



Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867

David R. Stevens, Commissioner
Lisa M. Stanley, Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall, Council Chambers. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Pinkham and Secretary Warburton.

Chaplain Cilley was excused.

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

All participated in the pledge of allegiance.

B. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner Stevens and Commissioner Stanley present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. September 8, 2021 regular meeting.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2021 meeting, with clarification to the discussion on Training Agreements being 24 months commencing after release from field training. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion to approve the minutes, with clarifications. The motion to accept the minutes, as clarified, PASSED unanimously.

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

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Accept Retirement notice.

1. Sergeant Patrick Emerson

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the retirement of Sergeant Patrick Emerson. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion, noting that Pat will be sorely missed and we appreciate all he has done. The motion PASSED unanimously.

There will be a final salute and walk out at 3:45 P.M. in the side lot of the Police Department.

B. Monthly Reports:

1. Operations: The RUN program still has not resumed activity since COVID. We do not have a date in mind of when to restart.

Over in the support there were thirty cases sent up from patrol. There are currently 81 cases assigned. There were 27 cases presented to the Grand Jury and all were true bills. There were four call outs this period. Detectives continue to be very busy and active. We have two open positions in there as we deal with patrol shortages, and in addition we have Det. Rousseau assigned part time to the evidence locker until that position is filled.

COMPSTAT: Proactive activity has slightly declined due to the ongoing staffing shortage we have been addressing for several months. We hope to see that trending upward with people being released from training in a couple of months. We have had some reported burglaries at storage rental facilities in property crime. There has been some transient activity on-going at the rental facilities that we continue to monitor. Overall, property crime seems to be trending downward. There was an increase in drug activity from the work of the POP unit for possession cases. That is already showing a reduction in numbers with the reassignment of POP to patrol. Overall violent crimes are trending downward as well.

Comm. Stevens commented that property crime is trending down 70% year to date, which is significant. And violent crime overall is decreased 26% year to date. That is a lot of good work by the Department, and big decreases and should be noted.

Comm. Stanley commented in the report a couple of vehicles being towed off of private property without the owner consent and then sold for scrap. These are vehicles old enough to not require a title?

Capt. Pinkham said that is correct.

Comm. Stanley asked are these vehicles plated or just sitting in someone's yard without registration or?

Capt. Pinkham said correct. Old vehicles sitting in someone's yard unregistered.

Comm. Stanley said so as of this report there were two incidents. Have there been more?

Capt. Pinkham replied not that he is aware of, of incidents like that.

Comm. Stanley asked unregistered and not titled. Is there a way to track that when it is scrapped?

Capt. Pinkham said that we are aware of who the victims are. It is now doing the investigation and locating the suspects.

Comm. Stanley commented that's alarming and pretty brazen.

Comm. Stanley commented that in compstat the calls for service thankfully are trending downward given our staffing woes. She inquired are the on line crime reports included in any way in those numbers. Is that contributing to a downward trend in those numbers?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said the on line crime reports are not included in that number and off the top of his head he couldn't give an exact number of on line crime reports. It is a number he can get, but it's not going to be a huge number contributing to that.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER/PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING UNIT:

There is nothing to report here with both the CEO and POP being reassigned to patrol so there is limited activity here.

COMMUNICATIONS: The newest dispatcher has been released to "solo" headset. We still have one open position we are actively trying to fill. It has been difficult. We recently had seven interviews scheduled and only two showed up. The position has been reposted to find candidates that would be a good fit.

DIVERSION: Nicole has been busy in Diversion. She has been teaching LEAD with Officer Jackson at the high school. Teen night is still on hold as we try to figure out other ways to engage teens in different activities until Teen night resumes.

Dep. Chief Boudreau added that the plan is to reevaluate Teen Night, and looking toward January 2022 to bring Teen night back. . This is an ongoing discussion with Recreation and Nicole.

HOUSING: We remain active in Housing. Officer Mundy and Officer Babine are working different hours of the week. The amount of calls they handle relieve patrol. They are proactive and both monitor the log on a regular basis and take calls on their own addressing issues that arise when they are on duty. They are also completing backgrounds for prospective tenants. Both are doing a very good job over there.

Comm. Stanley commented on the sentence below in the report, noting that she feels it is wonderful that we can do this in the housing properties and can't wait until we can do that in the City as a whole.

"Walking locations, playing sports with children, and engaging in positive conversation with tenants prove to be helpful in curbing criminal activity and promoting a positive quality of life in these communities."

K9: October is our last month with Gunner as our lease with former Officer MacKenzie expires. Officer Hatch is working with new K9 Ripley taking her to training and events. It could take up to a year for Ripley's certification. We will be without a working K9 until they are trained and certified.

PROSECUTION: Lt. Gould is carrying an active case load and she is also assisting Attorney Mitrushi when needed with arraignment and trials. She helped on oral boards for new hires and also spent some time in training with the new hires.

RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION: Lt. Bossi attended the most recent meeting. He spoke about thefts of metal and thefts of catalytic converters. He also mentioned checking on their vacant properties to ensure there are no thefts of that nature and to also check for squatting at rental properties.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS: Officer Porfido has been assigned to patrol due to staffing. So the elementary schools are not currently having LEAD classes. We hope to have him back in the schools soon. SRO Jackson and SRO Deluca are teaching LEAD and are engaged in normal school activities. Officer Jackson is looking to resume the Explorer Post in October.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau said that in finance and purchasing the new vehicles have been ordered, but are several months out from delivery. There are issues nationwide with supply chains. We're expecting the ACO truck in November. We have been working with 2-Way on pricing the new equipment to outfit the new cars. As we are trading 2017 and 2018 cars, the body upgrade to this vehicle model in 2020 means we will have to buy certain replacement gear such as mounts, cages, light bars. They just won't fit with the body style changes. If we have those priced and ordered when the cars arrive it will be easy to install.

Mobile Dispatching We have all the equipment in for install to get that project moving forward.

Radio Replacement Project- There is nothing really new to report. The cabinet at the tower site at DPW has been fenced in. 2-Way has been finishing up some punch list items. We hope to bring that site on line at month's end. This is all tied into IT switching and connections. We understand that the target date for moving of DPW is the first couple of weeks of November

Body Cameras – the final demonstration of body cameras was held this period. We have seen Body Worn, Axon and WatchGuard. They are all robust, all great platforms. We have to determine what is best for us. We already have WatchGuard mobile in the cruisers so some of the backend, we already have. There are large pricing differences between the three. We have to make sure we make the best fit in function as well as financially. Dep. Chief Boudreau said I hope to weigh it all out and have a memo by next week to move forward.

Comm. Stanley said this is CIP budget.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said it is. We had priced this out with an original number of \$200,000 for a complete set up and running, with \$35,000 annual fees. Since then all manufacturers have changed pricing and how they bill. Now it is like a site of service plan, so each camera is a cost. Then you are locked into a five-year deal, similar to Taser-60. We would own the equipment at the end of the five years. But you have to re up at the end of the five years as the back end changes.

There are also different storage plans. We can do cloud storage or on site. All are CJIS complaint, so we have no issues with any of that. Police Departments across the country use these manufacturers. One of the proposals will fit five years in the CIP budget, the other two proposals are double the CIP. There is quite a difference there.

One of the companies has extras, and great features, but the basic function of recording is what we need. At the core audio and video storage and redaction is a big part. They have come a long way

with redaction features that will follow and redact throughout the whole video as opposed to manual redaction. We have to determine what is best for us.

Hiring. We issued a conditional to the part time evidence technician and will be starting the background. If we get through the process we can get Det. Rousseau back to his full time duties.

Training. Officer's Gleason and Moon are entering into phase two of field training. This is where they are more of an active participating, and less of an observer. Both are doing great so far.

We did dismiss a recruit from the academy. The other three at the Academy are doing well. Both of our law package recruits are moving forward with the modified version. On days they are not in class they are in FTO. By the end of the academy they should also be done with FTO and on their own.

We had hoped to host the de-escalation and train the trainer course, but due to low registration it was cancelled. There is not a rescheduled date or time, and we are not sure this company is willing to try again. We did host two armorer level courses and as hosts received free seats.

In September we dedicated significant man-hours to the Granite State Fair. There were almost 400 hours between police and dispatch. Overall there were no major issues. Most events were lost or found property, lost children or medical events.

The Police Department is registered for the next DEA Drug Take Back Day on Saturday October 23 from 10a-2p. We will be set up in the parking lot in front of the PD. This is set up as a drive through. The person hands it off, no information or names are taken. We encourage all community members with outdated, unneeded medication to turn it in for destruction. Frisbie will be here with EMS as a partner to help as well. We do this twice a year and are successful at every event usually collecting over 200 lbs. of unused medications.

B. Other.

1. November Commission Meeting: The November Commission meeting will be held in the Police Department, lecture hall. It will be open to the public, but not televised due to the location change. We lose Council Chambers in a municipal election year to the Council meeting the night following an election.

2. Thank a Police Officer Day: Comm. Stanley noted that the selection of Officer Danie for this award was well received and well deserved. Our thanks to that committee for bringing that award back.

Comm. Stevens thanked all that helped make thank a police officer day a success, from the community, the restaurants, those participating in the decorating contest and the signs. It's a great way to show support and we can always use positive in our lives. So thank to all that helped to make that successful.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received this period: Officer Danie was nominated and awarded the Red Hayes Community Ambassador Award. Officer Johnson is recognized for her interaction with a local family. Sgt. Turner is recognized for maintaining positive relationships with city stakeholders.

7. INFORMATION: None

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

Commissioner Stanley MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:28 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 Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

The non-public session closed at 8:16 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stanley. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to seal the minutes indefinitely. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the evaluations and merit track advancements as presented for Officer Spencer Williams-Hurley (track 7), Officer Kendall Decost (track 4), Officer Hattie Johnson (track 4), and Officer Jonathan Labosier (track 4). Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley at 8:16 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary