# Town of Ridgefield Police Commission Meeting Minutes
# Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 7:00 pm
# Meeting Location: Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Sharon Dornfeld (Chair), Issy Caporale (Secretary), John Frey, Ralph Money & Stephen Riebling
**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Jeff Kreitz, Major Nick Fowler & Amy Platt

These minutes are a general summary of the meeting and are not intended to be a verbatim transcription.

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.**

Motion made by John Frey to amend the agenda to allow New Business 6C to be heard first, followed by 6A and then 6B. Seconded by Issy Caporale. Motion carried 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Motion made by Ralph Money to approve the July meeting minutes. Seconded by Stephen Riebling. Motion carried 5-0.

2. Motion made by Ralph Money to approve the August Special meeting minutes. Seconded by Stephen Riebling. Motion carried 5-0.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** – None

4. **COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE**
   - **A. Voicemail** – None
   - **B. Written Correspondence** – None

5. **OLD BUSINESS**
   - **A.** Public Safety Committee
     - Ralph Money shared an update from the October 7th BOS meeting where a new Public Safety Committee charge was approved. The Committee will explore four options that include separate and combined public safety facilities for police and fire. Chief Kreitz added that he and Fire Chief Duckworth will meet weekly with members of their staff and the Committee to review concepts with Kaestle Boos Associates (KBA).

6. **NEW BUSINESS**
   - **A.** Route 35 Corridor Safety Review Update & Presentation by Greg Del Rio from Hardesty & Hanover (H&H)
     - Mr. Del Rio (Director of Transportation Planning & Engineering) summarized the traffic study that was completed for the area of Rte. 35/Danbury Rd. at Copps Hill Plaza.
       - H&H tracked traffic congestion from Copps Hill Plaza to the entrance of the Ridgefield Recreation Center.
       - The recommendation is to go to concurrent phasing of the crosswalks at the intersection of Farmingville Rd. and Copps Hill and pull in the crosswalks for better visibility.
       - A traffic signal is warranted at the entrance of the Ridgefield Recreation Center.

- Next steps include a follow-up with the CT DOT on October 22, 2026. Permits and designs to follow.
- The BOPC is in agreement with the crosswalk changes, and recommendations going forward. [Review full report.]

**B.** Route 7 Roadway Safety Audit
- Town Officials met with engineers from the CT DOT in late August to discuss safety improvements along the ½ mile stretch of Rte. 7 to the Danbury town line. [Review full report.]

**C.** PZC Special Permit Application: Golf Driving Range at Haviland Rd & Ethan Allen Highway parcel (across from Golf Performance Center).
- Attorney Bob Jewell and Site Engineer Steve Trinkaus shared plans for a golf driving range and ten parking spaces on behalf of their client. Traffic analysis was completed, but not a full traffic study. An existing crosswalk connects the property to the Golf Performance Center on the opposite side of Ethan Allen Hwy. The property will not be lighted, and is designed for use during daylight hours only.

John Frey moved to communicate to the Planning and Zoning Commission that the Board of Police Commissioners has reviewed the plans and has no objection to the applicant's proposal with regard to traffic control. Seconded by Stephen Riebling. Motion carried 4-1, with Caporale opposed.

**D.** PBA Annual Fundraiser Mailing
- The BOPC approved the PBA's annual fundraiser letter as written.

**E.** Citizen Survey
- The BOPC approved the survey which is sent out to the public every three years.

## 7. CHIEF'S REPORT

**A. Traffic / Sign Report** – Submitted by Sgt. Matthew Seibert
- The CT DOT approved a request for a speed limit decrease on Ritch Drive and Hulda Lane to 20 MPH; Updated speed limit signs were installed.
- Traffic accident data was reviewed for West Mountain Road between Oreneca Road and the State line. As a result, the department will install two 'Your Speed Signs' to help slow traffic.
- To address concerns about sight lines, there will be additional mowing and a yield sign installed at Lee Road and Limekiln Road.

**B. Training & Public Relations Report** – Submitted by Cpt. John Knoche

We continue to check-in with the local businesses and monitor areas for improvement. Foot patrols of Main Street, Ballard Park and Ballard Green took place. During these checks, the Officers spoke to residents and business owners.

Since July, there have been 51 foot patrols on Main Street and 2,083 security checks, including schools, bank checks, businesses, vacant properties, churches/synagogues and neighborhoods.

A total of 62 public relations calls/events took place between July-September, including: _____.

All 43 Officers attended one or more trainings during the months of July-September.

**Upcoming Events:**

1) 10/24 Drug Take-Back
2) 10/31 Halloween Trunk of Treat at Lounsbury House

**C. Department Statistics**

Chief Kreitz shared the Department's monthly incident statistics.

**D. Miscellaneous**

- The Department has secured a donation of $15,000 to go towards the purchase of a new police motorcycle.
- Kris Zulkeski has resigned as Animal Control Officer effective October 23, 2026. The search for a certified ACO has begun.
- Interviews for a certified Police Officer are underway to fill the vacancy left after Ofc. Girdvainis resigned.

**8. UNION PARTICIPATION** – No Union business was discussed.

With no further business, Issy Caporale moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. John Frey seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

**REMINDER: Next meeting Thursday, November 12, 2026 at 7:00pm**