

**MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
of  
Thursday, April 19, 2018**

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

**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 7:01pm by Chairman Knoche.

**Agenda Item #1**

Chairman Knoche asked if there would be any changes to the agenda. Chief Roche requested a motion to change the agenda by adding to New Business (a) Rumble Strips on Danbury Road; (b) Commissioner Saloom requested a few minutes to speak about a Webinar event. Commissioner Kain motioned to amend the agenda; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

**Vote: In Favor – All**

**Agenda changes approved.**

Chairman Knoche stated that there would be an Executive Session for personnel matters following the Public Session.

**Agenda Item #2**

Chairman Knoche requested a motion to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2018 Police Commission meeting. Commissioner Coffin motioned to accept the minutes; Commissioner Savino seconded the motion.

**Vote:** In Favor - All  
Against - None

**Minutes of the March 8, 2018 Police Commission meeting accepted as written.**

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

Commissioner Kain reported that there was one call from a gentleman on Limekiln Road who was requesting a Hidden Drive sign by his driveway. Commissioner Kain stated that he explained that the Commission does not install or give permission to install these signs as the State does not acknowledge them – is not in favor of them.

**Agenda Item #3b Commission Correspondence****Summer Sidewalk Sale**

Chairman Knoche signed off on an application for a Highway Use Permit for Sidewalk Sales on July 21, 2018. This application will now be forwarded to the State DOT for their review/approval.

**77 Sunset Lane**

The President of the 77 Sunset Lane Association sent a letter expressing a concern of the residents in these condominium units. With the advent of the initial show of ACT of Connecticut, a theater company in one of the buildings on the old Schlumberger property, the association sees a potential problem of theatergoers parking on their private property if they enter the property at Sunset Lane. The main entrance /exit for the development that should be used is on Old Quarry Road. The request is for a or b:

- a) A police officer be posted at the entrance road off of Sunset Lane for an hour prior to the beginning of any show and remain for 15 minutes after the show has begun.
- b) Install a "No Outlet" sign on the Town's right-of-way at the corner of Sunset Lane and the access road into the condominium association.

Commissioner Savino stated that the Commission took the lead in requesting the access road on Sunset Lane be shut off except for emergency vehicle use. The purpose of making Old Quarry Road the only entrance and egress for the property was to keep traffic off of Sunset Lane. He would expect no changes to the Commission's initial request.

Chief Roche stated that the police department does not police private property. Commissioner Knoche suggested the homeowners' association invest in a white picket fence and place it at the access road with a sign stating 'Private Property'.

Commissioner Saloom suggested that the association touch base with the owners of the theater company to see if they can work with them to have some people there on event days to direct vehicles as to the proper parking areas.

Commissioner Knoche stated that if the association wanted to pursue the Town placing a sign on their property, they would have to contact the Board of Selectmen and Planning and Zoning.

The Commissioners also suggested that when the theater company – ACT – is promoting an upcoming event, they can note that the entrance/exit is on Old Quarry Road and that there is no parking on private property.

**Agenda Item #4 Chief's Report****Officer of the Year 2017**

Chief Roche reported to the Commissioners that the Ridgefield Exchange Club's Officer of the Year Ceremony, which they host, will take place on May 9, 2018 at 1600 hours at The Leir Estate. Commissioners Coffin, Knoche, Kain and Savino will attend the event.

**Training**

- Det. Ryan attended Alcohol and Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Investigations in Fairfield.
- Major Brown, Capt. Comstock, Capt. Kreitz and Det. Romero attended CT Pistol Permit Update in Middletown.
- Det. Ryan attended Basic Crime Scene Investigations at POSTC.
- Capt. Comstock and Capt. Terzian attended the New England Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar in Providence, R.I.
- EMR refresher class at Police Headquarters instructed by Lt. Smith.

**Crime Prevention Report**

- Citizen Police Academy is on-going.
- Capt. Kreitz discussed security measures at a local business.
- SRO Giglio gave a safety presentation to a Cub Scout Pack.
- A total of four child passenger restraint systems were checked/installed during the month of March.

**Upcoming Events:**

- 4/21 RVNS Health and Wellness Fair.
- 4/25 GRADD Program at RHS.
- 4/28 National Drug Take-Back Day from 1000-1400 hours.  
We will be partnering with Bissell Pharmacy.
- 5/09 Exchange Club of Ridgefield Officer of the Year Dinner at the Leir Estate.
- 5/17 Exchange Club Statewide Officer of the Year dinner at the Aqua Turf.
- 5/24 Annual Police Memorial Ceremony at the Lounsbury House.

