



Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867

Derek J. Peters, Commissioner
David R. Stevens, Commissioner
David E. Winship, Jr. Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall, Council Chambers. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Winship, Chief Boudreau, Dep. Chief Thomas, Capt. Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley, Attorney Andrea Mitrushy and Secretary Warburton. Also present were invited guests, members of the public and department in the audience.

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

All participated in the pledge of allegiance.

Chaplain Cilley led us in prayer.

A. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Winship present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. October 5, 2022.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the October 5, 2022 meeting. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as presented PASSED 3-0.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No old or unfinished business.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Oaths

1. Officer Matthew Baril. Matthew Baril took the oath as a new patrol officer, administered by Attorney Andrea Mitrushy.

2. Sgt. Spencer Aube. Spencer Aube took the oath for promotion to Sergeant, administered by Attorney Andrea Mitrushy.

B. Policy Update: Policy 32.1.1 Police Officer Selection, Personnel Selection. First reading.

Chief Boudreau said that we have talked about this in prior meetings. The catalyst for the review deals with the policy we have in place that officers have to live within a 25 mile radius of the police department. This has been in place for at least 15 years. Chief Boudreau said I didn't consult with other agencies about this. I know several agencies do have residency requirements but most do not. I did consult with the Fire Department. They increased their radius to 50 miles, in light of finding a workforce, and housing, affordable housing for the workforce. The fire department gets called back much more frequent than an officer so looking at a 50 miles radius is reasonable. Included are two different aerial maps to show the areas encompassed.

Chief Boudreau said personally and from a Chief standpoint I'd like all officers to live in city limits, but that is not realistic. Many of the other changes are simple housekeeping so that our policy reflects what we are doing in practice.

Comm. Peters asked if we have to specifically list the EEOC language, if we are an EEOC agency.

Chief Boudreau said this addresses federal regulations and simply spells it out. Keeping it makes it clear.

Comm. Peters asked in the job announcement section, us and Great Bay are the two agencies testing. What if there are others? Would it be a benefit to list any other approved agency in case another comes on board?

Chief Boudreau replied that that Great Bay holds a test twice a year. The upcoming test has 17 registered. Sixty-seven agencies pull from that list. If another agency does come on we could make that recommendation to adjust at that time.

Comm. Stevens commented that the 25-mile radius has impacted us a couple of times and we lost a couple of candidates due to them living slightly further out.

This being the first reading we will bring it back next month.

C. Monthly Reports

1). Operations. There are 57 cases under investigation in detectives. This is down slightly from the past couple of months where we had a spree of criminal mischief and vandalism. We did make an arrest of an adult in those cases. Several other cases are at the juvenile level.

We are getting Det. Govoni ready to complete forensic downloads of phones. There is different training, skills and effort involved.

Sgt. Benjamin has moved into the ISB Sergeant role. He is training under Lieutenant Aucoin. It will be good to have the various levels of supervision all working together.

COMPSTAT: We are keeping an eye on traffic accidents. They are up this reporting period, but without any major contributing factors. We are seeing a lot of parking lot accidents where people are pulling in, or backing out.

Property crime is down 16% from last year. This is a positive thing. There are no major concerns in violent crimes year to date or in this reporting period.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. Since taking on this role Officer Kimbrough has been active attending meetings in the city, working with the city community outreach coordinator and doing other proactive work such as Teen Night, Trunk or Treat and the Zombie walk and attending the community coffee events. We are really glad to have the program back up and running regularly.

COMMUNICATIONS: We are still addressing the staffing shortage in communications and trying to get applicants for those roles. We do have a couple in training but have four vacancies to fill.

DIVERSION: Nicole remains very active with her committees. She is working a lot of Waypoint and getting their resource information out there. She attended the recent Drug Take Back Day. We collected 8 large boxes, weighing roughly 200 pounds of unused and unwanted medication.

