

## **MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday, March 12, 2020  
5:30pm at Town Hall Annex  
66 Prospect Street**

**Commissioners Present:** Marianne Coffin, Chairperson  
Nicholas Perna, Secretary  
George Kain  
Joseph Savino  
Issy Caporale

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson Coffin.

### **AGENDA ITEM #1 AGENDA REVIEW**

Chairperson Coffin asked the Commissioners if anyone had any adjustments to the agenda. There were none.

Chairperson Coffin stated that there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the Public Session.

### **AGENDA ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairperson Coffin requested a motion to accept the minutes of February 13, 2020. Commissioner Perna motioned to accept the minutes; Commissioner Savino seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

**Minutes of the February 13, 2020 Police Commission Meeting  
accepted as written.**

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

Commissioner Perna reported there were no voicemail correspondence for the month of February.

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

Chief Kreitz stated that there were 9 applications for a Highway Use Permit from Captain Terzian for Chairperson Coffin to sign. These applications

consisted of Run Like a Mother, Memorial Day Parade, Triathlon, July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks, Half Marathon, Halloween Walk, Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5k Race, Tree Lighting with Santa's Arrival and the Holiday Stroll on Main Street. All were signed by Chairperson Coffin.

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

##### **A. Statistics**

Chief Kreitz stated that there were 4,043 incidents through February of this year. For the month of February there were 3 DUI's, 23 public relations and 8 domestics to name a few. In the Detective Bureau there were 7 new cases assigned in February. Currently there are 25 open cases to include 5 JV cases.

##### **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 February 2020**

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February 5	Capt. Platt trained Town Hall staff on the emergency situational awareness and proper safety procedures.
February 6	Capt. Platt attended a Law Enforcement Career Fair at the University of New Haven.
February 7	Capt. Platt trained the Ridgefield Library staff on overall safety awareness.
February 10-14	Lt. Durling, PO Geller, PO Samoskevich, PO DiFalco and PO Shimko attended recertification training at WCSU.
February 11, 18, 25	Capt. Platt and Det. Dardis have been teaching the Citizen Police Academy.
February 18-20	Dispatcher Szantyr attended Collect/NCiC Training at the Headquarters in Middletown, CT.
February 20	Chief Kreitz and Capt. Platt attended the Farmingville Elementary School DARE Graduation.

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|----------------|--|
| February 24-28 | Det. Dardis attended Child Abuse Investigation training in Newport RI.   |
| February 24-28 | PO Caswell and PO Samoskevich attended Interview & Interrogation training at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, CT |
| February 28    | Chief Kreitz and Capt. Platt attended the Ridgebury Elementary School DARE Graduation.                                     |

A total of 23 Public Relations were performed during the month to include:

- Multiple car seat installations.
- Multiple stop and talks at houses of worship.
- Multiple Social Media posts of police activities.
- PD Tours and Safety Talk Presentations.
- Various talks with downtown shop owners and community members.
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Chief Kreitz spoke about the measures the police department has taken regarding COVID-19.

Chief Kreitz mentioned the accreditation review for the police department will take place Monday, March 23, 2020.

Chief Kreitz also reported the Feasibility Study/Needs Assessment is moving forward with the Kaestle Boos representatives. He stated that they are working on a date and time for the next meeting.

Major Brown stated that there are 53 applications so far for the police officer position. The application period is open until March 30, 2020.

**C. Sign Report**

Reported to the Police Commission by Traffic Sign Officer Caswell:

Re: February 2020 Sign Report

Sign Maintenance:

1. Replaced the Stop Sign on Governor Street/East Ridge Road
2. Repaired Curve Sign on Florida Hill Road
3. Replaced Pedestrian Cross Walk Sign on Pelham Lane

In response to two residents request for additional Stop Signs at the intersection of North Salem Road (RT 116), Saw Mill Hill Road and Maple Shade Road, the state DOT decided that no additional signage be installed. However, the brush along North Salem Road would be cut back to improve the sight lines. The state also gave permission to the Town Highway department to monitor the brush growth in the area and take appropriate action. They both were contacted and advised of the state's decision.

A resident from Wild Turkey Court requested that an additional Stop Sign be installed at the intersection of Old Wagon Road and Eleven Levels Road. He stated that traffic coming down the hill on Old Wagon Road speed through the intersection. He is concerned an accident may occur if the situation is not fixed. I surveyed the area and found that when stopped at the Stop Sign on Eleven Levels Road looking north up Old Wagon Road, there is approximately 91 feet of sight line before the road curves to the right. At that distance, and a vehicle's speed of 25 mph, a driver has 2.5 seconds to make the decision to proceed through the intersection. For the vehicle traveling south on Old Wagon Road at 25 miles per hour, the vehicle has traveled 55 feet before the driver reacts to a vehicle entering the intersection and presses the brake pedal. The average vehicle will then stop in 25 feet for a total of 85 feet. If the speed is increased to 30 mph the total stopping distance is 109 feet. Due to these calculations I recommend that a Stop Sign be installed at the intersection. I also recommend that a Stop Sign Ahead sign be installed further north on Old Wagon Road.

Commissioner Savino made the motion to approve a Stop Sign and a Stop Sign Ahead. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

### **All in Favor**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #5 UNION PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions or concerns for the month of February.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #6 NEW BUSINESS**

There were no questions or concerns for the month of February

#### **AGENDA ITEM #7 OLD BUSINESS**

There were no questions or concerns for the month of February.

**Chairperson Coffin requested a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:00 pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Savino made the motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.**

**Motion carried unanimously**

**The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 6:35 pm. No votes were taken.**

**Commissioner Kain made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 6:35pm. Seconded by Commissioner Caporale.**

**All in favor**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Nick Perna  
Police Commission Secretary