

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Wednesday, October 12, 2016**

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Joseph Savino, Secretary
Thomas Reynolds
Marianne Coffin
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 6:05pm by Chairman Kain.

Agenda Item #1 Agenda Review

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

Agenda Item #2 Minutes Approval

Chairman Kain requested a motion to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2016 Police Commission meeting. Commissioner Savino motioned to accept; Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion.

All in Favor.

Minutes of the September 8, 2016 Police Commission Meeting accepted as written.

Agenda Changes

Chairman Kain requested a motion to move Agenda Item 5e to the beginning of the Agenda to accommodate the recipients of the Department's Exceptional Service Awards.

Chairman Kain requested a motion to move Agenda Item 5b to the beginning of the Agenda to accommodate the Detective Division Commander.

Commissioner Reynolds motioned to accept the changes to the Agenda line-up; Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Chairman Kain thanked all present for coming to the meeting to recognize our Police Officers for their outstanding service to the community. Chairman Kain stated that, on behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners, he would be presenting two Officers with Exceptional Service Awards. (This award is a blue and gold circular medal with the State insignia, the inscriptions of Exceptional Service and Ridgefield Police written on the top and bottom and it hangs from a blue ribbon. There is also a blue bar with one (1) gold star that will be worn on the Officer's uniform.)

Exceptional Service – P.O. Shawn Murray

Chairman Kain stated that Officer Murray was recommended for his award due to his actions on June 11, 2016 when Officer Murray was driving home in his take-home cruiser after completing his shift. While driving, Officer Murray observed a vehicle traveling in the wrong direction on a limited access highway; the vehicle almost struck Officer Murray's vehicle.

Officer Murray activated his lights and siren and followed the vehicle; he alerted Headquarters and the Ct State Police had previously been notified by witnesses. Officer Murray was able to stop the wrong-way vehicle and assisted the CT State Police in a DUI arrest.

Chairman Kain requested Officer Murray to step forward to receive his award and Shawn's wife and son pinned his medal on him. Shawn received a standing ovation from the Board of Police Commissioners and all congratulated Officer Murray and thanked him.

Exceptional Service – Sgt. Brian Durling

Chairman Kain stated the Sgt. Durling was recommended for his award due to his actions on June 26, 2016. After dispatch to a Medical Assist, Sgt. Durling found two witnesses performing CPR on the patient who was in cardiac arrest. Sgt. Durling advised the witnesses to continue CPR while he set up his defibrillator (AED). Once set up, the AED advised to shock the patient so Sgt. Durling administered one shock to the patient. After the shock was delivered, the AED advised that a rhythm was detected and to continue CPR. Sgt. Durling continued to perform CPR with the witnesses until the Paramedics arrived and took over the care of the patient.

It was later learned that the patient recovered from this incident of cardiac arrest. Sgt. Durling's quick response, effective application of the AED and quality CPR helped to save this man's life.

Chairman Kain requested Sgt. Brian Durling to step forward to receive his Exceptional Service Award and Brian's wife pinned his medal on him.

Chairman Kain stated that in addition to the Department's recognition of Sgt. Durling's performance, the American Heart Association also acknowledged him with an award and heart pin for "performing the heroic act of CPR, a critical link in our chain of survival".

Brian received a standing ovation from the Board of Police Commissioners and all congratulated Sgt. Durling and thanked him.

Chief Roche spoke to the audience and reiterated to his Officers the fact that each and every day they go out and sacrifice and put themselves on the line and this is why – to save a life and save other lives. Shawn was able to remove an unsafe driver from the roadway; Brian was able to save a life – there is nothing better than that. Chief Roche expressed his heartfelt thanks to both of his Officers.

Agenda Item #1a Annual Detective Division Commander's Report:

Captain Thomas Comstock stated that he took over the duties of the Detective Division Commander in January of 2014 and reported to the Commission:

There are currently three Detectives in the Detective Division:

Detective Steven Papstein is the Senior Detective
Detective/Youth Officer Thomas Dardis
Detective David DuBord

Captain Comstock stated Detective Papstein and Detective Dardis work well together on the Day Shift. This is particularly true with guns and shooting qualifications. The two Detectives have upgraded the Department's training for all the weapons used in the Department.

Detective DuBord works the Evening Shift and works well with the Patrol Shift on evenings; both parties assist each other which helps get the job done.

