

**MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**  
**of**  
**Thursday, December 13, 2018**

**Commissioners Present:** George Kain, Chairman  
Marianne Coffin, Secretary  
Charles Knoche  
Joseph Savino  
**Present by Phone:** Stephen Saloom  
**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 5:05pm by Chairman Kain.

**Agenda Review**

Chairman Kain requested a motion to move Item 4F- Dangerous Curve Signs: Neds Mountain Road and Old Stagecoach Road up to Item 1. A motion by Commissioner Knoche was made to approve the move, seconded by Commissioner Savino, and voted unanimously.

**Agenda Item #1 Dangerous Curve Signs: Neds Mountain Rd and Old Stagecoach Road.**

Chief Kreitz passed out pictures of one of the newly installed signs that the State put up on Ned's Mountain Road. This was first discussed at a Police Commission Meeting in 2016. The intent, the Police Commission felt, was to put up one high visibility sign. They did not realize the State's intent was to put up so many signs. At that time they talked with Chief Roche about this. If they knew what would happen they would never have approved it. Neds Mountain Road is a scenic road. The State applied for federal funding to put the signs up. Chief Kreitz mentioned he saw no paperwork on how many signs were going to be put up. Commissioner Kain stated that the signs are excessive, and that the signs need to be taken down. The question remains if the signs can legally be taken down and, if possible, who would be responsible to pay to have them removed? There have been numerous complaints to First Selectman Rudy Marconi, Chief Kreitz and Pete Hill. They concerned parties will be meeting with state officials on December 12, 2018.

A resident of Ned's Mountain Road, Mike Troy, attended the meeting to discuss the signs. He was very encouraged by concern and discussion. He stated that Ned's Mountain Road is a scenic road and people hike on Ned's Mountain Road. He said there is a cluster of 5 signs in a space of 40 feet. Mr. Troy stated that he understands the importance of safety however; there needs to be a balance. Mr. Troy added that he has heard of only two accidents on Ned's Mountain Road since the early 1980's.

**Agenda Item #2 Minutes of Police Commission Meeting on Oct. 25, 2018**

At the November 8, 2018 meeting of the Police Commission, the minutes of the October 11 and the October 25, 2018 meetings were discussed. Several amendments were discussed and it was decided to continue discussion until the meeting of December 13, 2018.

At the December 13, 2018 meeting, a motion was made by Commissioner Saloom to amend the minutes of October 25, 2018 as written. Commissioner Kain seconded the motion to amend the minutes. The motion was amended as follows:

*"Commissioner Saloom objected to the commission taking the vote, saying it was premature in terms of both process and the Commission's previous agreement about how to properly conduct its search for Ridgefield's next Chief. He cited the discussion, motion, and decision from the meeting where the search process had been established. That language is as follows:*

*'A motion was made By Joe Savino and seconded by Marcie Coffin to begin the interview process for the position of Chief of Police by first inviting Ridgefield Police Department officers at a rank of Captain and above to apply. If the initial interview process does not yield a single, clear candidate, the Ridgefield Police Commission will then advertise the opening outside the Ridgefield Police Department to identify additional candidates.'*

*He said he felt the proper next step was not to vote at that time, but to extend the search in order to allow the Commissioners to compare the internal candidates with external candidates as well, to ensure that the choice we made was the best it could.*

*Commissioner Saloom said he respected Captain Kreitzs' potential to serve as Chief, yet felt the Commission was rushing in light of the process it had unanimously agreed to."*

After this amendment was voted and approved, Commissioner Kain added another amendment to the motion which stated that the following:



"Commissioner Kain stated that it was never his understanding that the agreement to the definition of '...a single, clear candidate' required the commission to proceed any further in the process than it had the night the vote was taken, and thus the ultimate vote was not premature in terms of both process nor in any violation of Commission's previous agreement about how to properly conduct its search for Ridgefield's next Chief. The commission believed that it was proper to vote at that time, and that there was no need to prolong the process by comparing internal candidates with external candidates. Thus, a motion was made and seconded to appoint Jeff Kreitz as Ridgefield's next police chief and the motion carried by a 3-2 vote."

A motion was then made by Commissioner Coffin to accept the amendment. Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

**The Minutes of October 25, 2018 were approved as amended.**

**The Minutes of November 8, 2018 were approved as submitted.**

**Agenda Item #3A Commission Voice Mail**

Commissioner Coffin stated that Donna Lounsbury asked the Commission have a "No Trucks" sign put on Florida Road during a detour from Ethan Allen Hwy. Chief Kreitz spoke with Mrs. Lounsbury and explained that the department now has a plan for short and long term closures of roads the area in the future.

A second request was for a stop sign at Maplewood Road/Bennetts Farm Road. This request was discussed at previous meetings. Sign Officer Caswell is aware of this and has contacted the requester.

**Agenda Item #3B Commission Written Correspondence**

The Commission received a letter from Ullman Devices requesting a sign be put up on Laurel Lane because they have seen tractor trailers turn around on this road. This is a narrow dead end street. They suggested a "No Thru Trucks" or a "Dead End" sign be posted. Chief Kreitz said he will have Sign Officer Mark Caswell check into it.

The Principal at East Ridge Middle School wrote a letter suggesting a crosswalk on East Ridge Road and Governor Street be closer to East Ridge Middle School. The Commission stated they have discussed this before. Following previous consultation with the State DOT, the Police Commission is not in favor of moving the crosswalk because there is no sidewalk on the west side of East Ridge Road and it would be a mid-block crosswalk. Coming up

Branchville Road, the State has signs stating that there is a crosswalk on East Ridge Road. SRO Giglio has talked to the students about safety.

#### **Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report**

Chief Jeffery Kreitz wanted to personally thank the Commissioners for his swearing in ceremony. He stated they did a great job and he and his family were very appreciative.

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

Chief Kreitz highlighted the statistics for November 2018, a total of 1,432 incidents, to include: 98 alarms, 20 Medical Assists, 10 Check Wellbeing calls, 6 Radar details, 348 motor vehicle enforcement violations, 65 Motor Vehicle Accidents . There were three (3) K-9 assists for the month of November.

##### **B. Training and PR Reports**

#### **RIDGEFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAINING & COMMUNITY POLICING/ PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT November 2018**

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| November 28-29 | Human Trafficking class performed by Lt. Platt for entire department per State Policy.                   |
| Oct. 29-Nov. 2 | Detective Papstein to P.O.S.T. for weapons qualifications for Recruit McKnight.                          |
| November 5     | Officer Gjodesen to P.O.S.T. for motor vehicle stops for Recruit McKnight.                               |
| November 30    | Lt. Fowler to P.O.S.T. for low light shooting for Recruit McKnight.                                      |
| Nov. 29-30     | Lt. Raines and Sgt. Knoche performed Taser recertification for department members qualified to carry it. |

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

- Eleven car seat installations
- A bicycle safety talk at a monthly Girl Scout meeting
- One department tour given to a family and their children
- Monthly Youth Commission meeting attended by Detective Dardis

This report was submitted by Captain Thomas Comstock, Detective Division Commander.



C. Department Survey- shared by Chief Kreitz with the Commission.

**DEPARTMENT SURVEY**

	Request / Improvement	Administrations Response
1.	IFAK – Individual First Aid Kit	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>The first aid kits have been purchased. All Officers will be receiving roll call training on first aid kits.</i>
2.	Flexibility in wearing long and short sleeves	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>The department has already changed this rule allowing Officers wear either short or long sleeve shirts throughout the year.</i>
3.	Bluetooth sync for cruisers	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Bluetooth has been ordered on all new cruisers.</i>
4.	Microsoft upgrades	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Completed.</i>
5.	LPR's	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Two new LPR units have been ordered and will be placed on new cruisers.</i>
6.	Specific Crisis Intervention Team for CIT Calls	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>The majority of the Dept. has received this training and we plan sending all Officers through this training. We do not believe that specific team is needed.</i>
7.	Internet Based Scheduling	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>The Major is looking into two different options and is working Towards this scheduling.</i>
8.	Utilizing a variety of manufactures for cruisers	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Looking into two different vehicles for 2020-2021.</i>
9.	Laptop for SRO's	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>We will work with IT and explore the options.</i>
10.	IT Liaison	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Possible, however need to determine the responsibilities this Position would hold. Administration will continue to discuss.</i>
11.	Total Station	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Total Station has been placed in next year's budget.</i>
12.	Prisoner Cage safety upgrade – Securing the	<b>Administrations Response:</b>

