

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 on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 7:00 P.M in City Hall, Council Chambers. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton.

Chief Toussaint was excused.

Members of the public can access this meeting remotely.

1. The public will be able to listen in to the meeting LIVE in any of three ways:
 - Telephone
 - Phone number: 857-444-0744
 - Conference code: 843095
 - Livestream of the audio through the city's website.
 - Tuning in to the Gov Channel/ Channel 26 on the Atlantic Broadband cable system.
- Public Input: Those wishing to share comments, when permitted, with the Police Commission are encouraged to do so by the following methods:
 - In person at the meeting.
 - Mail: Police Commission/Public Input, 23 Wakefield Street, Rochester, NH 03867 (must be received at least three full days prior to the anticipated meeting date)
 - Email becky.warburton@rochesternh.net (must be received no later than 4:00 pm of meeting date) Voicemail 603-330-7131 (must be received no later than 12:00 pm on said meeting date in order to be transcribed)

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

A. Pledge. All participated in the pledge.

B. Prayer. Chaplain Cilley offered the opening prayer.

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. June 3, 2020 regular meeting.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the August 5, 2020 meeting as presented. Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

There was no old or unfinished business before the Commission.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Accept Resignations – Officer Donovan Funk and Officer Thomas Blair. Both officers worked part time as our HUD officers.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the resignations of Officer Funk and Officer Blair, thanking them for their many years of service. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED unanimously.

B. Monthly Reports

1. Operations: Capt. Pinkham stated all ward meetings are on hold during the pandemic.

The investigations bureau had 37 cases submitted for review. There are currently 63 cases assigned. There were five detective call outs. There were two background investigations and one polygraph. There were 47 cases presented at Grand Jury, and 43 true bills.

There were 336 pieces of evidence logged in, and 45 items returned to owners.

Comm. Stanley inquired into the evidence numbers of taken in versus returned or destroyed. Is the locker getting crowded again?

Capt. Pinkham replied that we should be getting back to the norm soon. The evidence technician had time off with pandemic restrictions and his role was temporarily filled by Det. Rousseau, who is also a full time detective. The evidence technician has returned to work status.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER/PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING UNIT: The POP/CEO are getting the Life Safety Committee (Police, Fire and Code Enforcement) back up and running and we have been working with the committee on addressing some quality of life issues and other issues surrounding various apartments. We successfully worked together dealing with properties on Lafayette Street, Charles Street and Winter Street regarding drug use and common nuisance issues and statutes. Landlord contact has been a big push for the POP unit to help clean up neighborhoods and resolve problems.

Homeless camps continue to be a focus for the unit. We have visited many camps over the past month, moving some along at the request of the landowner, and documenting who is staying where. One person that Officer Seager actually arrested later thanked Officer Seager for arresting him, which got him back on the right track. We continue to look for solutions and work with property owners to resolve issues.

Comm. Peters asked if we offer services while checking these camps.

Capt. Pinkham said that we do. We have a packet. There are a lot of services that are still restricted but we offer what we know is available. Some do turn down those resources.

Officer Danie and Sgt. Babine recently went to the summer camps at the schools and interacted with the children. Officer Danie has been working with YMCA on some issues at their facility and solved some criminal mischief activity.

Officer Danie continues to work to better the downtown by getting Friendly's cleaned up. He met with the owner of Ben Franklin to see about getting a business in there and keeps positive contact with business owners and to help with their concerns.

Comm. Stanley asked if Officer Danie collaborates with Economic Development on various issues, including the reaching out to Friendly's and the Ben Franklin building.

Capt. Pinkham said that he does have regular contacts.

Officer Seager, Sgt. Babine and Officer Danie worked with Gather at the Community Center to distribute food to those in need

COMPSTAT: In field activity, there was a noticeable increase in traffic stops going from 326 the previous month to 620 this month. A majority of the stops were in our downtown area, but there was an increase in outer areas as well—including Salmon Falls Road. The 620 stops from this month was significant compared to the same time period last year where there was only 273. There was a decline in accidents at 68—compared to the previous month at 86. During COVID, we have seen this decrease possibly due to fewer vehicles on the road. The road with the highest amount of crashes was North Main Street with 10 for the month. The DWI's remain in the same range at 7, with 2 from narcotics and 5 from alcohol. There were 2 DWI arrests from traffic stops, 1 from a welfare check, 2 from BOLO's and 2 from crashes. There was no common factor for specific enforcement in any particular area, day or time.

