

PC 2013/10/02

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 October 2, 2013. Present at this meeting was Comm. McManus, Comm. Bemis via phone, Comm. Winship, Chief Allen, Dep. Chief Dumas, Attorney Grossman, Chaplain Lachapelle and recording Secretary Warburton; as well as members of the Department, the public and the media.

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 Commissioner's present. Comm. Bemis was participating via phone.

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

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

A. September 4, 2013 regular meeting.

Comm. Winship MOVED to accept the minutes of the September 4, 2013 regular meeting as submitted. SECOND by Comm. Bemis and PASSED unanimously.

4. **OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. Award Bids

1. Police Vehicle (Bid 14-23). Dep. Chief Dumas said this is for the backline car. Both bidders met the specifications. The low bidder when encompassing the value of trading three cars was Londonderry Ford at 10,012.00. We recommend awarding the bid to the low bidder, Londonderry Ford.

Comm. Winship inquired as to the price difference between the two bids.

Dep. Chief Dumas replied that it was about \$1000.00, when factoring in the trade values.

Comm. Winship MOVED to award the bid to Londonderry Ford for the price of \$10,012.00 with trade values. SECOND by Comm. Bemis and PASSED unanimously.

2. Cruiser Exterior Light Bars (Bid 14-22). Dep. Chief Dumas noted that we received only one bid for the light bars, from Two Way in Newington in the amount of \$21,364.24. This is budgeted through the CIP and we recommend awarding the bid to Two-Way.

Comm. McManus MOVED to award the bid to Two-Way. SECOND by Comm. Winship and PASSED unanimously.

B. Any Other Business

1. JAG Grant. Chief Allen reported that our grant went before Council and was accepted. We plan to purchase forensic cell phone software, honor guard uniforms and red training guns.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Recognition and Awards

1. Lifesaving for Officer Krans and Officer Worthley. Chief Allen noted that both Officer Krans and Worthley were unavailable to attend the meeting tonight; however he briefly reviewed the reason for the award recognition and noted that he would issue the award to the officers at a later date. Chief Allen said the officers responded to a residence for person not conscious and not breathing. They performed CPR and used the AED prior to transport to the hospital. Their actions gave this person a fighting chance.

B. Accept Resignation: Officer Allysia Burton. Chief Allen noted that Ms.

Burton was attending the academy and after getting there submitted her resignation.

Comm. Winship MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Allysia Burton. SECOND by Comm. McManus and PASSED unanimously.

C. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Chief Allen noted it has been a busy month in patrol and support services. He is pleased with the increased attendance at the ward meetings. All wards held meetings this period and the participation and diversity of issues discussed is exactly what these meetings are designed to do; to build relationships, to get to know your neighbors and work with the police to solve issues. There has been good participation at the Council and Commission level as well and we are very pleased with the progress of how that program continues to move forward.

We welcomed a new housing officer this period. Officer Tom Blair retired from full time service and transitioned to part time taking over the vacant housing officer position.

The investigations bureau had three call outs this period including a felony level stabbing, a robbery and a serious hit and run accident. These calls take significant resources and time to investigate.

We had another resignation in our communications center. Specialist Keri Devine will take a position in the private sector that pays more money and improves the quality of life for her family. She has been an asset to the center and has agreed to work on a part time per diem basis to fill overtime shifts. Right now we are down three positions and it will be a big help to have her and not a miss a beat. We do have two officers on TAD filling in there which has helped to control overtime.

Comm. McManus noted that we had candidates in the process that didn't work out and you just re-advertised today to start another list.

Chief Allen said we need to fill three positions. We will get by in the interim with overtime and these TAD positions, but it puts us in a difficult situation to be down that many positions.

There was a recent article in the newspaper regarding the new cruiser and the stealth design. We attribute part of that to Commissioner Bemis who really spearheaded the effort for us to get Dodge Chargers. We will use the stealth

design vehicle for motor vehicle work. We are ramping up our efforts to curb texting while driving as well as aggressive driving. This is an issue not just in Rochester, but across the country that causes accidents.

The POP unit has been busy with enforcement efforts in the downtown.

Comm. McManus commented that the hit and run downtown where the person was injured, the Department did a good job in apprehending a suspect in that case.

Chief Allen concurred that there was great police work done in that case. It was a collective effort of patrol and the investigations bureau to bring that to a resolution.

The new resource officer in the school is settling in well. We are getting good feedback from the high school and supervisors that Officer Murphy is doing a great job up there and working on accomplishing the goals and objectives of the position.

