

**Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867**

Derek J. Peters, Commissioner
David R. Stevens, Commissioner
Lisa M. Stanley, Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting at the Police Department, second floor lecture hall, Thursday, February 15, 2018. This was the rescheduled meeting following the weather cancelation of the previously scheduled February 7, 2018 meeting. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Pinkham, Capt. Thomas and Secretary Warburton.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M.

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

B. Prayer. In lieu of prayer, Chair Peters asked for a moment of silence for victims of the shooting in Parkland Florida.

C. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner's Peters, Stevens and Stanley present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. January 3, 2018 regular meeting.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the minutes of the January 3, 2018, regular meeting as presented. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Any Old Business for Discussion - None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Accept Resignation: Officer Hunter Roy.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Roy. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED.

B. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Capt. Thomas noted that all six wards met this period, however only the officer showed for the Ward 4 meeting. Discussions included comp stat figures, the warming station, speeding vehicles, overall activity level and staffing challenges, campground fireworks, thefts from motor vehicles, drug issues and the importance of evidence gathering to support arrests.

A review of the year end comp stat shows there was a significant increase in calls for service in priority 1 and 2 calls; with a decrease in priority 3 calls. These increases in calls had a corresponding increase in response times, with a decrease in proactive activity. There was a decrease in traffic stops, attributed to staffing. Overall property crimes were down for the year. Violent crimes were also down for the year, but robberies were up; which can be attributed to the spate of pharmacy robberies early in the calendar year.

Overdose calls were up 84% over the previous year, and fatal overdose calls were up 11% over last year. Narcan use by police officers in 2017 was 32 times, compared to 18 times in 2016.

The K9 reported 5 call outs; three tracks and one drug search in Rochester.

On the support side 25 cases sent up from patrol for review or investigation. There are currently 52 cases assigned. There were 24 cases presented to the Grand Jury all with true bills. We logged in 288 pieces of evidence and returned 68 pieces. Five phones were analyzed with the Cellebrite machine. There were 6 sex offender compliance checks and 11 pawn shop compliance checks completed. There were two detective call outs; one untimely and one robbery.

Evidence has made a lot of headway in 2017 in purging items with the help from officers assigned to temporary alternate duty. In 2017 we purged 6,888 items versus 3,600 items in 2016. We are doing a better job not taking things we don't need to take. It is easier to collect things than to purge them. We have to wait until the court case has concluded; and sometimes we have

to create lists to the court and get a court order to destroy items. It is a tedious process. We are not alone in this. All agencies have to deal with this.

Our evidence technician Steve Kerlee does a tremendous job. He is very organized and with a combination of assistance through TAD assignments we are making headway, but still treading water so to speak. For example the gun room is filled with years and years of seized property which requires a lot of research into the owners and if they are permitted by law to get the firearms back. So do they get destroyed, or sold? It's a complicated process.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that prosecution does a good job in letting us know when evidence can be returned or destroyed. There was a college intern over the summer that did a lot of research in this area.

We wanted to highlight a recent case built by Officer Moore on a residence on Chestnut Street that we had responded to multiple times. We were able to charge the tenant with common nuisance. The landlord started the eviction process. We were assisted by the Sheriff and found a house full of people.

Chief Toussaint said it really comes down to the more staffing you have the more problem solving you can do.

The Communications Center will be hosting a basic dispatch course in March and we will send two of our members to.

Housing had 24 police-related calls this period.

The January Teen night was canceled due to harsh weather conditions.

The Explorers hosted the Wakefield Explorers and had a presentation by the DEA.

Prosecution had 244 new cases, with 366 charges.

Capt. Thomas noted that Officer Danie, recently assigned as the community engagement officer is doing a tremendous job. One of the things he spearheaded with recreation was the Skate with a Cop event which was very successful. He has a lot of ideas and is an asset.

Comm. Peters asked if there was an update on Daisy-Mae. Chief Toussaint said he would defer this discussion, as the dog is not owned by the Department.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau stated we have taken delivery of all three of our cruisers. Car 10 is on the road, car 20 is being outfitted at our radio vendor; and once that comes back, we will send them the last car.

We presented our budget to the City Manager and are now working on our presentation to the full council, set for April 24.

One thing we did want to discuss is that we got a significant trade value for the cruisers. Once we know the final cost of outfitting the new cruisers, we'd like to discuss with the Council on using those savings toward a new back line car. This would remove a car from the CIP list going forward. We are looking at a Ford Fusion. We will know more once the new cars are fully outfitted.

We are 57% into the fiscal year, and are 57% spent, overall. Our projection, which is reviewed by the finance office, is projecting a surplus by the year end.

What is the shortfall in revenue? That is Outside details.

What about concealed carry licenses?

We still do them, because you have to have a license for those states with reciprocity. We expend time running criminal histories, it goes to a Captain, and then to the Chief, and then back to records to issue. We used to do thirty or more per week, and we are now down to less than ten per week.

What is the dispatch revenue? That is the contract with Frisbie.

Over in training, all of the Taser training has been completed and new Tasers issued. As per our agreement with Taser, we will destroy the existing units.

Officer Brooks completed his tests at the Academy and received his full certification. We have four officers in field training. They are now moving into the second phase which is taking a more active role and taking the lead on calls. We anticipate them being released to solo patrol in mid-March.

C. Other.

1. Speeding Vehicles. Comm. Stanley noted she attended the Ward 6 meeting and there was a concern about perpetual speeding on Portland Street and Chamberlain Street. Additionally there was an issue raised with feral cats on Prospect Street. Lt. Bossi noted that he would speak to the ACO. What can she do?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said there is no law that addresses cats like there is for dogs. We see people get evicted and leave their animals behind. We had worked in the past with a group to trap, spay and neuter cats.

Comm. Stanley said she has a contact that is willing to assist with this. Can the ACO help with trapping?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said she has helped in the past with this issue and he will speak with her more about this.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Det. Frechette is thanked by the Attorney General's office for his role presenting at the annual Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Conference. Sgt. Balint, Off. Benjamin, Off. Brinkman, Off. Garstin and Off. Oswalt are thanked by Chief Kretschmar of the Somersworth Police Dept., for efforts in assisting with the robbery investigation at the Gulf station on Route 108, just over the Rochester line.

7. INFORMATION:

A. Chief Toussaint noted that the information section is heavy with year-end reports. There was no discussion.

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

Commissioner Stevens MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 3:43 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) SECOND by Comm. Stanley. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 – 0 with Comm. Stanley, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Peters voting in the affirmative. A five-minute recess was called.

The non-public session closed at 4:10 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens, who also MOVED to seal the minutes. SECOND by Comm. Stanley. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 – 0 with Comm. Stanley, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Peters voting in the affirmative.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stanley MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. Brandon Kimbrough (3.4%), Off. John Gantert (3.4%), Officer James Murphy (3.1%), Off. Justin Seckendorf (3.3%), Off. Jason Plumb 2.95%), Officer William Robinson (3.2%), Det. Matthew Flathers (3.95%) and Sergeant Patrick Emerson (3.85%). Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 4:13 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary