed everyone should take this course. He is amazed how much you learn about what the police officers do. Tuesday, May 14 will be the last class for this session.

C. Sign Report

The following report was submitted to the Police Commission by Traffic Sign Officer Mark Caswell:

Regarding: Branchville Road / Route 7 Intersection Request

I received a request from John Rubino regarding the Ethan Allen Hwy (Route 7) / Branchville Road (Route 102) intersection. He requested that I survey the area regarding the traffic back up on southbound Route 7 prior the Branchville Road and Depot Road. Mr. Rubino asked if it would be feasible to restrict traffic turning left from Route 7 onto Depot Road.

It is my understanding that the state is currently studying the area and is considering eliminating Depot Road. This would resolve some of the area traffic issues but not completely eliminate them.

If the state decides to leave Depot Road in place I would like to recommend that a dedicated left lane and left arrow be installed at the intersection. By restricting traffic turning left, the problem is shifted south to Portland Avenue causing a similar back up affecting both Route 7 and Route 102 traffic.

It is my recommendation to wait until the state completes the Transit Oriented Development Study for the area. The state may have already found solutions to rectify the traffic situation at that intersection.

D. Chief's Goals**- New Officer – Hiring Process**

Chief Kreitz reported that the position of hiring a new police officer has been frozen by the town. This is due to the premium cost of the health insurance plan for the Police Union going up.

- IT

Chief Kreitz reported that the cameras will be installed starting May 17. Andrew stated the server upgrade is beginning. This will last until June.

- Community Partnerships

The Ridgefield Police Department continues to be active in the community. Chief Kreitz stated he attended April's Youth Commission Meeting.

- **Survey**

Chief Kreitz suggested the citizen survey be tabled until the next police commission meeting which is June 13.

E. **Budget Meeting**

Chief Kreitz reported that the capital items for the police department budget were approved.

F. **POCD Meeting**

Commissioner Savino and Chief Kreitz attended and discussed need for new headquarters and local traffic issues.

Chief Kreitz mentioned that Officer Ryan will be assigned to the Detective Division. Sgt. Knoche will be the departments Accreditation Officer. Congratulations to both.

AGENDA ITEM #5 UNION PARTICIPATION

There was no union participation for the month of May.

AGENDA ITEM #6 NEW BUSINESS

- A. Officer Gjodesen Commendation Exceptional Service was moved to Agenda Item #1.

AGENDA ITEM #7 OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Juvenile Review Board (JRB)** This is tabled until the next police commission meeting June 13. Fran Carino will be coming to speak about this program.
- B. **Scenic Road- Speed Limits**
Major Brown spoke with Jim Jurczyk from the state about speed limits on scenic roads. During this conversation it was learned that certain posted speed limits in town need to be adjusted to reflect what had been previously approved by the State. Each scenic road will be examined individually. An application would have to be filled out and then the state would come out and inspect it. This would have to be approved by the state even on town roads. There is a packet on the DOT website to explain this.
As far as replacing the speed limit on Neds Mountain Road from 25 to 20 mph.
Commissioner Savino suggested to prioritize the roads. Neds Mountain Road and Old Stagecoach Road should be looked at first.

Chief Kreitz stated that two recommendations were made regarding Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) upgrade project:

1. Parking of trucks and construction vehicles should be onsite or in the proposed staging/storage yard, so as to avoid traffic impacts on South Street and surrounding roads.
2. Trucks, delivery of construction materials, etc., should avoid delivering and arriving to the WWTF site during rush hours.

C. New Building – Feasibility Study/Needs Assessment

Chief Kreitz reported that everything is progressing and he will let the commissioners know when the Board of Selectman and the Board of Police Commissioners will meet.

Chairman Kain made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:48pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 8:08 pm. No votes were taken.

Commissioner Knoche made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 8:08 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Savino. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Coffin
Police Commission Secretary