Detectives' Areas of Responsibility:

Det. Papstein: Senior Detective with 28 years of experience (21 as a Detective). Det. Papstein, due to his experience in the Detective Division, has been a great help with many small details that occur within the Division. Det. Papstein handles:

- Evidence Room / records, management and transportation of evidence to the State Lab
- Arson Investigations
- POST-Certified Firearms Instructor
- General Investigations
- Drug Take-back Program
- Child Death Investigations

Det/YO Dardis handles:

- Juvenile Investigations
- General Investigations
- Child Death Investigations
- 10-33 Military Program
- POST-Certified Firearms Instructor

Det. DuBord handles:

- Narcotic Investigations
- General Investigations
- Death and Homicide Investigations

Captain Comstock stated that he is very proud of the Detectives and their dedication to their job -all represent the Department well and have a great rapport with other police departments and agencies. The most used comment referencing the Detectives is the professionalism they exhibit.

Division's Areas of Responsibility

- Detective Division Investigations
- Youth Division Investigations
- Weapons Division
- Assist Fatal/Serious Accident Investigation Team
- Court Liaison
- Sex Offender Registry
- Office Supplies and Furniture
- Drug Tip Hotline / Grievance – Whistle Blower
- Drug Take-Back Program – 678 lbs. taken in last year.

Detective Division handles:

- Death Investigations (Homicide, Suicide, Accidental, Suspicious)
- Sex Crimes
- Robbery / Assaults
- Identity Thefts
- Burglaries
- Felony Larcenies
- Drug and Liquor Violations
- Arson Cases
- Warrant Applications
- Applicant Background Checks (employment, vendors, etc)
- Bomb Threats
- Missing Persons
- Pistol Permits
- Internet / E-mail Incidents
- Narcotic Investigations

Associations / Memberships

- Fairfield County Detective Association
- Westchester County Detective Association

Captain Comstock stated that his Detectives work very closely with agencies across Connecticut, especially Fairfield County and Westchester County, sharing information and solving cases.

Detective Training: The Detectives have specialized training and keep their skills current. During the past year, the Detectives have attended the following classes, with more to be attended as they become available:

- Computer Crimes
- Intermediate Crime Scene
- Anti-Terrorism Classes
- Homicide Investigations
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (Dardis)
- Patrol Rifle Instructor course (Papstein, Dardis)

The Detective cases come to the Detective Division directly, from the Chief or the Major; Captain Comstock assigns cases. The assignment of cases is based

on complexity (specialized training, duration of the investigation, etc.). Detectives receive specialized training and can take time needed to investigate a case thoroughly.

Detective Division Statistics

10/2/15 to 10/01/16	Description	10/2/14 to 10/01/15
277	Detective Division incidents, including JV	230
79	Identity Theft	134
23	JV Incidents	30
4	Bad Check Investigations	4
147	Pistol Permits	85
8	Death Investigations	8
5	Burglaries	7
15	Narcotic Investigations	20
8	Narcotic Arrests	12
0	Robbery	1
6	Alcohol Sale to Minor	4

Juvenile Division:

Det. Dardis maintains information on all juvenile arrests whether handled by himself or by Patrol. He meets with parents and youths to work out incidents with a variety of services to include the DCF (Department of Children and Families), Juvenile Court, School Administrations, lawyers, and other Police agencies. Det. Dardis is also a member/participant of the Youth Commission.

The addition of the SRO's (School Resource Officers) is a great asset to the Youth Officer and enables an earlier intervention with the variety of problems youths may experience. Incidents can be handled in-house or be forwarded to Juvenile Court. Det. Dardis also handles adult investigations and assists the other Detectives.

Fatal /Serious Accident Investigation Team

This unit is directed by Captain Bryan Terzian and the Detectives participate as needed to assist in interviewing witnesses and all parties involved. The Detectives also assist with photography along with Sgt. Durling.

Captain Comstock concluded by stating that he has been the Detective Division Commander for two+ years now and all involved are comfortable in their jobs. He stated that he is very proud of the work his Detectives perform, their professionalism, and dedication to their job and the Town of Ridgefield.

Captain Comstock thanked the Police Commission for all their support.

Commissioner Savino asked Captain Comstock if there was any increase in the use of the DB Drug Hotline (203 431.2345). Captain Comstock stated that it is not used that often – the last tip received was information that the Detectives already had. Captain Comstock added that the SRO presence and interaction aids in this area; information on this line is confidential. Chief Roche stated that the Drug Tip Hotline also serves as a Grievance/Whistleblower line for employees' use as mandated in the Town audit (to establish an outlet for this activity).