	paperwork slot	We are currently working on upgrades.
13.	AC in Women's Locker Room	<b>Administrations Response:</b> Neither the male or female locker rooms have AC due to the that there is no duct work running to either of them. We are reluctant to spend the money on these upgrades at this time. We are awaiting the results of the Public Safety Building Study.
14.	New Police Headquarters	<b>Administrations Response:</b> We are currently in discussions and awaiting the results of the Public Safety Building Study.
15.	Motorcycle Patrol	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Department will not be pursuing motorcycles at this time.</i>
16.	DRONE capability	<b>Administrations Response:</b> Drones will not be purchased at this time.
17.	ABC Switch on portable radio-which can switch off of the primary setting	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Please inspect portables prior to going on the road.</i>
18.	Subdued lettering for cruisers	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>For the comfort of the community and the safety of the Officers we will continue with our current graphics.</i>
19.	General redesigning of interior and trunks of cruisers	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Ford is changing body style and there is the possibility of changing brands so we will hold off on this idea.</i>
20.	Electronic ticketing	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Not at this time. However, in the future this is a technology that we will explore.</i>
21.	Civilian Dispatch only	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>Not at this time. We are committed to have a police presence in dispatch to better connect with the public as well as take command of incidents</i>
22.	Smaller portable radio antennas	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>We have been advised that these are not available for our portable radios.</i>
23.	Change of minimum manpower	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>The Department is comfortable with the current shift minimums.</i>
24.	Change consecutive shift rule	<b>Administrations Response:</b> <i>As of now, no change in this policy. The Department will continue with its current scheduling practices.</i>




D. Text 911 Update

Chief Kreitz reminded the commission that citizens can now text 911. It is recommended that you call if you can and text if you can't call.

E. Sign Report

Mr. Troy indicated that there is graffiti on a sign on Ned's Mountain Road. Sign Officer Mark Caswell will check into this.

**Agenda Item #5 Union Participation**

None

**Agenda Item #6 New Business**

A. Operational Budget Draft.

All Police Commissioners received a copy of the Operational Budget Draft. Chief Kreitz requested an increase in vehicle maintenance due to increase in the cost of tires and general maintenance. Chief Kreitz requested an increase in training. Chief Kreitz stressed the importance of training. They have limited classes. Chief Kreitz is a firm believer in training.

Chief Kreitz request for an increase in the Community Relations Program.

Commissioner Kain made a motion to accept the Operational Budget Draft. Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. All were in favor.

B. Chief's Goals

The subcommittee for the Chief's Goals for next year will be Commissioner Coffin and Commissioner Knoche.

**Agenda Item #7 Old Business**

A. Capital Budget Revision

The server request was removed from the Capital Budget request due to the fact that it was already approved. IT, Kevin Redmond and First Selectman Rudy Marconi are all in agreement with a server upgrade. The NICE recording is moved up a year. This will be discussed next year. The canine van request was moved to 2023-2024. The I Record System request was also moved up a year.

Commissioner Coffin made the motion to accept the Capital Budget Revision. Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1. Commissioner Savino voted against the motion.

Commissioner Knoche made the motion to accept the dates for next year's Police Commission Meetings. Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Commissioner Savino made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:18pm. Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion. All in favor. Items for discussion: Discuss Employee Performance and Promotional Testing issues.**

**The commission returned to public session at 6:42 pm.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Kain and seconded by Commissioner Knoche to accept Major Brown's request to the Town for an extension of his retirement date (required per Article 1 of the Town of Ridgefield Defined Benefit Pension Plan). The motion passed unanimously.**

**A Motion made by Commissioner Coffin and seconded by Commissioner Savino to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.**

**The Executive Session adjourned at 6:42pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Marcie Coffin, Secretary *mc*



**MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**  
**of**  
**Friday, December 21, 2018**

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

**Also Present:** Chief Jeffery Kreitz

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:05am by Chairman Kain.

A motion was made by Commissioner Knoche and seconded by Commissioner Coffin to move to executive session for promotional interviews for the position Captain. The vote was unanimous.

The Commission returned to public session at 1:30 pm.

A vote was made by Commissioner Savino and seconded by Commissioner Coffin:

“The Ridgefield Police Commission appoints Lt. Shawn Platt to the position of Captain, as he was the highest scoring candidate in the promotional process. Further, the appointment shall then terminate the list of applicants for the position of Captain and no eligibility list is created.”

The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Savino made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Knoche. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcie Coffin,  
Secretary.