

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 at City Hall, Council Chambers on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas and Capt. Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley, Secretary Warburton and invited guests.

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

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

A moment of silence was observed in honor and memory of former Police Chaplain and Police Commissioner Ronald Lachapelle who passed away on June 1, 2019.

B. Prayer. Chaplain Cilley delivered the opening prayer.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. May 1, 2019 regular meeting.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2019 meeting. Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion with one minor correction under monthly reports to clarify the meeting Lt. Bossi attended was the Rental Property Owner's Association. The motion to accept the minutes, with clarification PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Discussion.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Oaths. Officer Adam Govoni took the oath of office administered by Executive Secretary Rebecca Warburton. His family was on hand to take part in this achievement. Officer Govoni comes to us certified with ten years of experience in Northwood.

B. Retirement Recognition – Officer Brenden Bentz. Officer Bentz officially retired from the Department on May 30, 2019. Chief Toussaint noted that Brenden was an anchor of the midnight shift. He brought a skillset of instruction to the Department in firearms and defensive tactics. He served a number of years on the Tactical team. He was lauded several times for his kind and professional way of handling. Brenden was presented with a shadowbox of a uniform shirt noting his 18 years of service in Rochester. His wife was presented with flowers, a small token of appreciation for all her support over the years.

A ten-minute recess was called. Back in session at 7:28 P.M.

C. Accept Retirement – Officer Brenden Bentz

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the retirement of Officer Bentz, with regret. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED unanimously.

D. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Capt. Pinkham noted that three of the wards 2, 3 and 6 met this period. Discussion included speeding traffic and enforcement on Old Dover Road, some recent interactions with a local known person, who frequently panhandles, as well as discussion on homeless or transient individuals and the impact on calls for service.

In COMP STAT, there was a decrease in traffic stops from the prior month. Thefts *from* motor vehicles are up for the month, and in this period, ALL of those thefts were from unlocked vehicles. There were two arrests made from a couple of these cases. There was an increase in burglaries this period. Several construction sites were targets where tools were stolen.

The investigations bureau had 40 cases sent up from patrol for review or investigation. There are currently 61 cases assigned. There were 26 cases presented to the Grand Jury all with true bills. Compliance checks completed for one sex offender and two pawnshops. There were two detective call outs (2 overdose deaths). We have added three patrol officers to the on call rotation to assist with staffing shortages for call outs. There were 453 pieces of evidence logged in, 69 items returned to owners and an additional 109 pieces destroyed.

We are down one position with a detective out on injury, and further a couple of positions due to attrition vacancies. We added a couple of patrol officers to the on call matrix to help with those staffing shortages.

Chief Toussaint said this also helps with succession planning. This has a two-prong effect. Call outs and things of that nature puts stress on those on call. If we have a volunteer list for those, it gives the opportunity for experience and exposure to the detective bureau for future career planning. It also takes some of the burden from the current staff.

Comm. Stanley said she knows that one of the two new positions in the current budget was for detectives. Realizing we are short in patrol, at what level of staffing do you think we would be able to assign someone into ISB.

Captain Pinkham said as long as people clear field training, possibly by the fall. It has to be a rolling date as there are three open positions. We can't pull three at once from patrol.

Capt. Pinkham said due to staffing shortages, CEO Officer Danie has been added to the patrol schedule, which will affect his activity as community engagement officer. We want to keep him active as CEO with existing projects and get back to CEO duties as soon as possible. This role is important. This month Kyle worked in finalizing the details for Wings and Wheels, coordinated the RAD training with Officer Turner, worked during Comic Book Day, Drug Take Back Day, and taught a Civilian Response to Active Shooter training. He also attending training related to photography, evidence and intoxilyzer.

Chief Toussaint said that he wants to create a POP unit. The Council approved the civilian communications supervisor in the budget. When we fill that position, we can move that sworn sergeant out to oversee the POP unit with the goal to attack problems with solutions rather than consistently responding out to the same complaints.

Comm. Peters asked when we are looking to launch this. Spring?

Chief Toussaint said he wants to get the supervisor and Kyle in place as soon as possible and then add to it as we can.

Comm. Stanley asked if the shift is primarily days.

