

PC 2013/09/04

Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867

James F. McManus, Jr., Chairman
Alan B. Bemis, Vice Chairman
David E. Winship, Jr., Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting in City Hall Council Chambers on September 4, 2013. Present at this meeting was Comm. McManus, Comm. Winship, Chief Allen, Capt. Boudreau, Captain Toussaint, Dep. Chief Dumas, Attorney Grossman and recording Secretary Warburton; as well as members of the Department, the public and the media.

Comm. Bemis was excused

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

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

B. Prayer. Comm. McManus led the opening prayer and moment of silence.

C. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking all Comm. McManus and Comm. Winship present. Comm. Bemis was excused.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment offered.

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

A. August 7, - regular meeting

B. August 29, 2013 - special meeting

Comm. Winship MOVED to accept both the minutes of the August 7, 2013 regular meeting and the August 29, 2013 special meeting as submitted. SECOND by Comm. McManus and PASSED

4. **OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. FY13 Goals Final Report. We had three goals for the previous year and within each of those goals we had multiple objectives. We are happy to report that we met all of our objectives which is a testament to the hard working men and women of our department, from the bottom to the top. The staff has done a wonderful job and is continuing to do that. Our goals are set in partnership with the community. We solicit input from staff, the business community and civilians to set the road map for the future and we always welcome input. We will be putting this report upon on our website for the public to view this information.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Oath of Office. The oath of office was administered by Attorney Grossman for Patrol Officer to Officer Thomas Powers and Officer Allisia Burton. Further Attorney Grossman administered oaths for promotions to Sergeant Jeremy Aucoin and Lieutenant Todd Pinkham.

B. Recognition and Awards

1. Retirement Recognition – Off. Thomas Blair. Chief Allen said it's a pleasure to honor an officer who has recently retired, but only from full time service. We hired him back as a part time officer to work in our HUD program.

Chief Allen said Tom and I started our careers just a few months apart, and have since served our whole careers together. Tom is a cop's cop. He chose the path to serve as a patrol officer his whole career. That is an admirable thing. He has served well, with honor and distinction for 24 years. To start and stay with one department, you don't see that that often in today's law enforcement. People tend to bounce around. To have Tom stay and be as loyal and dedicated, Tom you should be proud.

He was hired in 1989, he did a stint in detectives, has been a field training officer, a DARE instructor and School Resource Officer. He is also a department armorer. He has done a lot of teaching in the field of firearms and has made his mark with countless officers over the years with his ability to instruct.

He received a life saving award early in his career after pulling a man from a burning vehicle on the Spaulding Turnpike. He has done a lot for the City and Department and I'm said to see him go as a full time officer, but happy to have him back part time.

Tom was presented with a "shirt" plaque – a shadow box of his uniform

shirt with all his medals and accomplishments, including his original name tag, albeit a bit scarred, recognition as a senior patrolman, hash marks, one for every five years of service.

Chief Allen said Tom is retiring at the most senior patrol position, that being badge #1, and in the early 90's we created a plaque that hangs in the department proudly signifying that achievement. Tom is the 6th officer on this plaque.

The City gives a granite rock to retiring employees. The City Manager could not attend this evening and asked that we make this presentation in recognition and gratitude for Tom's service.

Chief Allen said the last thing he has to present is flowers, not for Tom, but for his wife Debbie. This is a testament to you for your support for every year of service. It's not an easy thing to be a police officer. There is shift work, unplanned overtime, holidays and missed family events. Without the support of his family Tom could not do what he has done for the City and to honor that we have this small token of flowers to present.

Chief Allen offered the microphone to Tom for some parting words.

Tom said first he thanks Chief Allen. It's been a pleasure to serve with you and under your command. I thank the Commissioners and the command staff, the most professional people and I'm proud to say I served under them. It's been an honor with 24 years working for the City. I am blessed I was able to do that and I thank all in the community that allowed me to do that. I thank my wife and my family for putting up with me. I also thank all the guys that I worked with. It's been a pleasure and I will miss it, but you are all part of my family. I thank you very much. Congratulations to Sergeant Aucoin and Lieutenant Pinkham. Congratulations to the new officers sworn in tonight. It seems like it was yesterday and I was taking my oath. It goes by fast. Rely on the professional, dedicated police officers here. They are the best I have seen in the State. It has been a pleasure to serve. Thank you.

C. Strategic Plan Document. This is a new document the Commission is seeing for the first time. Chief Allen said, "I've wanted to do this for several months. We had a number of different documents in different places, all updated at different times of the year." It was not organized. This format is easily identified and read by the members of the department and the public. It is a roadmap of the police department moving forward. This is a visionary document that sets a path for the years to come.

We now have a mission statement, a vision statement, a value statement that defines our motto and a listed set of goals for the coming year, along with a longer range three to five year set of goals to work toward.

This is something that both Captain Boudreau and Captain Toussaint worked on with the staff. They did a phenomenal job putting this into this format. I'm very proud of the work they did on this. We will be posting this on our website for the public to access.

D. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Captain Boudreau noted that patrol has been busy over the past month focusing on the DDACTS area, dedicating more than 310 hours in proactive time on traffic and patrol to prevent crime. There were 439 traffic stops in the area. This type of focus makes the community safer as a whole.

Three of the six wards held meetings this reporting period. We will be taking more care with updating the meeting dates on our website so that people that want to attend can do so. We have had great interaction and participation in these meetings. Ward 2 had some neighborhood concerns and we've done some park and walks along with some suggestions on improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods.

