



**Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867**

Derek J. Peters, Commissioner
David R. Stevens, Commissioner
David E. Winship, Jr. Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall, Council Chambers. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Stevens, Comm. Winship, Chief Boudreau, Dep. Chief Thomas, Capt. Swanberry, Capt. Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley, Secretary Warburton, and invited guests.

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

All participated in the pledge of allegiance.

Chaplain Cilley led all in prayer.

B. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Comm. Winship and Comm. Stevens present. Comm. Peters was excused.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. February 2, 2022 regular meeting.

Comm. Winship MOVED to accept the minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as presented PASSED 2-0 with Comm. Winship voting yes and Comm. Stevens voting yes.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No old or unfinished business.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Awards and Recognitions. Chief Boudreau thanked all family and friends and department members for coming out. It is great to recognize staff for doing the hard work day in and day out. Everyone works extremely hard in their roles. We seek nominations from their peers for these awards.

1. Support Person of the Year – Tiffany Pearce; Communications . Tiffany Pearce has been a Communications Specialist with our agency since 2016. Tiffany has a background in firefighting with advance degrees in fire science and fire investigations. Chief Boudreau noted that Tiffany is an

extremely important asset to our dispatch center. Tiffany was nominated by her peers, who stated how she is a team player, empathetic, resourceful, and how professional she is when things are chaotic in the center.

2. Officer of the Year – Officer Brendan Colson. Officer Brendan Colson has been an Officer with our agency since 2019. Officer Colson served our country in the Navy until 2019 when he joined our ranks. Chief Boudreau stated that in the short amount of time Officer Colson has been an Officer with us, he has been a leader amongst his peers. Chief Boudreau stated he has a great understanding of the job, completes a very thorough work product, and is a top performer in our agency. Officer Colson is a genuine person, and “high spirited” in always making his coworkers laugh.

3. Chief Blair Memorial Award – Officer Hattie Johnson. Officer Hattie Johnson has been an Officer with our agency since 2018. Officer Johnson served our country in the Army as a medic. Officer Johnson competed in the 2004 Olympic Games in Greece in the 10-meter air rifle competition. Chief Boudreau noted some traits that Chief Blair possessed, and how those same traits are instilled in Officer Johnson: compassion, dedication, genuine, inspiring, kind, patient, personable, respectful, smart, positive outlook, and smiling all the time (to name a few). We were honored to have the Blair family on-hand to issue the plaque to Officer Johnson.

A 10 minute recess was called.

B. Year End Reports 2021. These reports are thorough. They show all that we do and the statistics and categories of things we track. We have had reductions in some categories of crime. We commend the members of the Department.

Chief Boudreau said he’d like to highlight just a couple of the reports. Comp Stat shows where we have been and the direction we are going. Property crime is down in 2021, and has been trending down for five years. In 2016 we had 1479 property crimes reported. In 2021 there were 886. There is excellent work being done throughout the community. Often I’ve seen on social media reports from various organizations that Rochester is a dangerous place, but we really are not. Property crimes are down. Violent crime is also down. In 2106 we had 667 violent crimes reported. In 2021 that dropped to 315. That is a huge reduction in that time period. People get a skewed view but we are a very safe community. The men and women of the department work extremely hard and do a great job policing this community, making it safe for residents, visitors and businesses.

Chief Boudreau said the other report I want to highlight is crisis intervention. Mental health has been a topic in the country the past couple of years. In other parts of the country you hear questions of police responding to people in mental health crisis. That is usually because those in crisis have no place to turn after hours, nights or weekends.

We responded to 411 mental health related calls in 2021. Of those, 245 people were brought to the hospital for services. When we encounter someone in crisis we work to stabilize and get them to the hospital in a controlled environment for evaluation. In 51 of those calls we encountered a person with an edged weapon or unsafe situation. Not all of those weapons were presented toward police.

However, there were 20 cases where lethal weapons were presented to police in 2021. That is an upward trend as there were only 30 such calls in 2020.

These types of calls are dangerous and we want to get these people speaking with mental health professionals. It is a danger to people intervening. Of the 411 calls we responded to we had positive outcomes in them.

Comm. Stevens said part of that is the training we are giving our officers and that we are continuously looking for new ways to be a little bit better and more helpful.

Chief Boudreau said that Rochester was the first in the State to have officers certified in CIT that was spearheaded by former Chief Dubois and Sgt. Stephen Burke. We were ahead of our time bringing this model up here. In a perfect world every single officer would be CIT trained. We will get there, but it will take time. We had intended to host a course this year and certify more of our officers, but staffing a COVID have pushed that back. The State does offer the training but it fills quickly.