Chief Toussaint said it is a flex schedule. The concept is if you have a problem in a certain area, instead of sending an officer over there constantly, you send the POP unit to fix it. Use resources such as codes, fire department, and landlords. Think outside of the box to solve the problem rather than respond daily to put out fires.

We had one dispatcher resign this period and have posted for that position. We still have one dispatcher in field training.

The final Teen night for the year was held on May 4, with 126 attendees. We will host a couple of wrap up meetings to discuss staffing and any changes planned for next year. Nicole has coordinated the adverse childhood experiences training for the Diversion jurors locally, in Strafford County and the Chase Home. Nicole has been attending the Strafford County Addiction/Opiate task force in developing a new countywide collaboration and laying out the strategies for the County. Nicole assisted with a couple of classes for the Citizens Academy. She has also taught some LEAD classes with SRO Jackson at the high school. Nicole is working on the planning for National Night out in August.

Calls remain steady in housing. There were 40 police related calls. Officer Blair, Officer Funk and Housing are addressing a neighbor dispute in East Rochester. There was also a rise in activity at Cold Spring, which is being addressed through extra patrols and the eviction process.

In adult prosecution, there were 244 cases with 369 charges. There were 123 guilty pleas, 87 not guilty, 35 cases nol prossed and 12 cases continued. There were 69 who failed to appear, 19 found guilty by the court, 19 cases dismissed by the court and 5 cases placed on file. The legal unit is currently interviewing for an open position.

In juvenile prosecution, there were 32 petitions. There were two CHINS petitions. There were 2 review hearings, 10 violation hearings, 1 emergency placement hearings, There were 13 arraignments, 7 trial resolved by plea. Additionally Lt. Gould assisted with video arraignments at District Court, Assisted teaching two classes at the Citizens' Academy, conducted training on petitions at the middle school, taught a class at the UNH, and presented at a NHAEP conference in North Conway. She assisted with prosecutor oral boards at the Rye Police Department, and sat on oral boards for new hires in Rochester.

The K9 team had seven calls for service, four tracks and three drug searches. There were two high school searches, one in Somersworth and the other in Milford. The team also recertified in narcotics detection.

The School Resource Officers all finished their LEAD programs for the year. Sgt. Deluca chaperoned two field trips. Off. Porfido visited all elementary schools this period spending time with the children during recesses, gym and school lunches. He also did fingerprinting with Rotary. Off. Jackson did some security checks, attended SWAT training and presented at the Citizens' academy.

Comm. Peters said with the school year winding down, would Officer Jackson and Officer Porfido be reassigned.

Yes, both will be assigned to patrol.

Comm. Stanley asked about Sgt. Deluca.

Because he is part time, his hours as of January 1 are based on a calendar year not the school year.

B. Administration. Dep. Chief Boudreau said based on the most recent projection the FY19 budget is in the black by greater than \$450,000 due to attrition. Most of the O&M lines are spent. We project the clothing line to be over expended due to the number of new hires this fiscal year.

We are working on extending the bi-annual equipment and maintenance contracts. As of now the clothing vendors did not wish to extend so, we will re bid that in July. Once the FY20 budget is finalized, we can start the bid process for cruisers.

With the passing of the budget, we will start working on the items that need to go out to bid for purchases. Additionally, the new dispatch supervisor position was approved. We are working on the job description and the ad was placed today from Human Resources. We hope to begin interviews by the end of June.

The final numbers for Drug Take Back Day showed Rochester collecting 207.5 pounds of unwanted medications. Overall, the State collected 474 boxes totaling 14,181 pounds of drugs. The next event will be in October 2019.

What is the status of the new vests we have been discussing?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that we got some new stuff this week and Officer Plumb has other manufacturer information to forward to us.

I think this is the last item on the list from the Union.

Chief Toussaint said that the consensus is that officers like the concept, but not the look. They like the idea of taking the weight off the belt. We have a couple more in the testing process, but input from those wearing it, they don't like the look.

Comm. Stanley asked budget-wise with new hires have we built enough into the new budget for clothing.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said we did add a couple thousand dollars. It depends on what the pricing comes back at. We will make adjustments as necessary. We hope to get to full staffing and not be hiring ten officers in one year. What we did do in the last month was to look at what items we do need that we can buy now and have ready for them.