Teen nights start back up this weekend and we are looking forward to that.

2. Administration. Dep. Chief Dumas said that there are a couple of line items we are watching. Animal boarding is way up, but not overspent. We researched the calls and cases and all are legitimate. The revenue portion of animal calls is also up. We are monitoring overtime and vacation replacements. The overtime in dispatch is in relatively good shape due in large part to the TAD replacements helping out in there.

All of the Dodge cruisers are on line and we are getting positive feedback from the officers and from the public. There are some subtle differences in the operation of the chargers so we have put together a training program for the officers as they transition.

Our request for funding through SAG for Teen Night has been preliminarily approved. It still must be approved by the Governor and Executive Council. We are cautiously optimistic. It will help us with food and equipment to continue Teen Nights, which had previously been funded with donations.

Despite the resignation of Officer Burton, Officer Powers is moving forward and doing well at the Academy. We have another officer in the background phase and with the interview held this evening, we will hopefully fill those two additional open patrol positions.

The NH Highway Safety Agency is looking to do another "Operation Safe Commute" grant. It will run from October 30, 2013 through September of 2014. We are looking forward to participating. This is designed to not only target Rochester, but the corridor commuting miles and hours.

All reports are that the Fair had a good year, and except for opening night had great weather. There were not major issues. They were invoiced today and we are keeping track so as not to run into past issues of timely payments.

D. Other

1. Cruiser Lighting. Comm. Bemis commented about research done by the Michigan State Police regarding rear end accidents with cruisers, and officers getting struck by cars for various reasons. We had obviously done our own research and he would like to see us try to put led lights in the windows and side mirrors as it seems to have had an impact on the accident rate in others communities, although we have differing topography.

Dep. Chief Dumas said any time you can increase the visibility for an officer is a positive thing. We worked closely with Sgt. Burke and we will look into some of the same testing as the Michigan State Police, but you have to consider that everything is a cost item. Too much light can make it difficult to see for the passing motorists. You have to find a balance.

Comm. McManus opined that next year we could add that to the specifications of the bid to see what the cost would be.

It was noted that we don't have the LED lights in the back deck, but we are getting new light bars and additional lighting in the rear of the vehicle to make it more visible in inclement weather.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Members of the Department, including the following were recognized this month. Joanne and Cliff Powers thank Chief Allen for the tour of the Department prior to their son's oath as a Police Officer. Chief Allen said it is rewarding to meet the families and to give them an opportunity to see our operation. Trinidad Tellez thanks the Department, specifically Nicole Rodler, Dep. Chief Dumas and Chief Allen for participating and supporting the DMC in Manchester. Off. Gantert is recognized for his proactive work concerning littering, drugs, criminal trespassing and overall upkeep of the property surrounding Wyandotte Falls Housing. Off. Livingstone, Officer Jackson and Officer Porfido were thanked in separate incidents for providing ride alongs to

various individuals in connection with their work or careers. Off. Balint is thanked by Graham Griffin of Bridging the Gaps for his assistance with the mock crash at the high school. Off. Leccacorvi is thanked by a resident for his assistance in retrieving her stolen bicycle. Sgt. Burke is recognized for his hard work and dedication to our cruiser maintenance upkeep. Off. MacKenzie is thanked by the York County Sheriff for assistance with a search at the complex.

7. INFORMATION:

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

B. Other.

1. Comm. Bemis Comments. Comm. Bemis sends his gratitude and appreciation to the Mayor who called him today and will speak at upcoming services.

Comm. McManus thanked the dedicated men and women in the Police Department. He said that he talked with Comm. Bemis every day and he usually had an officer sitting with him. Sgt. Burke and others had traveled to Mass General to visit as well. There were a lot of emails and cards from folks in Al's ward. Comm. McManus said, "Al you are a fighter and we appreciate you being here by phone, but miss you in person. We work well as a team. God Bless you Al Bemis."

Comm. Bemis said he appreciates the contact. He said Comm. Winship visits often too. This is a nice place and they are doing a great job. All that have called and visited is appreciated very much.

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

Commissioner McManus MOVED to enter a non public session at 7:37 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 with Comm. Winship, Comm. Bemis and Comm. McManus voting in the affirmative. The non-public session closed at 8:05 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. McManus, SECOND by Comm. Winship and PASSED unanimously.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Following the non public session the Commission took the following action:

Comm. Winship MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Officer Randy Smith and Officer Elizabeth Turner. SECOND by Comm. McManus and PASSED unanimously.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Comm. McManus MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 8:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca J. Warburton,
Secretary