In response to Commissioner Savino's question regarding SRO/Youth Officer involvement, Captain Comstock stated that if an incident occurs at school and the SRO is able to handle it, he will. If he deems it necessary to involve the Youth Officer, he will review the incident with him.

Major Brown stated that Detective DuBord is currently involved in investigating a Heroin incident and is reaching out to the FBI and other agencies to gather information.

In response to Commissioner Kain's question about any changes in JV law, Captain Comstock stated that the only thing at this time is the change in venue for JV Court (Bridgeport) since the Danbury JV Court has been closed.

Agenda Item #3a Commission Voice Mail

Chairman Savino stated that there were several messages for the Commission:

- Residents of Silver Spring noted an increase in the size of landscaping trucks/trailers which block traffic on small roads and they were wondering if there was a Town Ordinance regarding this issue.

Chief Roche responded that there are laws which deal with roadway parking/blocking and if a resident believes someone is creating a hazard, they should contact the police.

- Several complaints were received about the Stop sign placed at Ligi's Way/Farmingville Road.

Chief Roche responded that the Department has taken steps to alert drivers of this new sign, the Ridgefield Press has added this to their news and it is covered on the Ridgefield Police Department's Facebook page.

- A resident expressed concerns about the stone pillars on the corner of Manor Road/Route 35. These pillars have been hit and a request is being made for signage at this location.

Chief Roche responded that a regulatory sign would not be a solution. He suggested the individual contact the Highway Department and maybe they could address this issue with reflectors or they may have another solution.

- A resident of Rockwell Road is concerned about the use of this road as a cut-thru and the speed/volume of cars.

Chief Roche stated that the Department will run radar on this road.

- A resident of Peaceable Street was concerned with the speed of cars on this road.
Chief Roche stated that the Department runs radar on this road and will continue to do so.

Commissioner Kain stated that the resident of 11 Eleven Levels Road has offered their driveway for radar enforcement.

Agenda Item #3b Commission Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence for the Commission.

Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report

- Chief Roche attended the 2016 Public Acts/Legal Update class at POSTC.
- P.O. Romero attended Practical Skills Day at POSTC for Motor Vehicle Stops.
- Det. Papstein attended Practical Skills Day at POSTC for Simunitions Training/Decision Shooting.
- Det. Papstein attended Shotgun Qualification at POSTC.
- Lt. Fowler, Sgt Durling, Sgt. Knoche, Det. Dardis, Det DuBord, P.O. Ladue, P.O. Siebert, P.O. Hawaux and P.O. Tinsley attended EMR Refresher Training at Headquarters – instructed by Lt. Smith.
- Sgt. Durling and P.O. DiFalco attended Child Passenger Restraint System Training in Waterbury.
- Lt. Raines and Sgt. Knoche attended Intox Instructor training in Middletown.
- Sgt. Knoche attended the Taser Instructor Refresher training in Milford.
- Major Brown, Captain Terzian, Captain Comstock, Captain Kreitz attended the Academy graduation for P.O. Hartling.
- Major Brown, Captain Terzian, Captain Comstock, Captain Kreitz attended the 2016 Public Acts/Legal Update class at POSTC.
- All Officers attended Public Acts/Legal Update Training at HQ.
- P.O. Romero attended Basic SWAT School in Trumbull.

Public Relations:

- Safety Day 2016 was held at East Ridge Middle School.
- P.O. DiFalco spoke at the annual training for the Safe Rides participants.
- P.O. Giglio gave a ride to school to a group of students from Branchville Elementary School. The ride was given away at the Cops and Cones Event.
- A total of thirty-two car seats were checked/installed this past month.

Upcoming Events:

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|------------|---|
| October 16 | P.O. Murray and K-9 Loki are giving a demonstration at the ROAR Paws for a Cause event at Parks & Recreation. |
| October 22 | Prescription Drug Take-Back Event at Bissell Pharmacy. |

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October 22	Assist with Car Seat Inspection/Install at Fairfield County Bank in Wilton.
October 23	Car Seat Install/Inspection at The Lounsbury House as part of their Family Day.
October 31	Annual Halloween Party.
November 5	Car Seat Install/Inspection and a Prescription Drug Take-Back at Parks & Recreation as part of the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce Wellness Day.

Department Statistics

Chief Roche stated that the Department responded to 1,890 service calls in September to include 64 alarms, 32 medical assists, 20 fingerprint applicants, 44 foot patrols, 7 Identity Thefts, 53 motor vehicle accidents, 662 motor vehicle enforcements, 10 Pistol Permits, 8 radar details, 19 Public Relations events, 135 Security Checks and 5 traffic details. There was one (1) K-9 assist in September.