Chief Toussaint said the flip side is that at full staffing we won't have that cushion in salaries and benefits that is covered through attrition. We want to get to a point where we don't have it, but we will have to closely monitor everything.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that there was savings in the JAG money from the weapon lights and holsters. We plan to dedicate the remainder of that to these vests. It won't cover it all, but will cover a significant portion.

Dep Chief Boudreau said that we are looking at a model that has the pouches already built in. If we start moving to custom options, it will get expensive. We have to find a happy medium that will work.

Chief Toussaint said that this is a significant change. We don't just want to jump into it.

Comm. Peters asked if we are thinking it will be mandatory to wear.

Chief Toussaint said we are still discussing this and speaking with other departments for input.

This is why wear testing is important. Some get concerned with how they will access handcuffs or magazines. Therefore, this will be a big part of the training. All the weight that was on the belt is still there, just in a different location. We don't want to rush into this.

In training and hiring, we have three officers at the Academy. We are working to get the fourth officer into the August academy. We have four officers in field training. We anticipate an abbreviated field training for Off. Govoni. He has had no issues with orientation. He knows the IMC system. He just is learning our pace. His first three days, he made an arrest each day.

We held a PT test on May 18. Ten potential candidates showed and eight passed. Following the oral boards, we have five candidates for the Police Commission to interview. The August academy already has 17 registered, so we need to move quickly.

Officers were able to get to additional training this period including basic police prosecutor, crime scene for the first responder, the 2019 NH Traffic Safety Conference and photography for law enforcement.

The final numbers for Drug Take Back Day showed Rochester collecting 207.5 pounds of unwanted medications. Overall, the State collected 474 boxes totaling 14,181 pounds of drugs. The next event will be in October 2019.

E. Other

1. No July 2019 Meeting. Comm. Peters noted that the Commission does not typically meet in July, unless necessary. Therefore, we will post no meeting for the month of July 2019, barring an emergency.

2. Meetings. Comm. Stanley commented on the speed of our meetings. She said that she fully appreciates how thorough the packets are. However as she reads the monthly reports prior to the meeting she is not sure we need to go over these reports to the detail we do at every meeting. She said it is important to note highlights, to review spikes in data or pass along important information that the public should know. If the Commission has questions, staff can provide more information.

Comm. Stanley said that our packet should be posted with the agenda for everyone to read. The Council packets are. She continued noting that primarily the Commission's statutory authority rests with personnel and that is a better use of our meeting time. Some of what we do is longer than it needs to be.

Comm. Peters said we could evaluate that. We would have to sanitize the reports for public viewing.

Chief Toussaint said a lot of this is how we have done it for years. I think we can accommodate this.

Comm. Stanley commented that if we free up some time we could get to other things. She thought it was useful when Det. Frechette came to the meeting and reviewed the Family Justice Center. Maybe we can have Officer Danie and Turner come to a meeting to discuss the RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) program.

Chief Toussaint said we have many things we could share that are beneficial. Things in which the Department participates.

We can work on this for the August meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: The Berwick Fire and Rescue thanks the Police Department for our support following the loss of Captain Joel Barnes. The family of an elderly woman lost in our City praises Officer Hatch. He calmed and stayed with her until family arrived. Officer Blair is thanked for helping a resident having car troubles. Lt. Bossi and Sgt. Smith are thanked by a family for their response to an untimely death. Specialists Michelle Bowley, Maddie Brinkman and Jody Colwell are thanked for their time and information provided during the Citizens' Police Academy. Rollinsford Chief Ducharme thanks Det. Rousseau for assisting with a new hire polygraph. Officer Turner is recognized for her contribution on a medical call that led to a life-saving event. Professor Jones from New England College recognizes Sgt. Cost for his participation in the criminal justice program.

Also noted that Officer Rousseau was selected as the City Employee of the Month for

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 8:03 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Stevens. 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 8:47 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 merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. Joseph Oswalt (3.3%), Off. Timothy Costin (2.9%) Off. Ian Watt (3.25%), Off. Thomas Butcher (2.9%) and Off. Michael Mundy (4.25%). SECOND by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 8:48 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary