

**Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867**

Derek J. Peters, Chairman
Bruce E. Lindsay, Commissioner
Lucien G. Levesque, Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting in City Hall Council Chambers on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Lindsay, Comm. Levesque, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Chaplain Edward Cilley, and 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 Cilley led the opening prayer.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no comment from the public.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. February 1, 2017 regular meeting.

Comm. Lindsay MOVED to accept the minutes of the February 1, 2017, regular meeting as presented. SECOND by Comm. Levesque and PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Policy 26.1.2 Standards of Conduct: Commendations and Awards: Update: Second Reading for adoption. Discussion postponed to next month.

Comm. Levesque MOVED that this be tabled until the next meeting. SECOND by Comm. Lindsay and PASSED unanimously.

B. Other.

Chairman Peters spoke about the recent loss of two former members of the Police Commission; and highlighted some of the things accomplished during their terms of service.

Roger Beaudoin passed away on February 9, 2017. He served for 12 years on the Commission. Some accomplishments during his tenure included developing our mission statement, went to a combined dispatch center with fire and upgraded the department technology.

James F. McManus, Jr. passed away on February 22, 2017. He served for 6 years on the Commission. Some accomplishments during his tenure included supporting part time officers for specialty positions, accreditation goals, electro muscular devices, and Teen night.

Comm. Peters said on behalf of the Commission we extend our condolences to the families. They have our sincere gratitude. We thank both gentlemen for their years of service.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Oath of Office – Officer Matthew Bailey. Executive Secretary Warburton administered the oath of office to Officer Bailey.

B. Community Outreach– Bridging the Gaps Update. Coordinator Molly Martuscello said it's been about a year since she was last before the Commission. She said it's great to be back.

The Coalition is community members striving for a healthier Rochester by addressing substance misuse, comprehensive drug prevention efforts and advocacy across sectors of law enforcement, citizens and businesses. Together we have a strong message and a strong voice promoting positive messages and healthy life style choices.

Since 2007 we have seen steady decreases in Rochester in many categories of substance misuse. We feel the coalition has been a contributing factor to the decrease of alcohol and tobacco use as well as other drugs.

We have peer to peer outreach, public campaigns like Red Ribbon Week and we promote limiting unauthorized access by supporting drug take back days.

There will be a drug take back day on April 29, 2017 from 10-2PM at the Police Department. People can bring in their unused or expired medications.

One big win for the coalition was the support of the school department to update the athletic code of conduct to a restorative justice model by implementing “the life of an athlete,” which provides for second chances and better choices.

The It Takes a Village programs were a great success. There were 300 community members between the 3 events discussing the opioid crisis, the resources in the community at that time and what was being done in the community and the schools addressing this. There was a panel of experts speaking and answering questions. The coalition got great feedback so we are doing it again.

The two-part series will focus on drugs overall and that prevention starts with you and community members. The first session is March 16, 2017 from 6-8:30 in the Opera House. This is a free event and we want to open the conversation about healthy lifestyles and the relationships people have with children, relatives, coaches, teachers and friends.

People can learn more about Bridging the Gaps and events on our social media, Face book, Twitter and Instagram.

C. Monthly Reports

1). Operations. Capt. Thomas noted four of the six wards held meetings in February. There were no major concerns. The K9 had four tracks and two drug searches in Rochester.

The Honor Guard represented at the funeral service of James McManus. They will also present at the annual CHAD Battle of the Badges hockey game.

We had an uptick in thefts and vandalism. A suspect was generated on the theft offenses. Crime trends remain consistent.

There were 33 cases sent up to detectives from patrol. There are 85 open cases. There were four call outs in February.

We have filled one of the two openings in dispatch. The second candidate is expected to be on board in two weeks.

Housing had 19 police related calls this period, many due to parking issues related to snow.

There was a good turn-out at Teen night, with approximately 260 youth present.

Adult prosecution had 185 new cases, with 242 charges.

Planning has begun for the Wings and Wheels event. Rotary will be overseeing that program moving forward.

There was an increase in thefts from motor vehicles. The majority of them were from unlocked cars. This is generally 1-2 people mobile in the city, going into neighborhoods. Once someone is arrested, it stops for a while.

One of the upcoming topics we will be discussing at Ward meetings is the new fireworks ordinance adopted by the City which limits the time people can use them and it requires a permit, certain setbacks, property lines, etc. We want to make sure people understand the ordinance and we want to educate people before they buy significant fireworks.

We should discuss the ordinance at an upcoming meeting. Does it give us the ability to do what we need to?

Chief Toussaint said he didn't get what he was advocating for, by holding the property owner accountable. Right now we have to prove who is lighting them.

The individual signing the permit must out some liability on them.

Chief Toussaint said, yes and no. Those getting the permit will follow the rules; it's the ones that do not which will be the issue. The ordinance won't stop people and we will enforce it as best we can. It won't be as easy as I would have like it to be. We will need the community to help if they want this enforced. It's not a priority 1 call and we will get there as soon as we can. People have to be willing to step up and give a statement. Prosecution will rely on the witness statement.

2). Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau noted the Patrol PC units have all been installed and are working. We are still waiting for the printer mount we ordered to test for the e-ticket system. This is a headrest mounted printer that replaces the headrest, with padding, so two officers can still be in the vehicle.

Our projection is still tending to the good overall. There have been some savings due to attrition. There are other operations lines we are closely watching.

We hosted training on Administrative License Suspension hearings this period. Officers don't have an attorney for guidance, but the defendant can. This refresher is good to have.

We also sent officers to training in areas including child death investigation, emerging leaders and contemporary leadership training through Primex.

Three new recruits will start next month and be sworn in at the April meeting.

Sgt. Cost proctored the recent Great Bay test and the new list is out. We will be holding an agility test. We sent out 73 invitations.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Lt. Bossi, Sgt. Babine, Off. Lambert and Off. Murphy are thanked by the DeBellis family for their kindness comfort and support during a call at their home. Sgt. Brinkman and Off. Kimbrough are thanked by Mr. Nolan for their professionalism, kindness and understanding while responding to a motor vehicle accident he was involved in. Investigator James Jensen from Douglas County Colorado expresses his appreciation for the professionalism as well as the tenacity of Off. Ball in identifying and apprehending persons who were victimizing a citizen of Douglas County. Off. Mark Brave is thanked for the professional way he handled a neighbor dispute.

7. INFORMATION:

A. Information Other; enclosed with Agenda. No discussion.

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

Commissioner Levesque MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:38 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) SECOND by Comm. Lindsay. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 – 0 with Comm. Levesque, Comm. Lindsay and Comm. Peters voting in the affirmative. A three-minute recess was called. The non-public session closed at 8:20 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Levesque. SECOND by Comm. Lindsay and PASSED unanimously.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

Comm. Lindsay MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. Brandon Kimbrough (3.5%), Officer Jacob Benjamin (2.95%), Sgt. Randy Smith (3.1%), Off. Matthew Flathers (4.0%), Off. Andrew Jackson (3.95%), Off. Jeff Gagnon 3.0%). Comm. Levesque SECONDED the motion and it PASSED 3-0.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Lindsay MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Levesque at 8:24 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

**Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary**