

**Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867**

Bruce E. Lindsay, Commissioner
Lucien G. Levesque, Commissioner
David R. Stevens, Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting in City Hall Council Chambers on Wednesday, December 6, 2017. Present at this meeting was Comm. Lindsay, Comm. Levesque, Comm. Stevens, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Chaplain Cilley, and Secretary Warburton.

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

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

B. Prayer. Chaplain Cilley led the opening prayer.

C. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner's Lindsay, Levesque and Steven's present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. November 1, 2017 regular meeting.

Comm. Levesque MOVED to accept the minutes of the November 1, October 4, 2017, regular meeting as presented. SECONDED by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Any Old Business for Discussion - None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Policy Update: 61.4.1 Towing of Vehicles. First Reading

Comm. Levesque MOVED to place Policy Standard 61.4.1 Towing of Vehicles into a first reading. SECOND by Comm. Stevens. Open for discussion.

Chief Toussaint said he met with the Director of DPW regarding towing during winter ban/parking emergencies. In the past, prior to towing, we would contact vehicle owners to move their vehicles. This becomes a hindrance to operations during a ban if DPW is waiting at the end of the street. We want to tweak the language that gives officers an option, where they can notify people, but are not required to notify people.

The winter parking bans are advertised heavily in various media including radio, TV and social media. It is not efficient for us to be knocking on doors and making phone calls. We don't do that to remind people not to violate other ordinances. It is a change for the public and we will advertise these changes on our face book page that people should pay attention when there is a snow ban. We don't have the manpower to get you out of bed. This is in line with other surrounding communities and DPW's authority in the ordinance is clear.

Comm. Stevens asked if people have been towed in the past. Chief Toussaint replied, all the time.

Comm. Levesque MOVED to suspend the rules and place Policy Standard 61.4.1 Towing of Vehicles into a second reading by title only for adoption. SECONDED by Comm. Stevens and PASSED unanimously.

Comm. Levesque MOVED to adopt Policy Standard 61.4.1 Towing of Vehicles as updated. SECONDED by Comm. Lindsay and PASSED unanimously.

B. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. We are typically slow for RUN meetings during this time due to holidays. There was only one ward that met this period. Five of the six wards are set to meet in January. Ward 1 has a meeting next week.

We continue to see a decrease in field activities due to a shortage of officers and an increase in call volume. We are 1600 calls higher this year than last, with an increase in priority one calls such as accidents with injury, assaults, domestic violence. This contributes to low field activity. As we get the new officers hitting the streets, we expect this will improve. We continue to focus efforts in target areas as time allows. DWI's are still occurring on the outskirts. With the uptick in opiate use, officers are also aware of drug-related DWI.

Theft from motor vehicles is up, but all other property crimes have decreases. We do have a couple of suspect to keep an eye on, but we need to be able to prove they are involved.

We are working with community engagement Officer Danie on some year-end public service announcements, such as locking car doors which we hope to have an impact. We are just over 200 thefts from motor vehicles this year. Use of the crime analyst, maps and face book are all good sources to get information out to the public.

Comm. Stevens asked if we see an increase during the holidays?

Capt. Thomas said not really. These events do happen though in the evening and overnights as people are trying unlocked car doors. People tend to think they are "safe" in their own driveway, but, not always. A high percentage of these events are because the cars are not locked.

Chief Toussaint said that is one of the biggest things people can do to help is to lock their car doors. We would have a lot less property crime.

The Honor Guard participated in the Christmas parade last Sunday.

The K9 has six calls for service; 4 track and 2 drugs all in Rochester. The team has also been attending Teen Night.

The investigations bureau had 46 cases sent up from patrol. There are currently 66 cases assigned. There were 23 cases presented to the Grand Jury, and all returned true bills. Evidence had 372 pieces logged in.

There were four detective calls outs and two evidence call outs this period.

We had one dispatcher resignation, but we re-hired to full time one of our per diem dispatchers who had left us about a year ago to work for 911. This was an easy transition. They are actively working on the Project Good Morning holiday gathering.

There were 23 police related calls at Housing this period. Officer Blair does a good job in this program. He along with Capt. Thomas and Dep. Chief Boudreau attended the senior breakfast.

Teen night numbers were down this period, but nights have still been warm. We anticipate an increase in numbers as the months get colder.

In prosecution, there were 222 new cases, with 366 charges.