C. Monthly Reports

1). Operations. There were 16 cases sent up from patrol, or that were detective generated. Current caseload is 61. Det. Rousseau was handling evidence, covering that vacancy. We have moved Sgt. Benjamin into that role for now. We do have a conditional offer pending and a background underway for the position. We are looking to see those numbers be what they have been in the past.

There were four polygraphs and eight backgrounds completed by Detectives. We have been doing a lot of backgrounds for the past several months.

COMPSTAT: There was an increase in traffic stops from the previous month, which also increased the amount of arrests from stops. We are hoping to see the proactive activity increase when staffing increases.

Property crime and violent crime are both trending down, which is a good thing. Property crime is down 59% and violent crime is down 23%.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER/PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING UNIT: CEO and POP have been assigned to patrol. Sgt. Benjamin has been picking up some of that CEO work.

COMMUNICATIONS: There were as many as five openings in the Center. We do have one in training and one ready to start this week. There are two applicants in the background and we have one position still to fill. The dispatchers have been working a lot of overtime. The supervisor has been picking up shifts as well. We have some officers who have training working in the center also picking up shifts.

HONOR GUARD: The Honor guard will present at the CHAD battle of the badges hockey game. They haven't been as active due to the pandemic so they are excited to have been invited back. This is good for the officers and the agency.

K9: Officer Hatch and Ripley are progressing in training.

DIVERSION: Ms. Rodler is working on an event with Waypoint for the 2022 sleepout to raise awareness for homeless teens. It's a good event we are hoping to get some involvement in that.

2.) Administration: Dep. Chief Thomas noted that we will be using the State Bid, awarded to McFarland Ford for the backline cruiser. We have been told that there is about a 7 month wait time. One of our new cruisers is at 2-Way for equipment installation and the other two cars are pending painting. The dispatch trailer is still waiting on some parts. While waiting, 2-Way is installing the decals.

The body camera project contract is under review. Chief Boudreau added that the application for the grant money at the State is due by March 15. The City Manager has authorized us to apply. We did reach out to the grant office because part of our project is being funded locally, but it will not cover the entire five years. Each agency can get up to \$50,000, but the pool of money is limited. We don't know how much we would get. However, some is better than none.

Comm. Stevens noted that we knew we couldn't reply on that as our only option. Do we have a target date?

Chief Boudreau said it will be a couple of months to get the equipment in, complete a policy and roll it out. It will also depend on the supply chain.

Comm. Stevens asked about training time.

Chief Boudreau replied that it should be quick. We need to pick a place on the uniform to mount the camera. There is an on and off button. There will be docking stations to download, that also charges the battery. As we already use Watchguard for the in car cameras we are familiar with the software. There will be some change with the cloud-based storage, but it is generally the same.

Comm. Stevens commented that this is a huge step for Rochester for the protection of the officers and citizens.

Chief Boudreau said as with the in car cameras, these will help protect officers, citizens and the city and will make the prosecution of cases better as well.

HIRING Detctives are doing 5 police backgrounds and we have more interviews set.

TRAINING The officers in field training are moving into the next phase. The four officers at the academy are also doing well so far.

Officer Kimball returned from deployment. We want to thank him publicly for his service to our country. We are happy to have him back. He is now back on solo patrol after a brief re-entry training.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received this period: Sgt. Benjamin is recognized for selection to the CHaD (Children's Hospital at Dartmouth) Battle of the Badges Hockey Championship. Sgt. Benjamin is recognized for work ethic, team work, management and leadership during a significant weather event. Off. Colson is recognized b a citizen as a kind-hearted person who goes

above and beyond requirements. Off. Burrell and Off. Porfido are recognized by a citizen for being honest and nice public servants. Dept Members including Off. Bilodeau and Sgt. Benjamin are thanked by DPW for assistance during a water main break

Comm. Stevens said that every month the nice comments we get is a testament to the quality of people we have out there.

7. INFORMATION: None

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

Commissioner Stevens MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:52 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel). Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Winship – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

The non-public session closed at 7:59 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Winship. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Winship – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to seal the minutes of the non-public session. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Winship. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Winship – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the evaluations and merit track advancements as presented for Off. Alexander (track 6), Off. Hatch (track 8) Off. Crawford (track 3), Off. Kimball (track 3), Off. Babine (3% with RHA 7/) and the evaluations of Off. Moon and Off. Gleason (no merit first 24 months). Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Winship – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 7:59 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary