

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, June 7, 2017. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Lindsay, Comm. Levesque, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Pinkham, 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:

human 402 Portland Street. Noted this is his first time ever to a Commission meeting. He noted an issue with Chief Toussaint regarding the Department harassing homeless persons needlessly. He said these are word of mouth reports, but he doesn't just go off on rumor, but looks for facts. He sent an email to Chief Toussaint on May 27 requesting information between city police and homeless persons in the City. He kept checking and had no response, until he received a snail mail letter that the records were available for inspection at the Police Station.

human said the customer service at the station leaves something to be desired. He had to use a phone to talk to a human and after 40 minutes was able to have the documents in hand. The request was incomplete and did not include all the incidents in the right to know request. Of those he saw only one of them indicated the officer made contact so where is the rest of the information. I know these events are happening. What is the police department hiding? Why harass homeless people in the city. I would like to see the full public record on this. I look forward to your answers.

Chief Toussaint responded that the Police Department does not harass the homeless. We respond when there is trespass on private property. We do not look for camps or people to move; rather we react to complaints from citizens. I did receive human's request and I forwarded it to the legal bureau which is the city policy and that was the last that I dealt with this request. His request was processed as any other per the city policy. We are not hiding anything. We can take another

look for information, but if there is more that human can share about where and when that would be helpful.

Comm. Peters said we would take the information under advisement and follow up with the chief. We can only disseminate certain articles and it's through the legal bureau.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. May 3, 2017 regular meeting.

Comm. Levesque MOVED to accept the minutes of the May 3, 2017, regular meeting as presented. SECOND by Comm. Lindsay and PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Any Old Business for Discussion - None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Oath of Office: Thomas Powers to Sergeant. Officer Powers took the oath for promotion to rank of Sergeant administered by Attorney O'Rourke. His family was on hand to assist with pinning.

B. Oath of Office: Michael Miehle to Sergeant. Officer Miehle took the oath for promotion to rank of Sergeant administered by Attorney O'Rourke. His family was on hand to assist with pinning.

C. Accept Resignation: Officer John Bourque

Comm. Levesque moved to accept the resignation, with regret and thanked Officer Bourque for his years of service. SECOND by Comm. Lindsay and PASSED unanimously.

D. July 2017 Regular Meeting.

Comm. Levesque moved there would not be a regular meeting in July, unless necessary. The next regular meeting to be held August 2, 2017. SECOND by Comm. Lindsay and PASSED unanimously.

E. Monthly Reports

1). Operations. Capt. Pinkham noted that the Citizen's Academy had concluded with 17 graduates. It was a big success.

The Run program 4 of the 6 (1, 4, 5, 6) met with no major issues for police discussed. We encourage residents to attend to learn more about what is going on in their wards.

There has been a decrease in proactive activity due to staffing. It will most likely remain down until we get our staffing levels back up. There has also been an increase in response times. It's taking us a bit longer to get to calls. It's pertinent to explain the impact staffing has on the operation.

Comm. Peters asked for the August meeting can we get a run down on how the recovery center is working out.

Capt. Pinkham said that there has been a decrease in daily visits and total recovery sessions compared to prior months. The first five months there were increases.

Frisbie CEO John Marzinzik will be rolling out a new program to go along with the center for mental health.

Chief Toussaint said our partnership with Frisbie is incredibly important. Fatal overdoses are on the rise; we are up to 11 to date. This is not going away and anything that can help the Police I support. This is a valuable asset to the City. The drug recovery side is just one aspect and the mental health is another. The results will take time but we look forward to them.

The Recovery process is not a quick fix. Some start on the road and some never make it but any way we can help is an asset to the community. While we don't have any direct contact with SOS they are doing a lot of work in that area.

Chief Toussaint said we have had several meetings involving SOS and we are really pushing for the Fire Department to be involved in the safe stations program, which is similar to CAR. People can go to the fire station and we connected with a recovery work. It's a big step for people doing illegal activity to come to the Police Department and ask for help. Fire has been researching this and seem like they are willing to be on board. I feel that will bring some more to the recovery center as well. Every time I talk with Interim Chief Dupuis he has expressed interest. I don't have a timeline but they are working toward that.

The Honor Guard participated in the Police Memorial in Concord and the Memorial Day parade. They're a good representation of our agency.

The K9 unit had 8 calls this month. Of the 8 there were two drug searches and two tracks in Rochester. The remaining calls were out of town. Keith attended the citizens' academy, the paw patrol event and teen night.