Ridgefield - Safest Town

Chief Roche informed the Commissioners that Ridgefield was number one of the top five towns in Connecticut as reported by the FBI Crime Report of 2014.

Correspondence

- A letter was received from thanking Lt. Platt for his participation in an Oral Board for the position of Detective Sergeant in Ansonia.
- A letter was received thanking the Ridgefield Police Department for radar speed enforcement on Farmingville Road.

Alarm Review

Chief Roche reported to the Commission that he has reviewed and sought input from his staff on the Department's current alarm policy and the consensus is to keep everything as it is - there is no need to change. Chief Roche stated that there is a billing process in place, an appeal process in place and they are working fine. Chief Roche stated that the upside of alarm response is that Officers get to see areas where people live and sometimes come in contact with the homeowners so it has its benefits. This exercise was part of Chief's Goals (#6).

Agenda Item #5a Vehicle Bid AwardsLease

Chief Roche stated that of the bid received for the leased vehicle was received from Pamby Motors. Chief Roche stated that Pamby Motors proposed a Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo, one pay lease, 36 month - 36,000 mile for \$13,795.00.

Commissioner Knoche motioned to accept the bid from Pamby Motors for one (1) Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo; seconded by Commissioner Coffin.

All in Favor.

Pamby Motors' bid for one (1) 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee (three year lease, one-time payment) was accepted.

Marked Vehicles

Chief Roche stated that of the bid received for the leased vehicles by MHQ, Inc. out of Middletown, Ct. Chief Roche stated that he will be able to purchase two Ford Utility Interceptor vehicles and two Ford Sedan Interceptor vehicles.

Commissioner Knoche motioned to accept the bid from MHQ, Inc. for four (4) 2017 Ford Interceptor vehicles; seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

All in Favor.

MHQ's bid for four 2017 Ford Interceptor vehicles was accepted.

Agenda Item #5b DDC Report:

Moved to beginning of the Agenda.

Agenda Item #5c Officer Survey Results

Chief Roche distributed copies of the submissions and responses to the annual Officer Survey. This item will be discussed at the November meeting.

Agenda Item #5d Capital Budget Drafts:

Chief Roche distributed a draft copy of the Capital Budget to the Commissioners for their review. The Commissioners will review this and vote at the November meeting.

Commissioner Savino suggested the possibility of adding the Traffic Study (that Chief Roche had presented to the Commission in September but was too costly to pursue) to the Capital Budget. Commissioner Savino stated that the last traffic study was completed in the 1980's and due to the growth of the Town and the growing number of concerned residents about traffic flow and alternate routes, it would be beneficial to the Town to propose this item as Legal Traffic Authority for the Town of Ridgefield.

Commissioner Coffin agreed that this would be a good idea to perform a study, obtain solutions and improve traffic flow.

This issue will be discussed at the November meeting.

Agenda Item #5e Exceptional Service Awards

Moved to beginning of the Agenda.

Agenda Item #6a Cedar Lane

Chief Roche stated that he has not had correspondence from the State DOT.

Agenda Item #6b West Lane "S" Curve

Chief Roche stated that he has not had correspondence from the State DOT.

Agenda Item #6c Depot Road

Chief Roche stated that he had an email about an upcoming meeting on this project that he will forward to the Commissioners. The State is exploring the possibility of Federal funding for the improvements to Portland Avenue.

Agenda Item #6d Ligi's Way

Chief Roche stated that the Commission has submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting a change to the name of this road. The Commission requested that the road be renamed to Chief Ligi's Way or that the name remain the same and a sign be added designating the road as Chief Richard Ligi Memorial Highway.

The Board of Selectmen discussed this issue at their October 6th meeting and have informed the Commission that they will keep the name of the roadway but have approved the posting of a sign reading *Chief Richard Ligi Memorial Road*.

Food Trucks

Commissioner Savino stated that the Board of Selectmen was discussing food trucks in the Town of Ridgefield and suggested that Chief Roche may want to include himself in these discussions as they could have an impact on traffic in Town.

Commissioner Savino motioned to adjourn Public Session; Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion.

All in Favor.

Public Special Police Commission Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Savino
Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE
SPECIAL POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Wednesday October 12, 2016**

Commissioners Present: George Kain, Chairman
Joseph Savino, Secretary
Thomas Reynolds
Marianne Coffin
Charles Knoche

Executive Session commenced at 7:03pm.

Executive Session adjourned to Public Session at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Savino
Secretary