



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, May 3, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Police Department Lecture Hall. Participants in this meeting:

Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Winship, Chief Boudreau, Dep. Chief Thomas, Capt. Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton.

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

All participated in the pledge of allegiance.

Chaplain Cilley led us in prayer.

A. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Winship present.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**: No one was present to offer any public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. April 5, 2023.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2023 meeting. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as presented PASSED 3-0; Comm. Peters yes, Comm. Winship yes, Comm. Stevens yes.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Body Camera Project Update: Chief Boudreau stated that we are still not live with the body cameras. We are still waiting for the redaction software piece. We could go live with the cameras now, but, anticipating 91A (right to know) requests that come in, we need that redaction piece. We will have to provide the footage for any arrest as part of the discovery process as well.

Comm. Stevens inquired if it would be as soon as June 1.

Chief Boudreau replied he would like to say yes but we are at the mercy of the vendor.

Comm. Peters asked that the Commission be advised once we do go live.

Chief Boudreau stated we would be doing a media blitz once live.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Monthly Reports

1). Operations. Capt. Pinkham reported that Lt. Bossi and Sgt. Benjamin attended the recent Rental Property Owners Association meeting, with no major issues reported.

The Honor Guard is preparing for participation in the Law Enforcement Memorial ceremonies in Concord, as well as the City Memorial Day parade.

There are no major trends or concerns to report out on for Comp Stat.

The investigations bureau currently has 86 open cases; 38 of them are new. There were 8 call outs this period, one evidence team call out and 5 backgrounds completed.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING (POP). Officer Kimbrough continues to work with the Explorer program and also helped with the citizens' academy, the monthly crime line meeting, and he is working on the planning of National Night Out with Nicole Rodler. He attended Teen Night, the senior breakfast and taught some courses at the driving school.

The POP unit has been very active and are working well together. They've made a few arrests, completed some search warrants and have a few open investigations.

Comm. Peters said this is the last Teen Night of the season. How has attendance been?

Chief Boudreau said that Teen night evolved over the years. We were maxing capacity and staff control in the early years with over 300 youth. We took a hiatus during COVID and now that we are back we have found we are averaging less than 100 kids. We are heavy in the middle school age group. Even with 50-70 youth that's still a success.

COMMUNICATIONS: The Communications Center celebrated National Tele-Communicators week. It is a good reminder to thank them for all they do. We should do it more than once a year. We commend them for the great job they all do.

We do still have open positions. We have two in training, one getting ready to be released and one just started. One in the background process withdrew. It has been an ongoing battle to get that center fully staffed.

Comm. Peters concurred. Our dispatchers are probably the backbone of police, fire and EMS because all calls come directly to them. They have the first decision as to where it goes. From the Commission we also send our heartfelt thanks to them.

Chief Boudreau stated that the dispatch contract was recently passed by the City Council. As noted we are still at a critical staffing shortage and only about 50% staffed. Through talking

with our new incoming city manager we let the council know we want to enter into an MOU with the dispatch union to start the wages portion of the new contract in the next pay period. The increase they would get in the new fiscal year as well as part of the pay structure clause for critical shortage staffing pay, I believe its \$100 per week. We pay a police officers or firefighters at their overtime rate. So this is just another way to support the dispatchers for the job they do.

2.) Administration. Dep. Chief Thomas said we are 83% through the fiscal year. Overall, our operating lines are in the black. The budget retreat is this Friday in Council Chambers.

On the hiring side we have four new officers starting on May 8. This leaves us one open position. I'd like to set up another meeting to interview two next week.

Officer Birmingham graduated from the 191st academy. He is scheduled to enter FTO by May 14. Officer Hill and Settele are set to graduate the academy on June 16. Officer Mills is nearly ready for release to solo patrol. She is still learning the city streets.

There was a plethora of training.

Comm. Peters commented that the last couple of years training has been mostly on line, so to have multiple classes available is nice to see, particularly for such a young department. The more training they have is a benefit to us as taxpayers and I'm glad to see it. Training overtime will take a huge hit but it's much needed after the last three years.

D. Other.

1. Highway Safety Grants. Chief Boudreau said with our staffing shortages and overtime for normal shift work, we have not applied for any highway safety grants like we have in the past for patrols that speed, dwi, distracted driving, etc. The Union President approached me recently about over time and would I be supportive of doing them. He assured me the details would be covered.

We recently had a Route 125 corridor meeting, for all the communities this road passes through. Highway Safety has funding to address traffic safety on Route 125, as well as throughout the City that will run through September. The Council approved accepting \$8600.00 in highway safety money last evening.

Comm. Stevens asked if this covers just Route 125.

Chief Boudreau said no. We will post different areas to do dedicated patrols.

Comm. Peters asked if there was a match for funds.

Chief Boudreau said it is 25% in-kind match. If we assign someone regularly on duty for traffic, that counts. Managing the reporting and recording keeping of the funds also counts.

2. Congressionally Directed Spending Request. Chief Boudreau said we were notified almost two months ago of some funding that Senator Shaheen was submitting throughout the state. The law enforcement portion had a quick turnaround. The one project that I felt we could turnaround

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quick was our CIP request for new in-car video cameras. We have made the first round of projects submitted to the appropriations committee, in the amount of \$123,000. If this funding is approved after our local budget is adopted (if Council keeps our project in the budget) we will change the funding source from local to federal. We hope if there is funding next year for a little more notice as we do have other ideas. There were some big projects submitted from other agencies in the state.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence received for the month included: Juvenile Division Coordinator Nicole Rodler was presented with the Granite State Award for the work previously done on the Juvenile Justice Transformation at the DCYF Conference. ACO Sue Paradis is thanked for efforts in finding a lost dog.

7. INFORMATION:

None.

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

Commissioner Stevens MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:20 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 3 – 0 with Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

The non-public session closed at 9:03 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – 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. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to approve the evaluation of Off. Alexander Howardkoppes and Officer Steven McPherson (no merit per CBA), Off. Justin Livingstone (top of grade) and the evaluations and merit track advancement for Off. Eric Babine (3.9%). Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to return Officer Randy Smith to duty effective 5/22/23, as a patrol officer, at top step patrol (merit track 10). Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 9:03 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 06/07/23