

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Thursday June 9, 2016

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Thomas Reynolds
Marianne Coffin
Absent: Joseph Savino, Secretary
Charles Knoche
Also Present: Chief John Roche
Major Stephen Brown

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by Chairman Kain.

Agenda 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

Commissioner Reynolds motioned to accept the minutes of the Ridgefield Police Commission on May 12, 2016; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

Minutes of the May 12, 2016 Police Commission meeting accepted as written.

Agenda Item #3a Commission Voice Mail/Email

Commissioner Kain reported that the Commission mail was checked and there were the following messages:

- 1) Resident of Beaver Brook Road was requesting some traffic restriction on Beaver Brook during commute times due to the increasing number of vehicles that use the road as a pass-thru and the speed that the vehicles use when traveling on the road.
Chief Roche stated that he had a motor vehicle detail conducted on this road and the highest speed was 39mph in a 25mph zone. The officer issued two written warnings on this detail.
Chief Roche also had the Traffic Sign Officer, Mark Caswell, review this road and he reported that he would recommend an additional 25mph speed sign installed at the Briar Ridge Road/Danbury end of the street. Officer Caswell also recommends the use of the Speed Trailer and radar enforcement for this road.

Chief Roche stated that he directed Captain Terzian to increase radar patrols on this road and directed Captain Kreitz to schedule the deployment of the speed trailer on this road.

- 2) A resident of Cedar Lane is requesting the consideration of a traffic light at Cedar Lane and South Salem Road.

Chief Roche will contact the State DOT to request a review of this area and possible improvements. This will be discussed at the July meeting.

- 3) Resident of Abbott Avenue is requesting solutions to the growing problem on this road due to the increasing number of cars using this road as a thru-way to downtown.

Chief Roche stated that Commissioner Kain responded to this resident and that he (Chief Roche) will direct Traffic Sign Officer Caswell to check for improved signage and to remove unauthorized signage.

- 4) Resident of Norrans Ridge is requesting assistance with the influx of commuter traffic into the Farmingville area due to the motorists trying to bypass the traffic jams caused by the construction of the bridge on Route 35 by the Fox Hill Condos.

Chief Roche stated that he directed Captain Terzian to increase radar patrols in this area and directed Captain Kreitz to schedule the deployment of the speed trailer in this area.

Agenda Item #3b Commission Written Correspondence

Commissioner Kain stated that there was no written correspondence.

Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report

Training Report:

- Entire Department attended Building Search/Active Aggressor training. The training was instructed by Lt. Fowler, Det. Papstein, Det. Dardis, SRO Luis and SRO Giglio.
- Lt. Platt attended Motorcycle Accident Reconstruction in Meriden.
- Captain Kreitz and Lt. Raines attended Taser Instructor Recertification in Bridgeport.
- Det. Dardis attended a regional Active Shooter Response Presentation in Fairfield.

Community Policing/Public Relations:

- Chief Roche spoke at the Senior Assembly regarding the GRADD Program.
- SRO Giglio held the Veterans Park DARE Graduation. It was attended by Captain Kreitz, SRO Luis and PO VanWattum.
- The Citizen Police Academy concluded.
- Tour of Headquarters was provided by PO Romero.
- GRADD flag raising ceremony on Main Street. Event was attended by Chief Roche, Major Brown, Captain Terzian, Captain Comstock, Captain Kreitz and SRO Luis.

- Kids and Cops at the Boys and Girls Club. Captain Kreitz, SRO Giglio, SRO Luis and SRO Daly attended.
- The annual Police Memorial Service was held at the Lounsbury House.
- Tour of Headquarters was provided by P.O. Seibert.
- Sgt. Durling and PO Tinsley participated in a Career Fair held at the Boys and Girls Club.
- A total of six restraint systems were checked/installed.