With property crimes, we had 2 burglaries for the month. We did have a notable increase in shoplifting. There were 23 incidents for the month. The majority of them generated via loss prevention from reviewing video at the big box stores. We had 12 theft from motor vehicles, which is a decrease from last month. Year-to-date (YTD) we are down 55% in this category. With regard to vandalism, there are no common factors or issues, however there was a big drop from the prior month going from 51 incidents to 30.

With drug incidents, we are seeing heroin, fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, suboxone, and some assorted prescription pills. We had no fatal overdoses this month, and possession incidents remained consistent at 13. We are showing a drop in overdoses from 12 last month to 7 this month. It is believed that there are probably more overdoses that are taking place, but with civilian narcotics in the public, they may be being resolved without emergency services being called.

In violent crimes, we had no robberies for the month. There were 4 aggravated assaults and 2 of those were DV related. We had 25 simple assaults, which is down from 33 the month before. It is important to note that 10 of the simple assaults were DV related. In looking at Simple and Aggravated assaults, we are not seeing random acts of violence taking place—they are known to each other.

COMMUNICATIONS: The new radios were cut over the second week in July. We continue to work with 2-Way on a few minor issues. We are in the process of trying new headsets that will be able to accommodate the radio and phone at the same time.

We reached out to Rapid SOS about the services they provide to emergency services – Rapid SOS receives device based location data – similar to E911 but continues to monitor the coordinates of the phone call whether dropped or still on the line with 911. It is entirely free and the surrounding towns are using it to ping phones in life or death situations.

DIVERSION: Nicole continues to work on the Juvenile Probation Transformation Certificate Program with the State team. A recent report on NH access to Public Defenders is “undervalued” was released and reflected on work done across the State to increase access to Diversion. The team is starting to meet in person again to review feedback received on our Transformation Proposal.

Nicole received the results of the Service to Science Review and our diversion process used across NH was one point off in becoming a Promising Practice. Nicole is working to provide the necessary data points that will reflect that one point and then be able to move forward in the process to becoming Evidence-based.

Nicole is working with the Director for Waypoint, and presented to the Community Development Committee on the plan for creating a Teen Drop-In Center. She has been working on finding an appropriate location for services and pulling together collaborative partners.

Nicole is working with the Fire Department and City partners on plans for this fall’s National Night Out and Fire Prevention Week, which plans are being presented to hold it as a virtual resource event across City social media. Taking into account the Governor’s orders for events over 100 people need to be masked, this complicates any planning for NNO, so resource provision is the most safe and effective service.

Nicole continues to work with Strafford County Diversion Program as they work on hiring a new Coordinator and transitioning services.

Nicole has been working with Officer Jackson and Sgt. Deluca on plans for LEADs implementation this coming school year—although schools are meeting in person, chances of being able to fit LEADs into the school day as in prior years, does not look feasible. Nicole is working on getting curriculum out to the team.

EMD USE: Display and Deploy: One

Display Only: One

HONOR GUARD: We are working on using grant money to purchase new rifles that will be replacing the old WW2 ones that have parts and ammo which are difficult to obtain. The new rifles will match the three donated by the American Legion earlier this year.

HOUSING: There were 35 Police related calls for service for the month, with an increase of calls at Cold Spring Manor. With no patterns to the calls, Off. Blair is working with management to help with issues and to see if anything further can be done.

There were two incidents at the Art Nickless building on Glenwood Avenue of people throwing rocks from the railroad tracks onto vehicles in the parking lot. We are working with the POP Unit and Housing to solve and reduce this activity.

Officer Mundy returns to work on August 29. He will be in training for the Housing position in preparation for the departure of Officer Blair.

K-9: This month the Rochester K-9 Unit responded to 3 calls for service. All were for tracks in Rochester.

PROSECUTION - ADULT: Due to limitations in operations being imposed/mandated by the Court, court cases are still being heard in limited numbers. Most of the cases are done telephonically. These numbers will start to increase in both superior and district court.

PROSECUTION - JUVENILE: Juvenile prosecution had 28 petitions. The following hearings were also held: 8 arraignments set for trial, 3 arraignments resolved by plea, 3 show cause hearings, 2 Emergency placement, 1 dispositional hearings, 1 trial true, 2 trials resolved by plea. There were seven motions to impose suspended sentences and one motion to bring a case forward for trial.

Lt. Gould covered hearings on July 6 and July 7 for Attorney Mitrushi.

RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION: Lt. Bossi attended the August meeting. He discussed PD staffing, the POP and ISB unit. He provided a brief update on activity in the city. Lt. Bossi answered questions reference to evictions related to drug activity or police involvement and what type of thresholds of evidence is needed.

Lt. Bossi answered questions about the relationship between the police and the sheriff's department, how and in what ways the two departments work together.

The next meeting will be on September 3, 2020, and until further notice the meetings will be held via Zoom.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS: The SRO's have resumed duties at the schools. Off. Porfido has been dropping by the Maple Street Magnet School which has been in session.

Comm. Stanley commented on LEADS not fitting into the curriculum this year.

Capt. Pinkham said that Sgt. Deluca has regular on line meetings with the LEAD community. The schools are working to fit the regular class studies in. LEAD doesn't have an on line program. They are working on that. We are potentially shooting for a January date for LEAD curriculum this year, in a compressed format. The logistics still need to be ironed out.

Comm. Stanley said we may want to get feedback to the school board about this.

Dep. Chief Boudreau added that Sgt. Deluca has weekly meetings with LEAD. They have had to revamp their whole lesson plans over the summer. A lot of the modules are hands on. So they are looking at hybrid models. They will be working on this through the fall and hope to have more answers by the 2nd half of the school year. We have done LEADs from January, we just don't know what this will look like in January.

Explorer Post: No meetings were held this period.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau said that the bid for three front line cruisers was opened. It was sent to 8 dealerships and only 2 returned bids. The low bid was Rochester Ford. Allowing for the trade of two cruisers, the bid was just over \$94,000. The cruisers have been ordered, but we do not have a build date yet from Ford.

Comm. Peters asked if we had enough funds in that line.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said we do. We projected that line on what we paid last year.

Comm. Peters asked if any of the items will transfer from the old cars.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said we will transfer what we can, such as light bars. The interior of the 2020 model changed. We were able to view the new model of light bar which is programmable to dim at night which is easier for other night drivers.

The two backline cruisers are also in. One has been outfitted and is in use. The other is waiting for a controller. We should have it in a couple of weeks.

The **2020 JAG grant** there are three projects we want to allocate the money to.

1. Host CIT training. We would like to add ten more officers trained to this. We can use the money for the training as well as to backfill overtime.

Comm. Stanley asked how long the course is for CIT.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said it is 40 hours.

Comm. Stevens asked how many certified CIT we have.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said between 12 and 15. Two attended CIT training in Dover last week. If we can train 10 more, the majority of patrol will be certified.

Comm. Stevens asked if the goal was 100%.

Dep. Chief said that when we started this program 10 years ago, we felt all should be certified. Any call can have a mental health component.

2. Mountain Bikes. We have four; that range in age from 7 to 15 years. We want to upgrade the four we have. We will keep the old ones as back up bikes. We just certified and outfitted twelve new members to the bicycle patrol.

Comm. Peters noted that it is important to see them in the downtown. It is a good presence. He gets a lot of comments from people about it. Dep. Chief Boudreau agreed. They are a great tool.

3. Honor Guard rifles. The American Legion donated rifles to us this year. The other rifles we have are the M1 Garands, which are heavy. We are looking to purchase four more so the Honor Guard is all uniform.

Radio Upgrade. Dep. Chief Boudreau said the antennas have been installed on the water towers. We have started the work on the equipment cabinets to pull the electric through them. We met last week on site with 2-Way, DPW, the engineers and the construction manager on the DPW tower. The tower has been ordered, and it is about 8 weeks to delivery. We need to pour the base, which has to cure for 30 days. We are looking for the steel to be up by the beginning of December. We won't bring that tower on line until DPW is fully complete. We are also currently working with Chief Breault of Dover Police to install some radio gear on a City of Dover tower on Long Hill Rd. for better coverage at southern points of the city.

