

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
of
Thursday January 10, 2019

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

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 07:03pm by Chairman Kain.

AGENDA REVIEW ITEM #1

Chairman Savino requested a motion to add Planning and Zoning Traffic Master Plan to 7b. Commissioner Knoche seconded the motion. All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM #2 MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2018 MEETING AND MINUTES OF DECEMBER 21, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING

Commissioner Knoche made a motion to accept the minutes of December 13, 2018. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion. All in favor. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Commissioner Knoche made a motion to accept the minutes of December 21, 2018. Commissioner Coffin second the motion. All in favor. The minutes were approved as submitted.

AGENDA ITEM #3a COMMISSION CORRESPONDANCE VOICEMAIL

Commissioner Coffin received a voicemail from Angela Montegue, 248 Farmingville Road inquiring about possibly installing speed bumps before her driveway. The Commission does not allow speed bumps, and hidden drive signs are not authorized by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Officer Caswell will be looking into the matter to ensure proper signage.

AGENDA ITEM #3b COMMISSION WRITTEN CORRESPONDANCE

There was no written correspondence for the month of December.

AGENDA ITEM #4 CHIEF'S REPORT

- a. Department Stats. The stats for the month will be forthcoming. It was suggested the report include several years to compare stats.
- b. Training and PR Reports. Detective Division Commander Captain Thomas Comstock's report was presented to the Police Commissioners.

**Ridgefield Police Department
Training & Community Policing/Public Relations Report
December 2018**

- December 4-5 Taser recert training for the department members who are Qualified.
- December 4 Detective Dardis to POST for rifle training for recruit McKnight.
- December 12 Detective Dardis to POST for Simmunition training for recruit McKnight.
- December 13 Lt. Fowler to POST for shotgun training for recruit McKnight.
- December 21 Captain Terzian and Captain Comstock attend POST graduation

A total of 21 Public Relations were performed during the month to include:

- Seven car seat installs
- Multiple stops and talks at houses of worship
- Monthly Youth Commission meeting attended by Detective Dardis
- Various talks with downtown shop owners and pedestrians out for the holidays

- c. Sign Report. Sign Officer Mark Caswell's report was submitted to the meeting as follows:

Regarding: December Sign Report/Sign Requests

Damaged Stop Signs at the intersection of Peaceable Street and Old South Salem Road as well as Great Hill Road and Bennetts Farm Road were replaced.

At the request of Mr. Michael Troy, who resides on Neds Mountain Road, as well as Chief Kreitz, I surveyed the area of Neds Mountain Road and Old Stagecoach Road. The purpose of the survey was to find a solution to the chevron signs installed by the state. On Neds Mountain Road I would recommend , once the liability issues are investigated, that all of the chevron signs be removed and only the dangerous curve signs with speed advisories remain on Neds Mountain Road.

On Old Stagecoach Road I would recommend that the majority of the signs be removed. I believe that only the dangerous curve signs with additional speed advisories of 20 mph, as well as 6 signs on the most treacherous of the curves remain.

I researched the accident history of both areas. I found that since 2008 there have been no accidents on Neds Mountain Road and 6 accidents on Old Stagecoach Road.

At the request of the managers at Ullman Devices located at 664 Danbury Road (Route 7) I surveyed Laurel Lane due to complaints that large trucks were unaware that Laurel Lane was a dead end. This creates a hazard as the trucks are forced to back down the road because there is not sufficient room to turn around. I would recommend that "Narrow Road" and "No Outlet" signs be installed in the area of Ullman Devices' driveway and parking lot. This would give drivers ample warning to turn around in an area with sufficient room.

Commissioner Kain sent a letter to East Ridge Middle School Principal in reference to another crosswalk at Branchville Road and East Ridge Middle School. Pursuant to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for Streets and Highways: an engineering study would need to be performed because the crosswalk that is requested is not at a traffic control signal or an approach controlled by a stop or yield sign.

AGENDA ITEM #5 UNION PARTICIPATION.

No union representative.

AGENDA ITEM #6 NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Coffin and Commissioner Knoche met with Chief Kreitz to go over his goals. Chief Kreitz goals are as follows:

- 1) **Police Headquarters**
Focused planning and efforts to move forward on needs and design of a new police headquarters which includes central dispatch.
- 2) **Hiring of a New Police Officer and Part Time Dispatcher**
- 3) **Professional Development**
Attend a minimum of one professional development conference with law enforcement colleagues, approved by the Board of Police Commissioners.

- 4) **Physical Fitness**
The Chief of Police shall continue to participate in the department's voluntary fitness program.
- 5) **Police Officer Survey**
Continue the annual officer survey process.
- 6) **Department Chaplin Program and Officer Wellness Program**
Continue to develop and implement improvements to help facilitate the mental and physical health of the Officers of the Ridgefield Police Department.
- 7) **Department Training**
The Chief of Police will insure that the department staff participates in current and emerging training programs and conferences for all police department personnel to promote the continuing high level of professionalism of the department.
- 8) **Community Partnership**
Develop and maintain strong partnerships with the community.
- 9) **Community Survey**
Conduct a community survey to obtain a better understanding of the stakeholders needs in order to provide the best police services possible.
- 10) **IT Systems**
Overall IT improvements within the department and vehicle fleet.
- 11) **Electronic Scheduling**
Research electronic scheduling programs that are not prohibitive and that fit the needs of the Ridgefield Police Department.
- 12) **Officer Evaluations**
Review and recommend revised yearly evaluation forms and process.
- 13) **Proactive Recommendations to Improve Traffic Flow**
Master Plan Update
Proactive Recommendations to improve traffic flow.

Commissioner Savino motioned to accept the Chief's Goals as amended at the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Knoche. All in favor.

AGENDA ITEM #7 OLD BUSINESS

- a. Ned's Mountain Road. Commissioner Kain, Chief Kreitz and First Selectman Rudy Marconi met with representatives from the State

D.O.T. regarding the signage. They advised that once the final inspection by the State was complete the signs would then become the Town's responsibility and only then could they possibly be removed. The State advised that due to the current speed limit being 25 mph and, due to the radius of the curves, the chevron signs are required by the MUTCD. After hearing P.O. Caswell's recommendation, Commissioner Kain recommended getting Town Council's input regarding the proper process of lowering the speed limit prior to removing any signs. Chief Kreitz stated that the final inspection of the signs would not take place until April or May.

- b. Planning and Zoning Traffic Plan. Proactive plans to slow traffic down; to improve traffic flow. Need to check on speed limit changes on town roads. Possible start with town scenic roads first.

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

The Public Session Adjourned at 8:15pm. All in favor

The Executive Session to discuss employee performance commenced at 8:15pm

The Executive Session ended at 8:37pm.

Motion made by Commissioner Knoche to accept Captain Comstock's request to extend his retirement date. Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,



Marcie Coffin
Police Commission Secretary