Comm. Levesque commended the officers doing a great job with short staffing.

Comm. Peters noted that the Paw Patrol event was to support End 68. The show sold out. There were people from Lancaster, NH, Cape Cod and Rhode Island. It was an amazing event that got rave reviews. Both Officer Miehle and Officer Mackenzie are commended for taking part. It was well worth it.

Over in Support there were 31 cases sent up to investigations from patrol. There are 78 cases assigned. There were 23 cases presented to the Grand Jury all True Bills. Evident had 482 new pieces, 73 pieces returned and 865 pieces destroyed.

There were 28 phones analyzed by the celebrite machine.

Detective responded to three call outs, all suspected overdoses.

There are three backgrounds underway and 3 polygraphs.

The two newest dispatchers are doing well. One has been released to solo headset and other will be shortly. They held training with the State Police going over important changes to NCIC. It was helpful to have them all meet as a group.

Housing officers had 23 police calls for service and the housing locations. They have been doing some good proactive work, including handing out bicycle helmets to kids.

Sgt. Miehle had a good investigation of some fraud at the local grocery coming out of New York. He also was at Teen Night, the last of the school year, which had 190 youth attending and he was also at the Paw Patrol event.

2). Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau noted we are coming to the close of the fiscal year and have completed our last projection. We continue to show a surplus to the good, mainly due to attrition, so salaries and benefits show the largest amounts of savings.

Vehicle maintenance is always an area of concern. We have made several transfers from other operational lines to cover costs for the front line cars to keep them up and running.

We have received all of the printer mounts for the e ticket program and they are being installed this week. We will wait to install the final three if our cruiser request in the budget passes. It makes no sense to install in cars we plan to cycle out.

Comm. Lindsay inquired if the problem with the firewall has been overcome.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said the VPN and J-One they found some fixes for that and are working with the vendor to come in and do this install. As for our specific issues it looks like we do have a

solution. Additionally we will have to upgrade the wireless modems in the cruisers, as the older models are unsupported by the company, which may be causing some of the firewall issues.

We have started the planning for National Night Out, August 1st at the Commons.

How are we doing with replacing Ms. Martuscello?

Her position has been advertised, with a closing date of June 16. We know there are three applicants to date.

Comm. Peters inquired about vehicle maintenance on SUV's.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said all the Ford SUV look good. The highest miles one we have is over 60 thousand.

How long would it be before we get the new ones we asked for?

Chief Toussaint said that is hard to say. It depends on if they have some on a lot somewhere. We usually have to order them and it takes several months. Our intent is to have the bid ready to go July 1.

In training, Officer Bailey is in his final observation week prior to solo patrol. He will have a review board next week. The three recruits in the academy are doing well, just over a month in. No major issues have cropped up.

We have one new recruit ready to start in early July. The others are in the background phase.

Chief Toussaint said it is important for folks to understand where we are with hiring. We are currently down ten patrol positions from patrol. We have hired four replacements, three are in training and one is waiting to come on. We have conditional offers for five more people and some of them are almost through the background phase. So of those ten we have either hired or have people waiting "in the wings" so we are in good shape. But it takes a long time to be certified. These officers going to the academy in August will not be ready to use until the spring of 2018. It's not a matter of finding good candidates; it's a long process to get them trained.

Will be do any field training prior?

Chief Toussaint said we get a lot of in-house stuff done and then once they are out of the academy they go right into field training.

Comm. Peters inquired where we are on the radio replacement project.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said half of the cruisers are still the old style. We have been putting money into CIP to replace these as needed or at vehicle changeover. I will get the Commission the full list.

Comm. Levesque commented on the lifecycle. He said I'm in my tenth year and this is the 2nd or 3rd time replacing these.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said the life cycle is close to ten years. We went from analog to digital and in the coming years we will be looking to upgrade the system citywide. We will be attending a meeting with Fire and Frisbie and our radio vendor to talk about upgrades to the repeaters and a microwave system.

Comm. Lindsay inquired if there was any additional information on Tasers.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said they are changing the holster size. We got into this technology in 2009/2010. We got in late in the life cycle of that design. The upgraded technology no longer supports these models. If they fail the internal test when we turn them on, we cannot get them fixed. We have put a CIP project into the budget to phase in the replacements.

