



Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867

David R. Stevens, Commissioner
Lisa M. Stanley, Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Police Department, second floor - lecture hall. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Lt. Bossi, Comm.-Elect Winship, Comm.-Elect Peters, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton.

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

All participated in the pledge of allegiance.

Chaplain Cilley led all in prayer.

B. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner Stevens and Commissioner Stanley present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. October 6, 2021 regular meeting.

**Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the minutes of the October 6, 2021 meeting.
Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes, as clarified, PASSED unanimously.**

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No old or unfinished business.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Monthly Reports:

1. Operations: Capt. Thomas and Lt. Bossi shared reporting of operations.

Capt. Thomas said on the support side of operations there were 32 cases sent up from patrol or detective generated. There are currently 75 cases assigned. There were 40 cases presented virtually to the Grand Jury and all were true bills. There were three polygraphs and five backgrounds.

COMPSTAT: Lt. Bossi reported that field activities have been consistent with prior months. We are looking to see those increase as staffing increases when officers are released from training. We had two fatal car crashes this period. One was a single vehicle crash, the other was a car vs motorcycle.

Property crime had a slight increase in thefts from motor vehicles. These occurred on a variety of nights. All were crimes of opportunity, from unlocked vehicles. Property crime is down over all 18% from this time last year.

We had three fatal overdoses this period. They are under investigation. Of the drugs seized all were from search incident to arrest.

In violent crime there were four aggravated assaults, three of them from domestic violence incidents. We had a shooting incident on Lafayette Street that remains under investigation. As a whole, violent crime is down 23% year to date.

Comm. Stevens inquired how often we are using Narcan now. When it first became available, it seemed like we were using it daily, but we don't hear much about that now.

Law enforcement use of Narcan is down as civilians have much more access to Narcan than they did previously. Typically by the time law enforcement arrives, Narcan has been administered by civilians. If PD and EMS arrive at the same time, we are going to defer to EMS to administer Narcan. There are some outreach advocate groups that have been providing Narcan kits to people. However a lot of the cases we respond to, such as meth, Narcan has no effect on those.

Chief Toussaint added that the fatal overdoses we are seeing many of them have been deceased for a while and were by themselves prior to overdosing.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER/PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING UNIT:
As has been reported both the CEO and the POP officers have been reassigned to patrol. However Officer Danie and Sergeant Benjamin did attend the McDonald's and the NH Chiefs of Police Association event where Community Policing Awards were presented to officers from around the state.

Officer Danie, Det. Govoni and Sergeant Turner conducted a RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) training class that had 17 attendees.

Sgt. Benjamin assisted at Drug Take Back Day where 7 boxes of unwanted prescription medication weighing in at 167.5 pounds was collected for proper disposal.

COMMUNICATIONS: We have received an additional resignation in the center, which, shortly will bring our total open spots to 3; the current opening, and one another who is transitioning over to being a police officer. This newest resignation, the employee has requested to remain per diem and is seeking other employment opportunities in the City.

DIVERSION: Of note in this section is that Diversion Coordinator Nicole Rodler was selected by the Governor to be on the Juvenile Justice Reform Committee representing Diversion in the State. The first meeting is set for the end of November.

HONOR GUARD: The Honor Guard participated in retirement protocols for Sgt. Emerson. In addition to being presented with a flag that was flown over the police department, there was a final walk out and saluting procession.

HOUSING: Both Officer Mundy and Officer Babine work well together to handle housing duties. The calls have been consistent with prior months. They are patrol the properties on foot and by vehicle. It is believed doing so has prevented some calls. The residents at the Art Nickless building are starting a neighborhood watch and the officers are assisting with logistics.

Comm. Stevens inquired if there is a contract coming due with Housing and the Police.

It was noted the contract was recently signed. They will have to reexamine the pay structure with having two officers and more hours dedicated. We met with Director Price who will be building recommendations into the budget for July 1.

Comm. Stevens asked about the Housing Car. That car was purchased by housing several years ago. We provide the equipment in the car, the insurance and the maintenance and upkeep.

K9: Gunner was used three times over the past month, however no persons were located. As of October 31, Gunner is now officially retired from duty with the Rochester PD, and has been re-housed with former Officer MacKenzie and his family.

Officer Hatch and Ripley continue working with the Working Dog Foundation. They recently attended a training in Virginia. It is expected they will be certified as a team in 2022. They will not be available for call outs until certified.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS: Officer Porfido has been assigned to patrol due to staffing. Sgt. Deluca and Officer Jackson are engaged in normal school activities and are also teaching their LEAD classes.

