

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 in the Police Department lecture hall on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 1:00 P.M. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Captain Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M.

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

B. Prayer. Chaplain Cilley delivered the opening prayer.

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

D. Oath of Office – Commissioner Stanley. Comm. Stanley was excused from the elected officials' inauguration on January 2, 2020. Sec. Warburton administered the oath of office for Comm. Stanley.

E. Election of Chairman

**Comm. Stevens nominated Comm. Peters as Chair for the upcoming term. Second by Comm. Stanley.**

**Nominations ceased and one ballot was cast for Comm. Peters as Chair.**

**The motion to install Comm. Peters as Chair, PASSED unanimously.**

F. Election of Vice Chairman

**Comm. Stanley nominated Comm. Stevens as Vice-Chair for the upcoming term. Second by Comm. Peters.**

**Nominations ceased and one ballot was cast for Comm. Stevens as Vice Chair.**

**The motion to install Comm. Stevens as Vice Chair PASSED unanimously.**

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

## 3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. December 4, 2019 regular meeting.

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting. 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 to come before the Commission.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Monthly Reports

**OPERATIONS:** All of the Wards have meetings scheduled in January 2020.

The investigations bureau had 38 cases sent up from patrol for review or investigation. There are currently 68 cases assigned. There were 32 cases presented to the Grand Jury all with true bills. There were three detective call outs, (2 OD Death Investigations and 1 Second Degree Assault). There were three polygraphs and three backgrounds completed. There were three compliance checks for sex offenders. There were 214 pieces of evidence logged in, 52 items returned to owners and an additional 28 pieces destroyed. We continue to work on filling the vacant evidence technician position.

**CEO/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER:** Officer Danie and Sgt. Babine continue to alter shifts for extra eyes during hours when thefts from vehicles are more prevalent. In addition to his normal duties, Officer Danie worked the tree lighting, attended a Christmas Party at the Children's Home and took part in shop with a cop. He is organizing the annual Skate with a Cop scheduled for February 1, 2020. He has been working with patrol on a disorderly residence on Summer Street, and has been assisting with the firearms training for new hires.

**COMP STAT:** Field activities have doubled since our prior reporting period. Good proactive work occurred with a search warrant on a vehicle where heroin and meth were located. Other arrests from stops included two marijuana cases and a couple drug related warrants as well as a Bench Warrant for prostitution.

There were 13 DWI arrests this period, two from proactive traffic enforcement. We talked about this last month and were unable to find a correction for the increase. We are doing more calls for welfare checks on persons in cars reported as "people nodding off." We are closer to the 2017 numbers than the 2018 numbers. Therefore, it appears the increase is attributable to those welfare checks. We are able to charge them if they are behind the wheel of the vehicle.

Accidents are up 15% year to date. Most are occurring on the main corridor routes through the City. Tuesdays and Fridays between 2 and 4 PM reported the highest number of accidents. North Main, South Main and Farmington Road each had 9 reported accidents. There were 19 parking lot accidents.

Theft from motor vehicles is an on-going problem. All the vehicles have been unlocked, and most of the items taken are not traceable. We did have two persons seen on video surveillance who have been charged with trespass and prowling.

Drug Possession cases were low compared to the prior month. The crime analyst is showing more calls for meth related incidents including people acting out and irrational behavior.

There were two robberies. One was at Service Credit Union and the other was drug related and not a random act. Arrests were made in both cases. Year to date the violent crimes are down 24%.

Comm. Peters commented that the investigations bureau does a very good job on these armed robbery cases. It seems that people are identified quickly and arrests are made. Hats off to them for doing a great job.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Our specialist on Field training was released to solo headset. We have one vacancy. A background is underway for that position. Granite Steak and Grille hosted the annual Project Good Morning event. Their hospitality is very generous. The center is currently wear testing a wireless headset that seems to work well. We will be ordering additional units.

**DIVERSION:** Teen night had 201 youth in December. Our partner agencies will be hosting a movie and conversation on February 21 around the impact on youth of having incarcerated parents. It will allow service providers and community members to learn how best to help our youth, for the population of our community being raised by non-parental custodians.

Over the next two years Nicole Rodler will be working on the Juvenile Probation Transformation Certificate Program with the State team developing the statewide plan to decrease the overutilization of probation and increase the amount of community based alternatives used to work with juveniles, including diversion.

Nicole Rodler met with Representative Gerri Cannon from Somersworth to provide information on what is and how juvenile court diversion works. Representative Cannon has submitted legislation to increase the utilization of diversion for first-time offenders and will be working with the State Juvenile Justice Transformation team to help champion that legislation.

**EMD USE:** Display and Deploy: One

Display Only: One

**FINANCIAL/PURCHASING:** Our FY20 budget is overall in good shape in O&M lines. We have had to make transfers to the medical services line due to hiring this year. The cruiser maintenance line, typically one to watch, is in very good shape. The greater part of this month had been dedicated to the development of our FY21 operating and CIP budgets. All of our entries are complete and in line with the mandate from the City Manager.

On January 7, 2020, the Council approved funding needed for the radio infrastructure. The project is on track for the spring. Part of the project ties into the new DPW facility. Our site work is an addendum on their build proposal. Their contractor will do the work and our budget will pay for that portion. We saved some money with this coordination.

The online crime reporting software project remains on schedule and on track for a go-live date in March.

The Commission asked how will be publicize this.

There will be a launch page on website for the on-line crime reporting directions, and we will put this out via media, Facebook, the government channel and encourage dispatch to share the information with callers.

Could we have a demo at a televised meeting?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that we could send the Commission the link to test it. Citizens will get an email that the report has been submitted. A Lieutenant or supervisor will review it and a case number will be generated. Reports can be assigned to an officer if needed.

Comm. Stanley said that if a person has a theft to report to insurance that they submit on line and it gets a case number; can they then download the report for their insurance?

Capt. Pinkham said no, they still have to come here to obtain a copy due to redaction and right to know laws.

Comm. Peters asked for any update on the cruiser purchase as well as on the JAG application.

Dep. Chief Boudreau reported there no new information on either topic.

Comm. Stevens inquired if there are any items in this years' budget for the Commission's concern.

Dep. Chief Boudreau stated that all of the updated salary information has been input and that will give us a better picture and projection for the final six months of this year. We are looking at a project that right now is part of our FY21 CIP request to update the investigations bureau. All of that furniture was donated from the former Cabletron facility when we moved to this building in 2004.

**HIRING:** We have just one full time police position remaining to be filled. The background is underway and expected to be completed in January.

**FORFEITURE SPENDING:** None

**HONOR GUARD:** The Honor Guard participated in the Annual Rochester Holiday Parade by providing a flag detail. The Honor Guard will also participate in the Battle of the Badges, C.H.a.D. game on March 15, 2020.

**HOUSING:** RPD and Rotary delivered holiday food boxes with Housing Staff. There were three resident Christmas breakfasts held as well. Several officers attended and mingled with housing residents. There were only 19 police related calls for service this month and 7 criminal background checks for new applicants.

**K-9:** This month the Rochester K-9 unit responded to five calls—four were tracks and one was a drug search. All of the tracks were in Rochester, and the drug search was at a school in Raymond.

**PROSECUTION - ADULT:** There were 289 new cases with 440 charges. There were 129 guilty pleas, 106 not guilty, 45 cases nol prossed. There were 120 who failed to appear, 12 found guilty by the court, 6 cases dismissed by the court and 4 cases placed on file.

**PROSECUTION - JUVENILE:** Juvenile prosecution had 10 petitions and five referred to diversion. There were 5 arraignments. There were twelve trials (9 pleas, 1 guilty, 2 failed to appear, or were continued). There were eleven hearings, (5 review, 4 violation, 1 show cause, 2 dispositional). One charge nol prossed for competency of juvenile. There were 15 investigations or complaints /warrant for bail jumping from District Court, 1 investigation or complaint/warrant for theft from District Court, and 9 motions to impose suspended sentences or motions to bring case forward for trial.

Lt. Gould attended Teen Night and handled district court arraignments for Attorney Mitrushi on December 23. She attended a meeting related to the court pilot program for text messaging court dates.

**RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION:** Lt. Bossi attended the Association meeting on December 5, 2019. Lt. Bossi reviewed property crime information and numbers. He spoke about the increase in theft from motor vehicles in the month of November, and provided some crime prevention tips. Lt. Bossi informed them about the Ring Neighborhood app that allows them to see activity captured on Ring cameras in their neighborhoods, and answered some questions about cameras and providing video to the PD. Lt. Bossi spoke about the POP Unit and the types of things they will work on, and the benefits of the unit. The next meeting will be on January 9, 2020 at 8am at the Hellenic Center, 219 Long Hill Road in Dover.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS:** All of the School Resource Officers are teaching LEADS in their respective schools.

High School Highlights: Officer Jackson worked with the school regarding the surveillance cameras and addressing areas where the cameras need to cover. He provided a special needs student with a bicycle from the PD. He completed the monthly/daily security checks both inside and outside the building. He attended Teen night.

Middle School Highlights: Sgt. Deluca covered absences for the elementary school SRO for two weeks. He attended Teen night. He worked with specific students, teaching them common social cues, and worked with 12 different students regarding issues of interventions, stress issues for the students and ways to cope with it. Sgt. Deluca graduated 160 students from LEAD. He worked with the guidance department at the middle school on a fundraiser for underprivileged children for Christmas.

Elementary School Highlights: Off. Porfido has been working with McDonalds on a program to hand out gift cards to deserving students. He has been dealing with a couple of schools on issues involving students, including a student suspended. He has done school lunch consistently, and he has been working with a group of students to improve reading skills. He also assisted Patrol with a juvenile bullying matter that occurs when the student walks home after school.

Explorer Post: Officer Jackson

- Officer Jackson held two meetings this month. He has also started the process for re-chartering.

**TRAINING:** Officers' Miller, Bilodeau, and Flathers graduated from the NH Police Academy on 12/20/19. After some re-fresher in house training, they have started their field-training program. We expect them to finish their field training in early March. Recruits Colson and Knox started the academy on 1/6/20. Officer Marshall is in phase 2 of his field-training program and appears to be progressing positively through the program.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

A. Correspondence for the month included: Off. Riddle, Off. Williams-Hurley and Off. Govoni are thanked by a resident for compassion and kindness during a drug investigation. Sgt. Miehle is thanked for how he addressed a custody dispute.

## **7. INFORMATION:**

There was no discussion.

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

**Commissioner Stanley MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 1:30 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 1:58 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 award a merit increase on his respective anniversary date to Off. Thomas Blair (3.35%), Off. Donovan Funk (2.79%), Sgt. Christopher Cost (3.75%), Sgt. Anthony Deluca (3.45%), Lt. Anne Gould (3.7%), Lt. Anthony Bossi (3.6%), Lt. Jeremy Aucoin (3.5%), Lt. Andrew Swanberry (3.95%), Capt. Todd Pinkham (3.75% plus .75% equity adjustment) Capt. Jason Thomas (3.95% plus .75% equity adjustment), Dep. Chief Gary Boudreau (3.85% plus .75% equity adjustment), Chief Paul Toussaint (3.8% plus .75% equity adjustment), and a merit track advancement to Sgt. Eric Babine in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED unanimously.**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 2:01 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton  
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 02/05/2020