The mobile dispatch center project bid was reviewed by finance. We need to send it out to dealers to see if they can meet the specifications. We have also been having discussions with the IT department in regards to their needs and am working on a planning meeting where some of the technical aspects can be discussed between IT and the radio side for connectivity.

During the month of August, there were several purchases over the \$5000 threshold, which would require commission signatures. These items included; purchase orders for backline cruisers, radios for cruisers and portable radios, online crime reporting annual fee, 2-Way for radio project installations, Patrol PC and WatchGuard for cruiser equipment.

HIRING: We held a PT test on Saturday. Six attended and three passed. We have two additional candidates in the military to invite to the oral board and will do the PT with them that day. Following the oral board we will set up a date for Commission interviews.

TRAINING: Officer Rummo passed the Academy PT test and was admitted to this session, as there were five potential recruits who did not pass. The academy will not be an overnight program, only a day school. And there is no additional PT during this session.

We sent two officers to a CIT course hosted by the Dover Police Department this period.

We also hosted our annual crossing guard training, by webinar this year.

Comm. Stevens asked if we have enough crossing guards.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said we have open positions. This is something we have struggled with for 3 or 4 years. The time commitment daily is a small window, so we don't get a lot of interest from folks to do those positions. This year we talked with the school department and we moved some of the positions around. If anyone is interested in crossing guard positions, applications can be found on the City's website. <https://www.rochesternh.net/human-resources/pages/school-crossing-guard>

D. Other.

1. National Night Out. This event is typically held the first Tuesday in August. The pandemic postponed the event. Nationally they are looking at the first Tuesday in October. Locally we have been discussing different ideas including pairing this with fireworks that were pushed off earlier this year and having some type of a festival. It doesn't look like we will be able to make that happen.

We have been looking at doing a virtual National Night Out, where each day of that week we highlight community service providers with their links and info via social media and the City public relations staff.

With the mask mandate of gatherings over 100 the timing just isn't right to do the event in person. Also a lot of the organizations are still not back full time. We feel this is the best way to do this.

Comm. Stevens said it makes sense to not have a hands on this year with the limitations. Seems like it would be a lot of expended energy for low results.

Comm. Stanley said her only thought is for the youth. She doesn't see them going on line or to Facebook to look up information about social service agencies. Maybe there is a way to incorporate a weekend day that week, with maybe a drive in aspect, with characters or something. With the challenges we are all facing that would be optimal.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said he would talk with Nicole to see what we can come up with.

Comm. Stanley said she can always work on fundraising for giveaways.

2. Drug Take Back Day. The April event was canceled. The DEA just announced they will hold drug take back on October 24, 2020 from 10-2. Rochester registered for the event.

3. Commission for Law Enforcement Accountability. This report was released this week. We have scanned it and sent it to the administrative team. We will be talking about this more next week.

Comm. Stanley commented that the Police Commission should also meet and talk about it, and collaborate with staff on the recommendations. We should have a discussion about it.

4. Thank a Police Officer Day. This is September 19. There are cash prizes available for residential and commercial decorations. Folks should go on line and register. Signs and lights are available at Granite Steak and Grill and at Wit Way Supply. We appreciate the support as do the officers who see it out on patrol.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received this period: Comm. Center Manager Keri Devine recognizes Specialist Bowley, Specialist Pearce and Specialist Spicer for exceptional service and teamwork during a weather event on August 4 where more than 50 calls regarding accidents, road hazards and power outages were logged in an approximate 3.5 hour period. Off. Seager is thanked by a resident for his contact with police and assistance provided to overcome homelessness.

7. INFORMATION: None

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

Commissioner Stanley MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:40 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 3 - 0 with Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Stanley voting in the affirmative.

The non-public session closed at 8:01 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stanley, SECOND by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 - 0 with Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Stanley voting in the affirmative.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to seal the minutes indefinitely. SECOND by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 - 0 with Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Stanley voting in the affirmative.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the evaluation review for Off. Jonathan Marshal not due merit track in first 24 months. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: