



## **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, June 7, 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. Swanberry, 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. May 3, 2023.

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the May 3, 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 he has a meeting tomorrow with the project vendor moving on this last part so we can bring the cameras on line.

### **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Oaths of Office:**

1. New Officers. Officer Ball, Officer Bernstein, Officer Harris and Officer McCann all took the oath of office as patrol officers, administered by Secretary Becky Warburton

2. Promotion. Officer Knox to Sergeant. Officer Knox took her oath of promotion to Sergeant, administered by Secretary Becky Warburton.

A fifteen minute recess was called.

The meeting returned to session at 7:36 P.M.

B. 2022 Year End Report. Chief Boudreau stated that every year we compile yearly reports and yearly reviews of several different areas of interest and topics such as arrest data, traffic stops, demographics, service calls, use of force and they're presented to the Commission every year as individual reports. One of the things I've seen is putting it all together and this report does that. It puts all of the data in one report that someone can look at, as a report card for us. So it has taken us a bit longer to put this together than anticipated, but this is the first time we have done this. We worked it, reviewed it, reworked it some more and it's finally in a form to present to the Commission for review and feedback. We also sent it to the City Manager and Deputy City Manager as well for their review and feedback. We intend to put this up on the website for our citizens to see as well.

This report takes into account what we do. Our mission, tells you a little about us, our responsibilities, different units and services we provide. It goes into calls for service data, but not just one year. It's where it's going and trending over a five year period. Calls received, calls we initiate, time allocations, motor vehicle stops, our crash data, those things are important to our community members.

I wasn't going to talk specifics unless you have questions. This is a lengthy report and you can email me questions once you've reviewed it.

Comm. Stevens asked if you were talking in general to the public, what would be three take aways would you say that's changed in Rochester. For example crime areas that took a big decrease, DWI was up a little but not super; some of the crimes we had had a decent decrease.

Chief Boudreau said one that he would mention, the top thing is the decrease in property crimes. Down 30% last year. Huge number. I'd like for the PD to take all the credit, but I won't. This is a team effort, a community effort, from the Police, Other City Departments, our citizens to really make Rochester a better place. It is a constant look at our data, to reflect and to make accurate adjustments that we need to, to serve our community. We've had a significant decrease in crime, consistently. We keep hearing that Rochester is unsafe. The data proves otherwise. It is a very safe place to live.

DWI is something that is always a concern. We look at this constantly in comp stat. The number of DWI arrests, the number of DWI accidents we've had to look for any commonalities in places that we might be able to focus on to curb that because that is a danger to the motoring public.

Comm. Peters said in looking at the case closure rates, some are less than they were in 2021. Is that because some of the crimes committed might be late in the year and won't show up until next year?

Chief Boudreau said it's not one thing. It could go in a couple of directions. Late in the year could be one, or it might be solved next year or a year or more later, depending on the case. An example of a crime. Someone steals an item; a phone. We take a report of the theft of that item. We might catch up to someone in possession of the stolen property, we can charge them with possession of the stolen property, but we might not develop enough information to actually charge them with the theft. It's a little on our software in that aspect. It doesn't show that crime solved and closed, but in reality, we have recovered the stolen item. But it might not show as a closure of that theft. That's a software issue. But another issue we've talked about is our workforce. We've hired 29 new officers since January of 2020. We have a very young workforce and they are still learning. Part of that is learning investigative techniques. I hope as we gain more experience we are better at solving some of our crimes. Being down officers, having those open positions and our call volume at the height that it is, we have struggled at times to dedicate time to those in-depth investigations, which we are getting back to.

Comm. Stevens commented that the data is a good tool for us.

Comm. Winship felt it was a well done report and Comm. Peters noted that it is a lot of information to go through.

Chief Boudreau said that the Captains and Dep. Chief compiled the reports and those were forwarded to the crime analyst.

### C. Monthly Reports

1). 1). Operations. Capt. Swanberry noted that the Honor Guard participated in Police Memorial Week ceremonies in Concord for Police Memorial Day, and also participated in the City Memorial Day parade.

The citizens' academy is in full swing. Throughout the month several officers and detectives presented to the academy to demonstrate what they do and what goes on behind the scenes and what happens here in the department.

The Investigations Bureau had 25 cases sent up or detective generated. There are currently 91 cases being investigated. There was one significant case that consumed a large part of the bureau's time. The CEO and POP unit also assisted with that. There were a lot of resources dedicated to that one case and we are still working on it. Luckily there were only a total of three call outs.

The CEO and POP were still able to maintain their regular activities in community outreach and the POP unit was addressing some smaller community issues, such as a criminal mischief case. They continue to also maintain contact with the local hotels and motels.

The Communications Center has two in training. One is in her final observation week and the other is progressing well, working EMS and Fire before transitioning over to police. We have two additional candidates going through the background process. Assuming those backgrounds go well, we will only have two openings which is significantly better than we have been in a long time.

2.) Administration. Dep. Chief Thomas reported that we are 90% through the fiscal year. While we don't have the exact number there will be a six digit number returned to the City, mainly from salaries and open positions during the fiscal year. However in FY24 we project all 65 positions will be filled.

We had no purchases over \$5,000.00 this period.

As June winds down purchase orders and items ordered must be received by June 30. Spending at this point is closely monitored and unless it is an absolute need most things will wait until the next budget.

There was again a plethora of training. Sgt. Will Robinson is in week five of a thirteen-week polygraph school. Officer Birmingham graduated from the last academy and is doing well in field training. Officer Settele and Officer Hill will graduate from the Academy on June 16. They'll finish up some in-house training and then move into field training.

We swore in the four new officers tonight. One is out of state certified and will be attending or testing out of the law package. Officer Ball and Bernstein will head off to the academy on June 12. Officer McCann has military obligations for the month of June, so he will attend the July Academy.

D. Accept Retirement Intent: Dep. Chief Jason Thomas.

Comm. Peters said this retirement intent comes to the Commission with severe regrets. It has been my honor and privilege in my career in the Fire Service to not only work with Jason as a dispatcher but as a patrol officer working his way up, and now in the last ten years as a Commissioner.

**Comm. Peters MOVED to accept the notice of retirement intent of Deputy Chief Thomas, with regret, and wishing all the best in the future in new endeavors. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED 3-0.**

E. Other

1. No July 2023 Meeting. Comm. Peters announced there would be no regular meeting of the Commission in July 2023 barring any need to do so. Any such meeting will be properly posted.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence received for the month included: Sgt. Cost is thanked by the Director Scippa of Police Standards for assisting with a crime scene processing class. Off. McPherson is thanked by a community member for respectful education on NH laws and building relationships in the process. Off. Dale is thanked for response and follow up to a report of fireworks at a local campground.

**7. INFORMATION:** There was nothing for discussion.

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

**Commissioner Stevens MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:55 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal). 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 9:13 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Peters. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.**

**Comm. Peters 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. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 9:14 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca J. Warburton, Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 08/02/2023