

# PC 2013/06/05

Rochester Police Commission  
Rochester, NH 03867

James F. McManus, Jr., Chairman  
Alan B. Bemis, Vice Chairman  
David E. Winship, Jr., Commissioner

## MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting in City Hall Council Chambers on June 5, 2013. Present at this meeting was Comm. McManus, Comm. Bemis, Comm. Winship, Chief Allen, Capt. Triano, Capt. Toussaint, Attorney Grossman, Chaplain Lachapelle and recording Secretary Warburton; as well as members of the Department and the public.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

A. Pledge. All participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Prayer. Chaplain Lachapelle led the opening prayer.

C. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking all Commissioner's present.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment offered.

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

A. May 1, 2013

**Comm. Winship MOVED to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2013, meeting as presented. SECOND by Comm. Bemis and PASSED.**

4. **OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. Budget Update: FY 14. Chief Allen said we presented our budget to the Council on May 22. The Council is still reviewing the presentations and will start deliberations soon.

Our recent proposal to change the timeline of when we purchase cars did

not get the support of the Council at their meeting. We are hopeful that our CIP request will be approved. We continue to follow our cruiser replacement plan.

Comm. McManus said that in order for us to realize the best price we need to go out to bid before any budget is passed. Maybe the Council will start to build that in rather than waiting until the end of the useful life of a car.

Chief Allen said that the up front capital investment is significant, but there would be long term cost savings. I do understand the Council's budget constraints. They have a tough job with the tax cap and having to make it affordable while meeting the needs of the City Departments. I am hopeful again that the Council does support the CIP in our next fiscal year.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Oaths. Officer Kyle Danie and Officer John Bourque took their respective oaths as patrolman for the City of Rochester, administered by Attorney Grossman. Their friends and families were on hand to witness this achievement.

### **B. Recognition and Awards**

1. Civilian Service Award – Jeffrey Reilly. Chief Allen said tonight we will be presenting the Civilian Service Award. We don't give it out that often. The civilian service award is given to a person in the community who distinguishes him or herself in an act of heroism, assistance to a law enforcement officer or other citizen, for outstanding contributions to law enforcement.

To provide some background on this I can tell you that on May 6, 2013, officers responded to the intersection of Columbus Ave and South Main Street for a report of a man who had doused himself with gasoline and was attempting to light himself on fire. Mr. Reilly happened to be in the area and witnessed the attempt. Without regard or thought for his own safety he ran into the intersection and tackled this subject to the ground preventing him from further harm and ultimately saving his life.

This was a tragic and difficult situation. Witnesses to the incident said it was a pretty emotional thing to watch. Most people in this situation would not have done what Mr. Reilly did. Mr. Reilly was presented with a certificate and a chief's law enforcement challenge coin in recognition of his heroic acts.

Mr. Reilly said today, June 5<sup>th</sup>, we stand on the precipice of D-Day, tomorrow, the memorial, when so many brave Americans laid down their lives to free Europe from fascism and to spread liberty and justice throughout the

world. This is not about me. I'd like to recognize the police officers, fire fighters and medical personnel who put on those uniforms every day, on the front lines, especially in these tense days. Those are the real hero's. Thank you.

2. Retirement Recognition – Capt. Tony Triano . Tony has served with the Police Department for 24 years and is retiring at the end of June. He began his career with the Department in June 1989. During his 10 years as a patrol officer, he served as a field training officer and a DARE instructor. He also served as a HUD patrol officer until 2004, when he was promoted to the rank of sergeant. In 2008 he was promoted to lieutenant, and in 2011, he was promoted to the rank of captain.

Chief Allen said that Tony has been an integral part of the senior management team, during this past year. "I'm really sad to see Tony go." "I've served my whole career with Tony ... I'm proud to have worked with him. I'm going to miss you and I know everyone in the room will miss you as well."

Chief Allen said that during the past 24 years, Triano has become greatly respected by members of the Police Department, the Police Commission, and himself. "He has really left a strong legacy in this Police Department." "He gave his heart and soul to this Police Department for 24 years."

Captain Triano was presented with a Chief's challenge coin as well as a "shirt" plaque displaying his achievements during the course of his career.

Capt. Triano said it has been an honor and privilege to serve the City of Rochester all these years. I want to thank this administration, past administrations, this Commission and past Commissions for having seen something in me that afforded me the opportunity to advance in my career. He said to the new recruits sworn in - When you make a mistake, and believe me you will make mistakes. It is

inevitable. Own up to it, and move forward. "Nothing is going to ruin your career quicker than if you hide behind it or fail to be truthful." To these officers families he said, "have some patience. This is a tough and stressful position for them to be in." I could not have made it this far without the support of my friends and my family, my work family - meaning the officers and my family here with me tonight, and especially my beautiful wife Kelli.

Kelli Triano was presented with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her support.

C. Accept Resignation: Officer Rachel Roberts. Chief Allen noted that Officer Rachel (nee Ricker) Roberts has tendered her resignation. The Commission asked that a letter be drafted to Rachel for her service, noting that she's been very good for the City and we hate to see her go.

Comm. Bemis noted that she is processing for a position in Texas. She won't have any trouble finding a job. She's done a wonderful job for us.

**Comm. McManus MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Roberts, with regret. SECOND by Comm. Bemis and PASSED unanimously.**

D. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Capt. Triano said there has been good work ongoing in the city which can be attributed to the RUN program. We are seeing an increase in attendance at meetings.

Residents at Royal Crest Park (Ward 2) provided information about drug activity in the park and arrests were made. At the recent ward 4 meeting some of the same issues on Pine Street were again brought up concerning drug activity and code issues. We have been working closely with Sheldon Perkins from the Code office to make more of an impact there.

One of the issues we have consistently been dealing with is the theft of the trash toters. The toters are assigned to the property address, not individual tenants. Lt. Bossi has made a suggestion through his work on the Rental Property Owners Association to get property owners to implement new strategies on the toters particularly those being removed when the renters are leaving. They cost about \$50.00 to replace. He created an information packet and also suggested that the property owners add the toter to the inspection sheet so they can make sure its still there when the tenant leaves. Hopefully this will make an impact.

Our K9 unit was busy this period with 11 call outs. On one call out he tracked a burglary suspect from the scene back to his residence and an arrest was made. We are fortunate that we have Keith. He does an outstanding job. He made a good impression during his presentation at the Citizens' Academy.

The Citizens' Academy graduated in May with 11 participants. They were exposed to everything from firearms to the family justice center. They were all receptive and we are waiting to get

back the reviews.

The midnight shift is still participating once a week having breakfast with the children at St. Charles under the direction of Lt. Bossi. The timing of that shift makes it more challenging to do community policing. The children love having the officers visit.

The motorcycle unit added Officer Kusnierz and Officer Seckendorf to the unit. They will be going through their certification training June 10 - 14. The promotions we've made in patrol put certified officers into different areas of the department. Adding these two will be a boost to the unit.

Comm. McManus said we lease two motorcycles. When are the motorcycles used?

Weather permitting they are used on days and second shift, if we have staff available. Both Sgt. Babine and Sgt. Brinkman are motorcycle officers and occasionally will get out on the bikes if there is a Lieutenant working. But it is not conducive for them to be on the bike if they need to be available to patrol and need the supervisor vehicle. We don't run them on the midnight shift or after certain hours.

Captain Toussaint provided the report for the Support Division. He noted that the additional detective in ISB has been beneficial. We are seeing increases in tips through face book and crime line, and the additional manpower allows us to act on these tips. We also partner with local

agencies such as Probation and Parole. Our case load is manageable with few cases pending assignment.

We are up to staff in the communications center.

Our POP unit continues to do excellent work. Officer Hayes is a member of many different organizations and goes to different ward meetings each month. We are looking forward to the Wings and Wheels event on June 8 from 10 – 2 at Skyhaven. It is open to the public with all contributions going to support the food pantry.

We had 81 applications submitted for the open secretary position in prosecution. We held interviews over a two-day period and currently have a conditional offer issued pending completion of a back ground.

The School Resource Officers and Officer Balint, along with Bridging the Gaps held the mock DWI crash on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at the school. This was held in cooperation with Fire, EMS, the funeral home, local judges and the county attorney. We took it from a mock crash all the way through a trial and sentencing. It is important for the students to get a visual to what really happens in a crash where alcohol is involved. We hope it will cause the students to make good choices.

Off. Blair has decided to step down from his position as the High School Resource Officer. We've had several candidates express an interest. We'd like to get this filled so this person gets

a running start for the beginning of the school year. We are coordinating oral boards with our staff and the school staff.

The final teen night of the year was held on May 4<sup>th</sup>. This event has been growing by leaps and bounds. A big part of the success has been the work of Diversion Coordinator Nicole Rodler, the staff of the Rec Department and Bridging the Gaps. The parents know it's a safe place for the kids and gives them an opportunity to interact with police officers in a less formal setting.