Department Statistics:

Chief Roche highlighted the statistics for May 2016 as follows:

76 Alarms; 26 Medical Assists; 2 Controlled Substance Violations; 30 Fingerprint Applicants; 27 Foot Patrols; 8 Radar Details; 11 Traffic Details; 868 Motor Vehicle Enforcement actions; 48 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 1 Narcotic Violation; 10 Pistol Permit Applicants; 28 Public Relations contacts and 29 Smart Trailer deployments. There were a total of 2,197 incidents for the month with three K-9 assists.

Chief's Correspondence

- Letter was received from a resident thanking Lt. Smith for the installation of a car seat.

Sign Report – submitted by P.O. Caswell:

- *Stop* sign replaced at Walnut Hill and Round Lake Road.
- *Stop* sign replaced at Ashbee Lane and Richardson Drive.
- *Stop* sign installed at North Street and Copps Hill Road.
- *Removed Stop* signs at Byron Avenue and Fairview Avenue.
- Notified State DOT to replace *Keep Right* sign at Ivy Hill Road and Branchville Road.
- Moved *Cross Walk Ahead* sign on Nod Hill Road by Weir Farm that was obstructed by a new utility pole.

Depot Road

Chief Roche stated he attended a meeting in Stamford, presented by CTC Inc. (company contracted by Metropolitan Transit), concerning the Depot Road crossing. Chief Roche stated that after discussion, it was determined that more study work needs to be performed prior to the planned closing of this crossing. Portland Avenue renovations and improvements regarding signalization, re-alignment will also be included in the study.

DOT Signal Project

Chief Roche reported that the Town would like to remain consistent with the basic color for the signalization equipment that matches the current equipment in Town. Chief Roche stated that he forwarded the information on this project to the departments involved - the Fire Department and the First Selectman.

Playground Road

A resident of Playground Road sent an email requesting "off-road" parking on this road.

Chief Roche stated that he returned an email stating that this type of parking does not involve roadway traffic control; therefore, does not come under the jurisdiction of the Ridgefield Police Commission. Chief Roche recommended contact with the First Selectman and the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Bike Path

Chief Roche reported that Traffic Sign Officer Caswell will attend the June 14th meeting of the DOT regarding a safety review of the proposed bikeway between the Parks and Recreation pedestrian bridge and Farmingville Road.

West Lane

A resident lives on the 'S' curve on West Lane and is requesting safety improvement on this stretch of roadway due to frequent accidents.

Chief Roche stated that he was in contact with the State DOT since West Lane is a State road. They will review the existing curve warning signage in the vicinity and evaluate same.

Agenda Item #5 – PBA Fundraiser Letter

The Commissioners reviewed a draft of the annual Ridgefield Police Benevolent Association's letter to residents. This fundraiser is the primary source of funds to assist the Officers to continue their programs such as, *Shop with a Cop, Police Memorial, Ridgefield PBA High School Scholarship Program, Ridgefield Little League, MADD/SADD, Safe Kids, VNA, RHS Athletics*, etc. to benefit the residents of Ridgefield.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to permit the PBA to send the letter to residents in its current form; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

Ridgefield PBA Annual Fundraiser Letter accepted for a September 2016 mailing.

Commissioner Coffin motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel matters; seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

Public Session adjourned at 7:56pm.

Public Session commenced at 8:00pm.

A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds to grant Lt. Michael Gates' request for an extension of his retirement date; seconded by Commissioner Coffin.

Lt. Gates granted extension of his retirement date.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coffin to approve Lt. Raines be removed from Probationary Status to a regular Lieutenant; seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

Lt. Raines to be removed from Probationary Status to full Lieutenant.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coffin to approve Sgt. John Knoche be removed from Probationary Status to a regular Sergeant; seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

Sgt. Knoche to be removed from Probationary Status to full Sergeant.

Commissioner Reynolds motioned to adjourn the Public Session; seconded by Commissioner Coffin.

Public Session adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Thomas Reynolds
Acting Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE
POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Thursday June 9, 2016**

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Thomas Reynolds
Marianne Coffin
Absent: Joseph Savino, Secretary
Charles Knoche
Also Present: Chief John Roche
Major Stephen Brown

Executive Session commenced at 7:56pm.
Executive Session adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Thomas Reynolds
Acting Secretary