Comm. Stevens asked if that was high? Capt. Thomas said it is average. We have a busy office.

Comm. Levesque suggested for the new Commission to consider eliminating the RUN meetings for the month of December as a suggestion due to colder weather, and people busy with other things.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau stated that we took delivery of the first of our three new cruisers last week. It is registered, but awaiting outfitting with our vendor, who is currently backed up. We anticipate taking delivery of the final two in January. There has not been a hard explanation of why it has taken so long. However in looking at last year, we took delivery also in January, so we are on par.

Dep. Chief Boudreau stated that he and Chief Toussaint presented the Taser 60 program to the finance committee and the council who voted to allow us to enter into the agreement for sixty months. This allows us to replace all the Tasers this year as opposed to the phase in plan. We should take delivery before the end of the month. The company gave us a trade in allowance for our current tasers. We have to certify that we have destroyed them, or will use them strictly for training purposes only. They are not to be used in any other manner.

Chief Toussaint said since we had asked for funding for the phased in replacement plan, there is money in our CIP budget to make the first years payment.

Comm. Levesque noted that we have a few new officers. Do they all carry the Taser?

When we rolled Tasers out several years ago, we had some that didn't want to carry. All of the new officers do have them. They are a valuable tool. One of the new officers we hired is an instructor.

The City Council also approved entering into an MOU with the ICAC task force that when our officer is working for the task force we can bill his salary for those hours to the task force. He has been involved with ICAC for several years and has received some excellent training and equipment that is valuable. When he is working a Rochester case we will pay his salary.

Chief Toussaint said this is one of the biggest benefits. When we were initially approached about this, it sounded like we were basically selling a detective to them and because they were paying they had control of his time. We worked out billable hours so if we need him in Rochester we pay him from our budget.

We continue to watch our overtime. As we have reported throughout the year, being short staffed and factoring in comp time liability, nine pays into the year we are 98% spent in our overtime line. We continue to watch this line, and as officers are getting released to solo patrol, it makes it possible for officers to use some of that comp time.

We will have some savings in the salary and benefit lines, not as we have seen in prior years, but some due to the agreement and MOU with ICAC, as well as having an officer currently deployed who is not drawing a city salary while he is deployed. We continue to watch these lines.

There have been no other major changes in operations lines. We are watching the clothing line which is about 64% spent due to having to outfit several new officers. We watch all purchases that come through to make sure its needed.

We are happy to reports that 5 of the 6 officers in field training were released to solo patrol this period. We still have four pending graduation from the academy who will enter into field training probably in January. As we finish the winter and move into spring we should have a full contingent of officers.

Comm. Lindsay asked if it has been an issue assigning officers to shifts?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said all have been assigned into the matrix and scheduling. We have put officers into the schedule where it most benefits us.

Comm. Lindsay said we don't move officers who have been here a while?

We don't because per contract they shift bid. We have asked people in the past if they will move and some are willing to cooperate. New positions fill gaps in the schedule as needed.

Lastly, Bridging the Gaps continues to meet with area coalitions and other groups on prevention issues. November was smoking awareness month and there were presentations done at the middle school. There were some signs installed also at the high school for clients using the community center marking designated smoking areas to limit exposure to the children that are in the area.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Dispatchers Colwell, Holman, Moule, Neal and Pumar are recognized for commitment and dedicated performance during a major storm which caused city-wide power outages and damage. Off. Benjamin is recognized for diligent patrols leading to the recovery of a motor reported stolen out of Tennessee, and the arrest on multiple charges of the persons with the vehicle. Sgt. Babine was nominated by the dispatch team, including Capt. Thomas for APCO Director of the Year. While he was not chosen, his leadership is commendable. Dispatcher Bowley is recognized by Det. Mangum for assistance during an investigation into illegal activities in the City.

7. INFORMATION:

A. None.

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

Commissioner Levesque MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:28 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel). SECOND by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 – 0 with Comm. Lindsay, Comm. Levesque and Comm. Stevens voting in the affirmative. A five-minute recess was called. The non-public session closed at 7:44 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. SECOND by Comm. Lindsay and PASSED unanimously.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. Craig Forrest (3.9%), Off. Geoff Moore (4%), Off. Eric Ball (3.35%) and Off. Robert Frechette (3.9%). Comm. Lindsay SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Lindsay MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stevens at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary