

Town of Ridgefield Police Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 8, 2025 at 7:00 pm
Meeting Location: Town Hall Annex, 66 Prospect Street

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sharon Dornfeld (Chair), Issy Caporale (Secretary), Ralph Money, Stephen Riebling, John Frey

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Jeff Kreitz, Major Nick Fowler, Captain Jeff Raines & Amy Platt

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

Meeting called to order by Chair Sharon Dornfeld at 7:01 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Stephen Riebling to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes.
Seconded by Issy Caporale. Motion carried 5-0.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Motion by Chair Dornfeld to move New Business after public comment in consideration of Cpt. Raines' time. Seconded by Stephen Riebling. Motion carried 5-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Uniform Division Commanders' Annual Report

- Cpt. Jeffrey Raines presented an annual summary of the Uniform Division responsibilities, achievements and stats to the Commission. The Commission expressed their gratitude for the exceptional job the Patrol Division is doing for the Town.

4. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail – Mimosa Circle resident called with a complaint about the flow of traffic in the private accessway alongside 419 Main St.

B. Written Correspondence – None

5. OLD BUSINESS – None

6. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Traffic / Sign Report – Submitted by Sgt. Matthew Seibert

Sign Repair/Maintenance:

- Emailed the State about a speed limit sign on Rte. 7 near the Branchville train station needing to be installed, and the improper speed limit sign that was replaced on Rte. 116 due to an accident (35mph limit instead of 30 mph).
- In response to the Prospect Ridge complaint, the State installed a data counter temporarily (12/4-12). The data showed the following:
 - Total # of vehicles between 12/4 and 12/12 was 7,245
 - Average daily traffic was 891

Percentile	15%	50%	85%	95%
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Speed	20	24	29	31
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- Mean Speed (Average) 25.3 mph
- 10 mph Pace Speed: 21-30
- Number in Pace: 5,343
- Percent in Pace: 74.0%
- Number > 45 MPH 5
- Percent > 45 MPH 0.1%

Overall, this is a low rating for the area, so I would not recommend any changes at this time. I reached out to the resident and spoke with him in regards to the results from the data.

- Sgt. Seibert completed the Local Traffic Authority 101 course.

B. Training & Public Relations Report – Submitted by Cpt. Brian Durling

Trainings Attended:

- Cpt. Durling and Sgt. McMahon attended State Accreditation Training on 12/2/25 at the CT Police Academy in Meriden.
- Ofc. Clark completed his Drug Recognition Expert training in Florida 12/8-12/25.
- The entire department was trained in Taser, Body Worn Cameras, and De-escalation at RPD Headquarters 12/8-12.
- Det. Dardis and Ofc. Olivares attended Active Aggressor Instructor training in Storrs, CT 12/8-12/25.

P/R Events:

A total of 23 Public Relations were performed during the month, including:

- Several car seat installations were performed
- Officers met with local businesses and spoke with employees
- Multiple Social Media posts were put out
- Officers met with and provided security for several religious events
- Officers participated in the annual Shop with a Cop program, holiday shopping with families in need.
- Officers attended the annual Holiday Stroll, collecting for Toys for Tots, in conjunction with the Ridgefield detachment of the Marine Corps League.
- Officers teamed up with Ridgefield Social Services and local businesses to provide 33 Christmas dinners to families in need.

C. Department Statistics

- Chief Kreitz shared the Department's incident statistics. The annual statistics will be added to the Department website.

D. Miscellaneous

- Department's Special Squad will resume this winter; Focused on targeted traffic enforcement.

- Chief Kreitz and Major Fowler met with the First Selectperson and Finance regarding the FY2027 budget request. Next steps will be to present the budget to the BOS.

7. UNION PARTICIPATION – No Union business was discussed.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

- Discussion took place regarding the BOS' most recent meeting where they discussed selecting members for the new Police and Fire Facilities Committee.
- Motion made by Ralph Money and seconded by John Frey that the Board of Selectpersons include members of the Board of Police Commissioners as ex officio participants in the interview process to select members of the new Police and Fire Facilities Committee. Such participation is necessitated by State Statute and Town Code, consistent with past practice of joint BOS and BOPC facilities planning for the Fire and Police Departments, and would promote transparency with the public. Motion approved.

With no further business, Ralph Money moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Issy Caporale seconded the motion. Motion approved.

REMINDER: Next meeting Thursday, February 12, 2025 at 7:00pm