What is the life expectancy, theoretically?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said he would like to say ten years, but he recently got an email from the manufacturer that recommended replacement at five years. No longer supported is different than we recommend an upgrade.

E. Other

1. Biennial Maintenance Bids. Dep. Chief Boudreau said these are the items the Department uses frequently or requires services from. He is recommending the following bid awards.

Bullet Resistant Vests – Guardian Uniform and Supply. They were the low bidder of the 4 bids.

Car Wash Services – one vendor bid. We recommend awarding that to Mr. Bubbles.

Dry Cleaning – one vendor bid. We recommend awarding that to Cleary Cleaners

Mounting, Balancing and Storage of Tires - one vendor bid. We recommend awarding that to Hervey's Tire.

Vehicle Equipment Changeovers for lights radios etc. one vendor bid and we recommend awarding to Two-Way Communications.

Radio Equipment Maintenance - one vendor bid and we recommend awarding to Two-Way Communications.

Vehicle Repair services, such as brakes – one vendor bid and we recommend awarding to Dave's Tri City.

Vehicle Preventive Maintenance for oil change, fluids, and rotating tires – two vendors bid. One of them only partially bid, the other bid on the entire package. We recommend awarding the bid to Dave's Tri City.

The final bid is the clothing and uniform bid. There are 85 individual items and we are still analyzing the bids received from the four different companies to ensure they are offering comparable items and pricing.

2. Community Engagement Officer. Chief Toussaint said he had a conversation with a City Councilor and the City Manager fielding concerns about the Community Engagement position and its future, now that Mike Miehle has been promoted. There was a concern that we would abandon the position. Chief Toussaint said I support his position 100% and we do plan to backfill it. However our staffing levels right now won't allow for that. As soon as we start to fill open positions and get these officers on the street we will open the position up department wide to see who wants to take it over. Mike has done a good job. The position is high visibility and that is not anything to be abandoned. As soon as I can, I will fill the position.

We will divide programs already underway up and attend as best we can. It is critical that we need everyone on the street available to handle calls. We have to triage the wants and needs. I am committing to filling that as soon as I can.

The Commission supports the Chief on this. There are still things that we will take care of, but we have to pick and chose what and how we can be involved in.

Chief Toussaint said he told the City Manager and Councilor he planned to address this tonight, so people can hear it from him. Sgt. Miehle has been letting people know so we can quash rumors. We think it's a great position and I support it into the future once the staffing levels out.

Chief Toussaint said there are other areas we are also not backfilling. I'm committed to the drug task force but I don't have the manpower right now. I will fill it as soon as I can. The MV officer position has also been suspended.

Comm. Lindsay asked about TAR and SWAT?

Chief Toussaint said those are not full time commitments and we are still doing those. Those are not full time jobs.

As resignations come in we have to pull back some of the things we do.

Comm. Peters noted that once school gets out we have the SRO's coming back to the street for the summer. One has committed to the Teen travel camp one day a week. We have one officer ready to move to solo patrol and one officer almost ready to come back from an injury.

Comm. Lindsay asked about the L.E.A.D. program.

This has completed for the year. It was well received. This is another thing that we won't see an immediate benefit. We hope long term we have an impact on these lives through positive interaction with officers. This is not a new program, but is based on the program "Too Good for Drugs." It performed as we expected.

The program has an adaptability that D.A.R.E. does not.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that his youngest child had Officer Ball teaching the course. She learned a lot from it. They like that the officers come back and have lunch with them from time to time.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Off. Ball is thanked by a citizen for his work as the elementary SRO and teaching the L.E.A.Ds program. Det. Chris Mangum is recognized at the City Employee of the Month for his vital role in capturing suspects involved in a spate of robberies in the City. Det. Rousseau is thanked for extracting data and creating a spreadsheet that was used during the budget presentation. Det. Frechette is thanked by the Victim/Witness Assistance office for his presentation at the Domestic Violence Conference. Off. Gantert is thanked for his professionalism during the investigation of a serious motor vehicle accident. Off. Kimbrough is recognized for his professionalism; in that prior contacts built a rapport such that the citizen was immediately comfortable in working with Off. Kimbrough during a subsequent call.

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 8:10 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 five-minute recess was called. The non-public session closed at 8:35 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 Det. Michael Mundy (3.6%) and Det. Steven Bourque (4.15%). Comm. Levesque SECONDED the motion and it PASSED 3-0.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Lindsay MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Levesque at 8:39 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

**Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary**