

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 3:00p.m.
Town Hall Annex
66 Prospect Street**

Anyone requiring special accommodations due to disability is asked to contact Headquarters at 438-6531 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
John Frey, Secretary
Marianne Coffin
Sharon Dornfeld

Present by Phone Issy Caporale

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz

Absent: Major Platt

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm by Chairman Kain.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Kain requested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2022 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Coffin made a motion and Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

All in favor

Minutes of June 9, 2022 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

Secretary Frey noted there were no voicemail for June.

B. Written Correspondence

Chief Kreitz stated he received written correspondence from the Police Commission Association of Connecticut for the

Commissioners membership renewals.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. WESTCOG Regional Training Facility

Chief Kreitz presented a regional grant opportunity that is being sought by the Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG). WestCOG is seeking funding through the Regional Performance Incentive Grant Program (RPIP) to build a regional firing range for interested departments and is seeking letters of support from area police departments for the grant application. Chief Kreitz stated that area training facilities are at capacity and are cutting hours making it difficult to obtain the training time needed for officers. He added that there would be an initial cost of roughly \$100,000.00 for our department to use the facility and a yearly fee of approximately \$1,000.00 which is for maintenance. Chief Kreitz stated that these figures are determined by the size of the participating department. He stated that this letter is to show support and the project must be within our financial constraints. Commissioner Coffin made a motion in favor of the letter of support. Commissioner Frey seconded the motion.

All in Favor

B. Commissioner Vacancy – Resignation/Retirement of Commissioner George Kain

Chief Kreitz presented Commissioner Kain with a plaque upon his retirement from the Police Commission. He has been a police commissioner for 23 years-holding positions from police commissioner, secretary and chairman. He will retire July 31, 2022. He was wished the best of luck by all.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coffin to make Commissioner Frey acting chairman and Commissioner Caporale acting secretary for the remainder of the term, seconded by Commissioner Dornfeld.

All in Favor

Commissioner Frey stated that the commission vacancy will be posted and interviews for the vacancy will be held in August.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Public Safety Building Update

Chief Kreitz, First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Fire Chief Jerry Myers, Assistant Chief Mickey Grasso and Jake Muller (Director of Facilities

and Purchasing) met on site at the Schlumberger property to discuss the placement of the building on the property.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

The following report was submitted by Sergeant Mark Caswell, Sign Officer.

Re: June 2022 Sign Report

Sign Maintenance:

1. Replaced the Stop Sign at Peaceable Street and Peaceable Hill Road.
2. Replaced the Stop Sign at Wilton Road East and Whipstick Road.
3. Replaced the No Thru Trucks Sign on Topstone Road.
4. Installed No Parking Signs on Fire Hill Road.

Sign Follow Up:

On June 27th, I received a request from a resident, who lives on High Ridge Avenue, to investigate the possibility of putting a crosswalk at the corner of Barry Avenue and High Ridge Avenue. She shared her concerns regarding walking her children to St Mary's School, and would like a clearly marked crosswalk to safely cross the road.

I surveyed the intersection and I agree that a crosswalk be installed. Due to the fact that this is a state road, the State DOT needs to be contacted to request the crosswalk and advise them the town's legal traffic authority concurs with the request. Further discussions will be held next meeting.

B. Training/PR Report

The following report was submitted by Capt. Jeff Raines, Division of Professional Standards.

Ridgefield Police Department Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report June 2022

Training Attended:

June 1&2: Lieutenant Durling attended an ICAT De-Escalation Instructor Course, hosted by the FCTOA at the Newtown Police Dept.

- June 2&3:** Dispatcher Monroe attended Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for 911 Call Takers/Dispatch at the MG Maurice Rose Armed Forces Reserve Center in Middletown, CT.
- June 6-10:** Lieutenant Durling attended Connecticut Peer Support Training for Law Enforcement at the MG Maurice Rose Armed Forces Reserve Center in Middletown, CT.
- June 7:** Captain Raines and Lieutenant Murray attended Use-of-Force Reporting Form and Guidelines training at POST.
- June 21:** Detective Dardis and Detective DuBord attended the 2022 Law Enforcement Summit at Grace Farms in New Canaan, CT.
- P/R Events:**
- June 2:** Chief Kreitz, Major Platt, Captain Raines and SRO Luis attended the GRADD ceremony, held outside of Town Hall.
- June 2:** Officer VanWattum performed a safety talk for the staff at the Christ The King Church on Tackora Trail.
- June 3:** Several members of the department participated in the Special Olympics of CT Torch Run, which went through Ridgefield and Wilton.
- June 10:** The RHS Intern (Steven Brown) finished his internship with our department. He said that he had a great time with us.
- June 20:** Several members of the department attended the Prospector Theater BBQ.
- May 23:** Members of the PBA volunteered at a “Tip-A-Cop” event at 850 Restaurant on 05/23/22 from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. This event is in conjunction with Special Olympics of Connecticut.
- June 27:** We hosted our annual awards ceremony at The Lounsbury House at 10:00am. Officer of the Year was presented to the 2019, 2020 and 2021 recipients, as well as several other awards over the past three years. (AAA, MADD, Exceptional Service)

June 28: The Evening Shift celebrated Dispatch Supervisor Bill Browning's last shift. He officially retired from the department with 23 years of service.

Upcoming Events:

July 6: Probationary Officer Brian Kay will be graduating from the New Haven Police Academy. He will start his Field Training in Ridgefield on July 7th.

July 25-29: We will be hosting our annual Junior Police Academy (JPA) at Headquarters.

July 26: The Ridgefield Police Honor Guard will once again be marching on the field prior to the Yard Goats game in Hartford, CT as part of First Responders Night.

A total of 19 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at the Shir Shalom Temple on separate occasions.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Several tours were performed at HQ for different groups.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.
- Several officers gave children a "Ride to School" during the month of June. We gave out several gift certificates, which parents bid on to win the rides, at different events.

C. Department Statistics

Chief Kreitz reported the total incidents for the month of June 2022 was 1,220. He also highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

Commissioner Coffin stated it has been customary to cancel the August meeting if there are no pressing issues. The next meeting will be Sept. 8.

Commissioner Dornfeld motioned to cancel the August meeting, seconded by Commissioner Frey.

All in Favor

August Police Commission meeting cancelled.

7. UNION PARTICIPATION

None.

**8. EXECUTIVE SESSION - to discuss personnel matters – I.A.
Update**

Commissioner Frey made a motion to go into Executive Session at 4:00pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 4:05pm. No votes were taken.

Commissioner Coffin made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Special Meeting at 4:06pm. Commissioner Dornfeld seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

John Frey
Police Commission Secretary