

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

**Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 7:00p.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: Sharon Dornfeld, Chairperson
Issy Caporale, Secretary
Marcie Coffin
John Frey
Ralph Money

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz
Major Shawn Platt

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairperson Dornfeld.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Dornfeld requested a motion to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2024 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Money made a motion and Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

**Minutes of the October 10, 2024 Police Commission Meeting
accepted as written.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Karen Albright from 4 Mountain View Avenue, along with other area residents, presented to the Police Commission their concern about the proposed plan to build condos on the now Red Rooster property located at 43 Danbury Road. Karen presented to the Police Commission a report from the Connecticut Crash Data Repository stating that there have been numerous crashes in the area over the last 10 years. Karen stated that they are not opposed to the development but are concerned over safety. Their concern is traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular.

Chief Kreitz stated Planning & Zoning has not come to him yet about the proposed project. Chief Kreitz, along with the Police Commission, suggested that they find out when the Planning & Zoning meeting will be concerning this project and present their concern, along with their data and state any questions or concerns that they have.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Division of Professional Standards Annual Report

Capt. Jeff Raines, Division of Professional Standards, thanked the police commission, and stated that he has enjoyed the past three years in this position. He gave an overview of his role. One aspect is being in charge of training being it mandatory or optional. He stated how well trained the officers are. That there are 12 certified instructors, DARE officers, Citizens Police Academy, Junior Police Academy and SRO officers to name a few. Chairperson Dornfeld, along with the other police commissioners, acknowledged the amount of training the officers have. The Board of Police Commissioners acknowledged him for his dedication to the department.

B. Officer Survey

Major Platt discussed the Officer Annual Survey with the commissioners answering any questions that they had.

C. Election of Police Commission Officers

Chairperson Dornfeld was re-elected to serve as Chairperson of the Police Commission. Commissioner Caporale made the motion and Commissioner Coffin seconded the motion.

All in Favor

The motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Caporale was re-elected to serve as Secretary of the Police Commission. Commissioner Frey made the motion and Commissioner Money seconded the motion.

All in favor

The motion carried unanimously

4. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail

Commissioner Caporale stated she received one voicemail for the month of October, which she addressed.

B. Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence received for the month of October.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Hiring Update

Major Platt stated we are moving forward in the hiring process of hiring a probationary police officer. For the next phase, ten candidates will be interviewed by the Police Commission followed by a conditional offer and a background check for the highest scoring candidate.

B. Public Safety Building Update

Major Platt stated minor changes were made to the over-all plan of the public safety building. The next follow up meeting with the working group is scheduled for December 4.

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic/Sign Report

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

Re: October 2024 Sign Report

Sign Repair/Maintenance:

1. Repaired the 25mph Speed Limit sign on Ramapoo Road.
2. Replaced the 25mph Speed Limit sign on Remington Road.
3. Moved Richard Ligi Memorial Sign on Ligi's Way.
4. Repaired the 7 Ton sign on Ramapoo Road at West Mountain Road.
5. Received an encroachment permit from the State DOT and placed the portable pedestrian sign at the crosswalk on Main Street near the Aldridge Museum.
6. Replaced the 25mph Speed Limit sign on Hayes Lane.
7. Installed a Curve sign on Ramapoo Road.
8. Replaced the Stop sign on Blue Ridge Road and Barrack Hill Road.
9. Repaired the Electronic Speed sign on Farmingville Road.

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
October 2024**

Training Attended:

- Oct. 9:** Captain Fowler and Lieutenant Durling attended Proactive Strategies for Officer Wellness at Alexion Pharmaceuticals in New Haven, CT.
- Oct. 9-13:** Detective Ladue attended Death Investigations at the Fairfield Regional Fire Academy.
- Oct. 21-23-24:** Dispatcher Rosario and Dispatcher Samaniego attended Telecommunicator Training at POSTC.
- Oct. 23-24:** SRO Seibert and Officer Olivares attended the Deflection Academy at the Newtown Police Department.
- Oct. 28-Nov.1:** Lieutenant Clarke attended Command Training Series Mid-Management at Roger Williams University (RWU) in Bristol, RI.
- October:** Several Officers assisted the 383rd Session (for Ofc. Almonte) at POSTC, throughout the month.
- October:** The entire department attended annual firearms qualifications at the Wooster Mountain Range. Training was instructed by Captain Fowler, Detective Dardis, Officer Olivares and Officer Clark.

P/R Events:

- Oct. 2:** Sergeant DiFalco and several other members of the department hosted Coffee-With-A-Cop at Fletch's Bagels.
- Oct. 4:** Officer Williams and Officer Clark were the recipients of this year's Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Award. The ceremony was held at the Mohegan Sun Resort. They were accompanied by Captain Smith and Lieutenant Knoche.

Oct. 26: Captain Raines completed the National Drug Take Back Day at HQ from 10:00am to 2:00pm, with assistance from the Ridgefield Prevention Council.

Oct. 31: Captain Raines, Officer Giglio, Officer Mulvihill, Officer Tamburino and Officer Pagliuco completed the 2024 Trunk or Treat at the Lounsbury House. The turnout was great, as usual.

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 17: Members of the Honor Guard will be attending the Annual Diocesan Blue Mass at Saint Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport, CT.

A total of 18 Public Relations were performed during the month(s) to include:

- Officers met with the staff and children at the Shir Shalom Temple.
- Several car seat installations were performed.
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees.
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out in regards to Police Activities & Safety Messages.

C. DEPARTMENT STATS

Major Platt stated the total number of incidents for the month of October 2024 was 1,428. He highlighted some of the statistics for the month.

7. Union Participation

None.

**Commissioner Money made a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm.
Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.**

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Issy Caporale
Police Commission Secretary