HIRING: Dep. Chief Thomas stated we issued a conditional offer this week. We have two backgrounds that are almost complete. If those do pan out, it will leave us with four openings. New Officer Baril has been on a week and a half.

HOUSING. The weather has slowed some activity. There were 31 calls for service, which is a decrease. Officer Babine continues to monitor transient activity.

K9: Officer Hatch and K9 Ripley attended a tracking seminar in Virginia. Our prior K9's have attended this training in the past. It is very beneficial. They responded to six separate call outs. 5 tracks of missing people and one article search.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS: School has been in session for two months and both SRO's are taking active roles in schools with parent and student issues in conjunction with the school, attending Teen night, assisting patrol and ISB with investigations, presenting at the driving schools, completing active shooter training sessions. The school resource officers are a valuable role in our schools.

There was an open house for the Explorer Program. We are holding the application period open for a few more days. Next month we will have more of an idea of what the numbers in the post will look like.

TRAINING: Training in the past few months has picked up. We have two officers set to graduate the academy in 2.5 weeks. We currently have four in field training. Adding Officer Baril, and the two academy graduates increases that to seven. That does put a strain on the Department and the training coordinator putting in a lot of extra work with his regular responsibilities.

We have three new field training officers taking on two of the four and being new FTO's makes that aspect hectic.

Comm. Peters commented the beauty is that we have new officers. We should have seven on the street by the end of the year.

Sgt. Aube is just completing his shadow period with another sergeant or lieutenant reviewing specific tasks. He will be going solo sergeant starting Sunday.

2.) Administration: Dep. Chief Thomas said he is expecting a call any day from McFarland Ford on the two frontline and one backline cars we ordered. We know there is a significant difficulty in getting vehicles, for everyone. So with the remaining vehicles we have left to purchase – the van to replace the swat truck, one additional front line car, and two backline cars (replace an existing and one additional) – we received a purchasing waiver from finance to use a three quote system rather than the formal bid process. We are reaching out to dealerships to see what they have.

We know there are no more 2022 Interceptors. The 2023 models have a price increase of about \$10,000, and we have changeover costs as well. We are going to move forward with purchasing just one backline car for now with the funds available.

Comm. Peters said so we will keep the Focus.

Chief Boudreau said we discussed this with the deputy finance director; our concern with skyrocketing prices of cars. We try to be conservative with our estimates when building the budget based on current year prices. Prices have increased since building the budget last year. I don't think we will have enough to cover what we asked for. We will buy what we can and see where we are at and then make a decision. The Focus rolled over 107,000 miles, yesterday. There won't be much trade value, but we will see what we can get.

We had one purchase over \$5,000.00 for annual ammunition purchases.

Comm. Peters asked about cruisers costs for next year. Will they go up again prior to July?

Chief Boudreau said that is hard to say. We will get the budget memo and direction by the end of the month and we will start building in December.

Comm. Peters suggested working with finance to see if we can allocate the money to get them ordered early enough to purchase 2023's so we are not in a position where we cannot get them.

Chief Boudreau said that is something we can look to do. Even if we talk to the dealership, if they order them, there is a police department out there that will take them if we don't.

The Foley 5K Freedom Run was held this period. It was a beautiful day and there was a large turnout.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received this period: Lt. Turner, Sgt. Williams-Hurley, Officer Labosier, Officer Moon and Officer Colson are thanked for their compassion and professionalism in responding to a residence in the past year regarding an untimely death and a second call for a fall.

7. INFORMATION:

Comm. Peters offered on behalf of the Commission for all to have a Happy Thanksgiving and holidays as they enjoy time with family.

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

Commissioner Stevens MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:40 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel). Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

The non-public session closed at 8:00 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to seal the minutes of the non-public session. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Winship. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED the evaluations and merit track increase for Officer Brendan Colson (patrol merit track 3) and Sgt. William Robinson (Sgt. merit track 2) Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 12/07/2022