2. Administration. Chief Allen said the comp stat report showcases our efforts in targeting property crime are paying off year to date. The increase in shoplifting events is skewing the overall number. We have an increased focus on working with the retailers in the community to take a no tolerance approach and this is widely publicized through the media and our face book page. The reason we are doing that is because we are putting an emphasis to try to deter those that would be of mind to commit a future offense.

All other categories of property crime are down, some very significantly. Thefts from motor vehicles, historically a major problem is down year to date by 37%.

The Commission inquired do you think between all that we are doing that people are paying attention?

Chief Allen said yes in part. Our efforts with DDACTS and education outreach contribute as well. We are



seeing positive results with the good work officers do. All these things we do in terms of enforcement and education play a role in our success. We are only five months through the year, but we are encouraged by these numbers and look forward for these positive impacts to continue.

Comm. Bemis commented that this is a focus of the Ward meetings and our effectiveness in combating some of these issues is because they are discussed at these meetings.

Chief Allen said an important part of our success comes from involving the community.

The budget is winding down for this fiscal year. We are still projecting a surplus, attributed to attrition during the year with savings in salaries and benefits.

We do have a couple of potentially big ticket items we may have to purchase this fiscal year. The recording system that records the cameras in the building is broken beyond repair and we are working with a vendor to get us a replacement. This is a high liability area and we can't continue to have the system be down, particularly in an area such as booking. The other area is the com log recorder that does radio and phones, another high liability area. So far the fixes we've done have just been a band aid. The system has reached the end of its lifespan. We didn't budget for either item but will work with the finance director to hopefully free up some funds for these.

Officer Geoff Moore has moved into the FTO phase of his training.

#### E. Other

Comm. McManus noted that the ceremonies tonight were nice. It's good for the citizens and taxpayers to see the new officers take their oaths. This police department is a jewel in the City. We have a good team working together.

Chief Allen echoed those statements 100%. This is one of the best police departments in the state in my opinion. We are fortunate to have a police commission that has done a wonderful job in hiring decisions you have made to bring top quality law enforcement officers into our department. That is an integral part of our success. Our Department staff does wonderful work. Chief Allen said they make me look good. I attribute our success to the work they do, and the work the management team does in leading and directing them in the job they do, holding them accountable. This is a team effort of Commission, staff, officers and support.

Comm. Bemis said that one of the hardest decisions we've made was the promotion of Captains and Lieutenants. It is rewarding to be a part of it. We'll go through it again if we can find someone capable who wants to qualify for the Lieutenants positions. We have a lot of good candidates to choose from. I want to thank you for your hard work. This is the first term being a Commissioner where folks are quiet, not emailing us with problems

and concerns due to police actions. That tells us a lot. This is a good job you and the staff are doing. I'm very proud to have you running the Rochester Police Department.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Members of the Department, including the following were recognized this month. Det. Jeremiah Murphy is recognized by Asst. County Amy Feliciano for his work and testimony on a recent case. Off. Kimbrough is thanked by Ms. Jimenez-Jenkins for his demeanor in a recent incident he responded to. Off. Turner is thanked by Director Karly Lapierre for her longstanding commitment to the reading program at the after school program for the children at Cold Spring Manor. Dep. Chief Scott Dumas and Capt. Tony Triano are thanked by a participant for their dedication to the Citizens' Police Academy.

**7. INFORMATION:**

- Information Other; enclosed with Agenda: No discussion.
- Other.
  1. No Regular Meeting in July.

**Comm. McManus MOVED to suspend holding a regular meeting in July. SECOND by Comm. Winship and PASSED unanimously.**

**8. NON-PUBLIC SESSION:  
(Pursuant to: RSA 91-A:3)**

**Commissioner McManus MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 8:23 P.M.**

**pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) SECOND by Comm. Winship. The motion PASSED by roll call vote with Comm. Winship, Comm. Bemis and Comm. McManus all voting in the affirmative. The non-public session closed at 9:05 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. McManus, SECOND by Comm. Winship and PASSED unanimously.**

**9. MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Following the non public session the Commission took the following action:**

**Comm. Bemis MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Det. Mike Mundy and Sgt. Stephen Burke. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 9:8:44 P.M.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Comm. Bemis MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 9:07 P.M.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rebecca J. Warburton,  
Secretary**