Public Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes - Final

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

Thursday, December 4, 2025	**3:00 PM**	**Castle Rock Municipal Courtroom**
		100 Perry St., Castle Rock, CO 80104

Call to Order and Attendance

Chairperson Hammelman called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

Present 8 - Richard Morton, Laurie Van Court, Andy Powell, Robert Dziubla, Trevor Knotts, Steve Thayer, Laura Cavey, and Steven Goedecke

Attendance 3 - Jack Cauley, Norris Croom, and Kim Stremel

Approval of Meeting Minutes

PS 2025-029   Public Safety Commission Meeting Minutes - November 6, 2025

Commission Member Van Court requested the question posed concerning the Fire Department's Chief Medical Officer be included in the discussion notes. Chairperson Hammelman requested notation of the January meeting date change from January 1 to January 8, 2026.

PS 2025-030   CRFD October Report

- **Station 156 Neighborhood Meeting:** The November 16th neighborhood meeting was held to discuss Station 156. Area residents raised numerous infrastructure-related questions. Chief Croom and Mark Marlowe the director of Castle Rock Water, met with residents to address concerns. Councilmember Cavey stated she is also available to meet with community members to answer questions.
- **Certificates of Participation:** The first reading was approved. The second reading is scheduled for the 16th of December. As a reminder, the COPs will be issued in January to bridge an $8 million funding gap.
- **Staff Updates:** Logistics Chief, Jeff Wenzel, from Rio Rancho, New Mexico,will begin on January 5, 2026.
- An academy graduation is scheduled for December 19th; the department is already down two personnel heading into next year.
- **Plane Crash Incident**: A plane lost power near Prairie Hawk and Wolfensberger and performed an emergency landing. There were no injuries or fire. Castle Rock Fire and Castle Rock Police both responded and had the roadway reopened within two hours. Approximately 10 gallons of fuel were on the ground, with no fuel leakage issues.
- Commission Member Questions from the monthly report:
- Commissioner Dzuibla asked what a jersey barrier is; staff explained it is a concrete barrier.
- Commissioner Dzuibla also asked about 260,000 Facebook impressions; staff confirmed impressions vary depending on the topic.

[PS 2025-031](#)   CRPD October Report

- **Leadership Development:** The Chief and Commander Varela attended a leadership summit with Simon Sinek. They collaborated with chiefs and sheriffs from across the county to discuss leadership topics, best practices, and professional policing issues.
- **Starlighting Event:** Approximately 47,000 attendees participated, with no major issues reported.
- **Therapy Dog Program:** Buttercup, a therapy dog, retired after four years of service. Scott Gillespie was recognized for his work developing the School Resource Officer Therapy Dog Program and has been invited to present at the IACP Wellness Conference.
- **Infinite Game of Policing:** Chief Cauley presented this program at the DC Police Leadership Academy - an international program dedicated to career development for policing leaders. Chief Cauley is considering sending CRPD personnel to participate in the future.
- **Recruitment and Training:** Three recruitments remain open, and retaining over hire status continues to be challenging. An Animal Welfare Officer and a Dispatcher will attend the academy in January.
- **Adoption of 2024 MTC:** New regulations prohibit the use of golf carts on roadways and restrict e-motorcycles and dirt bikes. Officers typically need to make contact with the driver to determine compliance. Chief Cauley encouraged residents to review the updates through the Town's social media campaign.   Councilmember Cavey added that Council also adopted a policy allowing vehicles with expired plates, no license, or no insurance to be towed.
- **Drone Program:** The second of four drones entered service just before Thanksgiving. Staff movement within the building is occurring due to promotions. Additional personnel, including dispatchers, are being trained as drone pilots.

New Business

Introduction of newly appointed PSC member, Steven Goedecke.

Old Business

- The Philip S. Miller Foundation Resource Grants presented to Council on November 18th were approved.
- Commission Vacancy:
  - One six-month vacancy remains.
  - The position was advertised by the Town Manager's Office, with no responses received.
  - Staff recommended leaving the position vacant.
  - Motion by Chairman Hammelman to approve the position vacancy of the Castle Rock Public Safety Commission. Motion seconded Commission Member Morton. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments and Questions

- Commissioner Dzuibla asked whether a citizen at Target wearing

camouflage clothing and openly carrying a firearm warrants a 911 call?

- The Chief explained that open carry is legal, however, businesses may restrict entry, and CRPD cannot take action unless behavior is suspicious.
- Commissioner Hammelman asked about enforcement of federal laws near schools.
- The Chief advised calling if something appears suspicious so officers can check it out.
- Commissioner Van Court asked whether DCSO notifies CRPD during DUI stops involving a grappler.
- The Chief explained notification does not always occur if CRPD assistance is not needed.
- Commissioner Dzuibla asked whether written warnings affect a driving record; the answer was no.
- Commissioner Morton asked whether AI may require a dedicated staff member in the future. The Chief stated AI may eventually become both a specialty and a common tool.
- Use of AI and Photo Verification: Commissioner Van Court asked how CRPD verifies photos submitted by the public that is seen on social media or for evidentiary purposes .The Chief stated that additional verification steps are taken and authentication experts may be used as AI adoption increases.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.