The K9 has been busy working both in town and out of town partnering with other departments. He also participated in some proactive community policing events including National Night Out, and the New Durham Camp Care, where the dogs visited with the children. He continues to represent the department well.

Officers' Kusnierz and Seckendorf are now certified on the motorcycle.

Captain Toussaint said much like patrol, the investigations bureau was very busy this report period. We've been able to keep up with the caseload due to the addition of Det. Swanberry and welcoming back Det. Jerry Murphy to the unit. The unit is doing proactive work, one Thursday night of the month the entire division goes out on street crime patrols, and in addition helps patrol out to increase our DWI apprehensions. Month to month we have not had good numbers in this area, so we are focusing on this as well.

We are down two positions in the Communications Center due to resignations. We interviewed 14 candidates and had a good pool of applicants. The top two were given conditional offers and are deep in the hiring process.

The POP unit has been focusing on enforcement in the downtown on violations of the crosswalks, bicycles on the sidewalks and general safety and quality in the downtown.

The School Resource Officers are back in the schools starting at the end of August. Officer Murphy is the new SRO in the high school and so far is fitting in well. He has been doing some enforcement activity in terms of smoking and illegal acts in the Pines. He will also be taking over the Explorer Post. This is a division of the Boy Scouts, and Officer Murphy is an Eagle Scout. He is looking forward to taking over and leading this program.

Teen nights will resume for the year starting October 5, 2013.

2. Administration. Dep. Chief Dumas noted that all three front line cars have been purchase. We are putting together a lesson plan on the use of the Dodge Chargers, as we transition from Crown Victoria's. We rejected the bids for the backline cruiser for not meeting specifications and have gone back out to bid. We hope to get a good price back by reaching out to more dealers.

The JAG grant was approved at the federal level and will be presented to the Council in October. We plan to purchase forensic cell phone software to use in all investigations; Red training guns and also new honor guard uniforms. This unit represents the Department as a host of functions and the uniforms have been handed down through many people over the course of the past fifteen years.

We moved \$2500.00 from operational funds to the diversion line item. As we were going back and forth taking things out of the budget and putting things back in, the position was restored, but the funding didn't get restored. The city has asked that we absorb that and diligently only purchase things we absolutely need for the program. This program is a model in the state and we don't want to diminish the services. We will be seeking to have that funding restored in the next budget.

Officers Bourque and Danie will graduate from the Academy on September 13, 2013. New Officers' Powers and Burton will be off to the academy at the end of September for a January graduation and if all goes well we will be at full staff.

Det. Murphy returned to work and had received all updated training. He is back in the bureau with a case load.

Overall, financially the budget looks good. In the report you will see some

lines as overspent. This is tied to our liability lines. We were notified about a week ago that the Local Government Center has changed how liability is calculated and this information was not available at the time we built our budget. We spread this city-wide, the police department has the highest liability, and it is now being calculated on gross salaries versus net salaries, leaving us with an unfunded liability overall; \$48,000.00 in for officer liability, \$9,000.00 for general liability and \$4,000.00 in dispatch. This puts these costs where they truly are and the finance department is looking for the best way to move money so we can ride this out.

Comm. McManus asked if PD is number 1, where do Fire and DPW rank. Dep. Chief Dumas replied we do not know that.

Our overtime expense overall looks pretty good, although it's not where I'd like it to be. We are down a couple of officer's; we have a couple in the academy and a couple on long term TAD. We are 36% spent when combined with comp time for the year. We continue to monitor this closely.

On a broader note the TAD supplement hours in dispatch has reduced the amount of overtime in the center, but the overtime is still higher than where we want to be.

E. Other.

1. Employee of the Month. Chief Allen noted that Sgt. Deluca was recognized at the Council meeting the previous evening as employee of the month. He deserves congratulations for this. He does a good job.

Comm. McManus read part of the nomination letter which outlined that Sgt. Deluca assisted a burn victim who had lost his pain medication prescription and had been without for two weeks with accessing services at the hospital, paying from his own pocket the patient's co pay at the pharmacy and purchasing him something to eat while waiting to be seen. This is excellent service to our citizens.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Members of the Department, including the following were recognized this month. Off. Jamey Balint is recognized for helping a young resident get his life back on track during a time of crisis. Off. Chris Mangum was selected as the August Employee of the Month. Off. Funk is thanked by the Rochester Residents Council for representing the Department at their flag rededication. Off. Flathers is thanked by a Family Justice Center Domestic Violence specialist

for providing a ride along so she could learn more about the city and the types of calls we respond to. Off. Jackson is thanked by the County Attorney for his work on a case under investigation. Sgt. Deluca was selected as the September Employee of the Month. Det. Tapscott is thanked by Sheriff Dubois for his assistance with an investigation requiring computer expertise.

Comm. McManus aid that citizens take the time to write in and thank the officers ad folks in the department and that is why he likes to have these read aloud.

7. INFORMATION:

- Information Other; enclosed with Agenda: No discussion.

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

Commissioner McManus MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 8:08 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) SECOND by Comm. Winship. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 2 - 0 with Comm. Winship and Comm. McManus voting in the affirmative. The non-public session closed at 8:21 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. McManus, SECOND by Comm. Winship and PASSED unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. McManus MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 8:21 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca J. Warburton,
Secretary