



Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Nate Marsh
Vice Chair Clark Hammelman
Robert Dziubla
Trevor Knotts
Richard Morton
Andy Powell
Steve Thayer
Laurie Van Court

Thursday, April 3, 2025

3:00 PM

Castle Rock Municipal Courtroom
100 Perry St., Castle Rock, CO 80104

This meeting is open to the public. Please note that all times indicated on the agenda are approximate and interested parties are encouraged to be present earlier than the posted time.

Call to Order and Attendance

Vice-Chairperson Hammelman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Guest - Commander Sam Varela and Officer Emanuel Cooper, Police Department

Present 6 - Vice Chair Clark Hammelman, Richard Morton, Steve Thayer, Laurie Van Court, Trevor Knotts, and Robert Dziubla

Not Present 2 - Chairperson Nate Marsh, and Andy Powell

Attendance 3 - Oren Bersagel-Briese, Jack Cauley, and Deborah Stanley

Approval of Meeting Minutes

[PS 2025-007](#) Public Safety Commission meeting minutes - Mar. 6, 2025

Attachments: [Public Safety Commission meeting minutes - Mar. 6, 2025](#)

Mr. Dziubla moved to approve the March 6, 2025 minutes. Ms. Van Court seconded the motion: the motion carried.

Yes: 6 - Vice Chair Hammelman, Morton, Thayer, Van Court, Knotts, and Dziubla

Not Present: 2 - Chairperson Marsh, and Powell

Fire Department Report

[PS 2025-008](#) CRFD February Report

Attachments: [CRFD February Report](#)

- Commission members were emailed a copy of the Fire Department's February report prior to today's meeting.
- Deputy Chief (DC) Bersagel-Briese reintroduced himself to the commission. Chief Croom is away, attending the 2025 Accreditation Conference.
- DC Bersagel-Briese thanked members for attending the Fire Department's Annual Banquet. As mentioned at the banquet, department members will receive a commemorative badge to mark the 130 anniversary of the founding of the department.
- March was a very busy month, with the department averaging 20 calls a day.
- Katt Walsh, the new accreditation manager, is now onboard. She came to us from the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

- The department has completed and submitted its 2026-2030 budget requests to Finance for review. Are there any big dollar items in the future budget? - The department has facility and equipment upgrade needs (which include long term planning for replacement items). Are there any new vehicle requests? The vehicle that was to be ordered next year has been moved up to this year, as build times are four years out. Does 2-A change the budget process? No, the timeline and review process remain the same. Funding for additional staff members through 2-A come from a separate fund.
- The department has just completed its lateral hiring process (as part of 2-A). 10 lateral candidates have been selected to move forward in the screening process. The Lateral Academy is scheduled to start at the end of this month and will go for six weeks.
- The department is receiving a new medic unit in June. The department is also installing auto dispensing units for controlled substances, similar to what is used by the hospitals.
- DC Bersagel-Briese spoke briefly about last week's house fire on Tee Lane. A crew member at the scene, partially fell through the floor and called a Mayday. He was able to extricate and was uninjured.
- The department is in the process of adding additional beds, shower and furnishings at Station 155 in preparation of the new medic unit at the station. In addition, the department is evaluating space allocations at Headquarters.
- The decision has been made to move the Station 156 site away from the flood plain. The station will now be located on the south side of Castle Oaks and Pleasant View.
- DC Bersagel-Briese and members of the apparatus team are flying out at the end of the month to the Pierce factory, to conduct a pre-inspection on the reserve apparatus.
- The department has selected OAK to manage the pre-construction services for Station 156.

Police Department Report

[PS 2025-009](#) CRPD February Report

Attachments: [CRPD February Report](#)

- Commission members were emailed a copy of the Police Department's February report prior to today's meeting.
- Chief Cauley introduced Commander Sam Varela and Officer Emanuel Cooper to commission members.
- Criminal offenses are down. Castle Rock has been ranked the 8th safest city in Colorado and is the only front range community to make the list.
- The Citizens' Police Academy kicked off last night with 30 attendees. It is one of the Police Department's most popular community programs.
- With the passing of 2-A, the department is hiring 11 positions (9 sworn, 1 dispatcher, and an Animal Control Supervisor). The department continues to attract great candidates and does not focus

on traditional matrixes. Are these lateral hires? - Both lateral, and candidates needing a full academy. Some from other states as well. Brief discussion on lateral hiring.

- The Police Department was complimented on its social media posts and emails. Great job.

Special Presentation - Officer Emanuel Cooper

Officer Emanuel Cooper gave a presentation on his book "The Rookie Handbook - How to Become the Officer Every Department Wants and Every Department Needs".

New Business

n/a

Old Business

n/a

Commissioner Comments and Questions

- Vice-Chairperson Hammelman informed Commission members that the Rotary Club is setting up collection barrels at both Fire and Police, to collect used crutches, walkers and wheel chairs.

Adjourn

Ms. Van Court made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Morton seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

The next Public Safety Commission meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at the Police Department.