2. Administrative.

Mobile Dispatching: The dispatch trailer has been picked up and all of the gear and trailer are at 2-Way. They will begin renovating the sleeping area into a 2-console dispatch station. They will set up the radio gear in their lab and then transfer all of that into the trailer.

Radio Replacement Project- DPW is getting ready to move into their new facility. Once all the IT and switching is set up we can work with 2-Way to bring that tower on line.

Dep. Chief Boudreau met with Chief Breault of Dover regarding adding an antenna to the Long Hill Road Tower. We need to provide him with more information, such as the tower height and the equipment in the cabinet. From there we will craft and sign an MOU with Dover about the equipment and that we are responsible if anything should happen to it. For example a lightning strike. There won't be any additional charge for tower rental.

Body Cameras – We submitted a letter to finance to waive the purchasing policy for the body cameras and to not go out to bid. We had demonstrations from Axon, Bodyworn and WatchGuard, and requested pricing from them. WatchGuard was the least expensive of the three. Since we started this project last year, initially there were big upfront costs, and then smaller backend maintenance and software agreement costs. The major manufacturers have adjusted their pricing to have little or no upfront costs but you are locked into a five year contract.

Chief Toussaint said this is similar to the Taser-60 program.

When asked how many units we are talking about Dep. Chief Boudreau said that we feel that 60 is a good number, which will cover patrol, detectives and sergeants. If the camera breaks in that period they replace it. They do recommend replacing batteries at roughly 3.5 years.

Comm. Stanley asked if the cameras are individual to each officer. Dep. Chief Boudreau replied that they are.

Comm. Stanley said we are roughly two months out from the state money being available for this. Hopefully this is still on our radar.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that it is.

Comm. Stevens asked if we are recommending WatchGuard.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that is his recommendation. They have our in car cameras already. Both Axon and Bodyworn had options for in-car cameras as well, but it was more money. Both Dover and Manchester are using Bodyworn.

Comm. Stevens asked if they could come back and do a demonstration for the Commission?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said he will send some information on this.

Comm. Elect Peters asked if we are using cloud storage and if there are additional fees? Will the cruiser cameras now also be cloud storage?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said we will be cloud storage for both the body cameras and cruiser cameras. The costs quoted for the body cameras covers it all. We could have upgraded the in car cameras, but it would add \$130,000 to the project. We talked about it. It's a huge expense, even spread over five years.

We are planning as we purchase new cruisers we will purchase new cameras.

The Commission asked could you use the state funding for the body cameras, and use the CIP for the cruiser cameras. We would have to look further into that.

Comm. Stevens asked how much more time would we need, how much management will it need and whom will do that?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that the officer can tag the body camera footage and add a property number, which the evidence technician can then pull down from the cloud. There will be some increased work. We have been considering this could be one of the duties for the second part-time Administrative Technician in records. We just don't know how much extra time will be involved at this point.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said I don't think it will be that labor intensive. The redaction software has come leaps and bounds. You can draw a box around the face of a person in the video and it will follow that person throughout the entire recording for redaction.

Training. The recruits in the academy have just finished up week 9. We worked with one of them on some firearms shooting fundamentals. This recruit prior to being hired had never handled a firearm before. The two officers in the law package are also progressing. When they are not doing the law package they are in field training.

B. Other.

1. Chief Toussaint advised the he and the Deputy Chief attended a meeting in Somersworth about the Willand Pond encampment. They wanted to share with neighboring communities the plan for moving the people off of this private property on Monday in the event they needed mutual aid. They don't anticipate needing us, as they have a good plan in place.

Comm. Stanley said one thing she noticed was that the triage plan lacked employment service information.

2. Comm-Elect Peters wished to thank Officer Porfido for assisting a resident with an incident from a yard sale. A customer noted they were running out to the ATM, but never returned with the funds for the items acquired. Said customer was given the opportunity to pay for the items or face theft charges.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received this period: Officer Brinkman is thanked for his kindness and compassion while investigating an untimely death.

7. INFORMATION: None

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

Commissioner Stanley MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:45 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

The non-public session closed at 8:05 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stanley. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to seal the minutes indefinitely. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

9. MISCELLANOUS:

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the evaluations and merit track advancements as presented for Officer Porfido (track 9), Officer Garstin (track 7), Officer Colson (track 2), and the evaluation of Officer Rousseau (top of grade). Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 12/01/2021