**Statistics**

Chief Roche stated that the incident total for the month of March was 1,743. During the month, the Department responded to 63 Alarms, 22 Medical Assists, 22 Foot Patrols, conducted 7 Traffic Details, 15 Radar Details, issued 536 Motor Vehicle Enforcement violations, processed 12 Pistol Permit applicants, investigated 52 Motor Vehicle Accidents, participated in 24 Public Relations interactions; completed 6 Controlled Substance arrests and 2 DUI arrests. There were 6 (six) K-9 assists in March.

Correspondence

Chief Roche reported that a thank you was received from a resident to P.O. Samoskevich for his 'professionalism and compassion'.

Fair and Impartial Policing

Chief Roche stated that a class on *Fair and Impartial Policing*, in which the Commissioners will partake, will be offered on May 29<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 9pm at Headquarters.

**Agenda Item #5a Rumble Strips**

Chief Roche reported that he was copied a letter sent to the First Selectman from the State of Connecticut DOT. This letter stated that the State DOT would be resurfacing Danbury Road (from Route 116 to Ethan Allen Highway) and was requesting the Town's approval of installing rumble strips on Danbury Road between the Ridgefield Recreation Center and Dogwood Drive. The State is suggesting these strips as they are a proven safety counter-measure in reducing the risks of head-on and sideswipe opposite direction crashes. The State also cited an advantage of the strips is finding your bearings when driving in foggy or snowy weather where visibility is minimal.

Chief Roche had forwarded the State's letter to the Commissioners for their review and feedback. Commissioner Knoche, Commissioner Kain, Commissioner Savino and Commissioner Saloom were all in favor of the installation.

Commissioner Coffin expressed a reservation as to the possible noise factor that may disturb residents in the homes within the strip line. She would hope that not too many drivers would be driving close to the rumble strips but if they do, the noise could be an inconvenience to those who live nearby.

Commissioner Kain motioned to accept the installation of rumble strips by the State DOT on Route 35 between the Ridgefield Recreation Center and Dogwood Drive. Commissioner Saloom seconded the motion.

**Vote:** In Favor - four  
Opposed - one

**Agenda Item #5b Webinar**

Commissioner Saloom informed the Commissioners that he was in contact with representatives of LifeSkills by Botvin (a proven effective program according to the U.S. Department of Justice). This group offers a program that positively affects the lives of youths in areas of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and violence. They will offer a webinar for Ridgefield that he would like the Commissioners to view. He is also going to request the Board of Education members to view the webinar. Commissioner Kain suggested having both Boards view the webinar at the same time and the Commissioners were in

agreement with that. All of the Commissioners agreed to participate in the Webinar; Commissioner Saloom was grateful to them and anxious to present another option to the DARE Program which, he stated, has not proven to be effective per the U.S. Department of Justice.

#### **Agenda Item #6a Pedestrian Crossing**

##### Grove St/Prospect Street/East Ridge Road Pedestrian Crossing

Chief Roche offered suggestions for improving pedestrian safety in this area:

- 1) Upgrade all four Stop signs and add strips on the posts
- 2) Warn of Pedestrian Zone by installing pedestrian crosswalk signs with lime strips on the posts on both sides of Grove Street/Prospect Street

Chief Roche feels that making the pedestrian zones more visible, will be a big help to those who walk at this location.

#### **Agenda Item #6b Main Street**

##### Main Street (Fountain) Traffic Light

Chief Roche stated that in the response to the resident requesting a traffic light at the location of the fountain, the resident was informed that Rep. John Frey would be contacted to research the history of the fountain – on National Registry for Historic Places?

Chief Roche reported to the Commissioners that he has not received any correspondence from Rep. Frey as of this meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #6c No Turn on Red**

##### Prospect Street/Main Street, Danbury Road/Grove Street

No updates or communication has been received from the State DOT on this issue.

#### **Agenda Item #6d St Mary Crossing**

Chief Roche reported that he received an email from David Sawicki of the State DOT confirming receipt of the proposal for installation of a crosswalk on High Ridge Avenue at Catoonah Street. Mr. Sawicki stated that the request has been forwarded to the Division of Traffic Engineering for their review and response.

When Chief Roche receives an update, he will inform the Commissioners. Chief Roche also noted that he contacted Eversource and requested removal of the current utility pole and replacement of same. The current pole is damaged at the top.

Commissioner Kain motioned to adjourn to Executive Session for discussion on personnel matters; Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

**All in Favor**

**Public Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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George Kain  
Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE  
POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**

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

**Also Present:** Chief John Roche  
Major Stephen Brown

Executive Session commenced at 7:48pm.

**Executive Session adjourned at 8:20pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

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George Kain  
Secretary