

**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, December 5, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Capt. Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley and 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.

B. Prayer. Chaplain Cilley led the prayer.

C. 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. November 7, 2018 regular meeting.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the minutes of the November 7, 2018, regular meeting. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Stevens. The motion to accept the minutes PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No discussion.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Oath of Office for New Officers: Attorney Mitrushi administered the oath of office for new officers Jonathan Labosier, Kendall Decost, Hattie Johnson and Angela Lavrich.

B. Promotion – Officer Thomas Powers to Sergeant. Attorney Mitrushi administered the oath of office to Sergeant to Officer Powers.

Break. Back in session at 7:31 P.M.

C. Accept Resignation – Officer Seckendorf

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the resignation with regret. SECOND by Comm. Stevens and PASSED unanimously.

D. Accept Retirement – Officer Mangum

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the retirement with regret. SECOND by Comm. Stanley and PASSED unanimously.

Chief Toussaint noted that we would have a small ceremony for Chris at the January meeting.

E. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Captain Pinkham said there was no ward information to report this period. Most of the meetings have moved to quarterly.

The Honor Guard participated in the holiday parade. They are also preparing to participate in the CHaD Battle of the Badges hockey game in March. There is a vacancy on the unit due to the resignation of Officer Seckendorf.

The K9 had five calls for the period, four tracks and one narcotics call. They also participated in a couple of community events.

Comm. Stanley commented that it seemed in the past there were more out of town calls.

The reason for that is the changing of dogs. The Sheriff's Department owned Daisy Mae and Officer MacKenzie leases Gunner to the Police Department. Some of the calls in the past related to sheriff department.

If another agency has a need for a dog, they call the sheriff not us.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said it depends where they are, what time it is or if Keith is working. It depends on the situation. We have mutual aid with all of them in the County.

In Compstat, we continued to see a decrease in traffic stops, related to staffing levels, and increases in calls for service. Our proactive focus remains on the downtown, still trying to create a better quality of life.

There has been an uptick in thefts from motor vehicles, the majority of them being from unlocked cars. We encourage people to lock their vehicles. There has also been an increase in thefts of motor vehicles, some related to the keys left in the vehicles as people warm cars and leave them running in driveways. We suggest people to be mindful of that due to the uptick in thefts.

There were no trends noteworthy relative to violent crimes or burglary for the month.

Over in the support bureau there were 31 cases sent up from patrol for review and investigation. There are currently 43 cases assigned. There were 24 cases presented to the Grand Jury, all with true bills. We took in 367 pieces of evidence to the locker, 38 pieces were returned to owners and an additional 120 pieces were destroyed.

There were three phone analyzed with the celebrite machine. This is a valuable tool. In addition to pawnshop and sex offender compliance checks, there were six call outs for the month.

Comm. Peters noted that with the retirement of Det. Mangum, this puts us down people in investigations.

Chief Toussaint said that Det. Mangum was assigned to the drug task force, a specialized position and not carrying a caseload. What the retirement does do is make it unable for us to commit another body to the task force for a while. The task force depends a lot on agencies to supply them with drug intelligence. We can contact them to receive assistance. Chief Toussaint confirmed until our staffing improves we will not be sending a replacement person to the task force.

We accepted another resignation from the communications center this period. There are three conditionals extended and backgrounds are underway. We are covering the vacancies with overtime and assistance from per diem dispatchers.

Comm. Stevens inquired how long it is before a person is fully capable to work the center.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said it varies. It is individualized. Some have a quicker learning capacity. It could be 8-10 weeks.

There were 20 calls to housing. This activity drop can be attributed to the cooler weather.

The November Teen night was canceled due to work on the gym floor. December Teen was held December 1st.

Diversion staff continues to work with the new coordinator for the Stafford County Diversion program. They are working on bringing the model used to other counties in the state. Staff is also working with a local journalist about writing the NH Diversion story. The goal is to get information to those that need it. The first article will be published in parenting magazine.

In adult court this period, there were 252 new cases with 371 charges. Of the cases that went before the court there were 99 guilty pleas, 75 not guilty pleas and 103 failed to appear. 39 charges nol prossed as part of plea agreements. Eleven cases were dismissed by the Court. 34 cases were continued and ten were placed on file.

Juvenile prosecution had 15 petitions, 13 arraignments, 6 trials resolved by pleas and 2 violation hearings. 2 dispositional and 1 review hearings. One trial found true.

All of the LEAD classes are on schedule. Off. Jackson gave a tour of the Department. He presented at a Driver's Ed class. Sgt. Deluca has completed reports on disorderly conduct in the Middle School and thefts from lockers. Students have been summonsed for tobacco violations. Off. Porfido deals with nine elementary schools. He investigated a theft, did extra patrols in East Rochester for suspicious persons, handled crossing guard duty and worked with the School Street School on a safety plan. He also assisted at William Allen to address parking issues during drop off and pick up times for students.

The Explorer Program met at the Strafford County Jail and toured the facility.

Officer Danie continues to be very busy. Recently he attended a POP conference, worked on a safety plan for the Monarch School; he attended the senior breakfast, is working on the RAD program and spoke at the Elks Scout night drug awareness program. Currently he is working on the Skate with a Cop program, and has partnered with the Recreation for Christmas at the Commons on December 15.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau noted that two of the three cruisers are in. The second one being outfitted for the K9 is at Two-Way. It should be done next week and we can put Keith in a new car without any lapse in K9 coverage. The third car is at the dealership and we are preparing to pick that up next week.

The insurance totaled the cruiser involved in the accident in early November. We expect to be upside down, in what the insurance company will pay out for the car. It was a 2017 with 35,000 miles on it. We have located two vehicles for replacement. One is more expensive than the other because it has a lot of extras that we typically do not order. The other is comparably equipped and about \$300.00 more than our bid prices.

Comm. Peters asked if we salvage what we can from the cars.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said we do for all the equipment that we can. All of the damage was to the front end, including the strobes.

The Commission inquired does the City go after the other parties insurance?

The NH State Police did the accident and it has been submitted to our insurance.

Dep. Chief Boudreau stated that we are submitting an agenda bill to the finance committee to get on the agenda requesting a supplemental appropriation so we can start moving forward to buy one of these cruisers. Ford has already stopped production of the 2019 Interceptor and are retooling the line for the 2020 models. There are not a lot of 2019's out there unclaimed so we need to move quickly or we could be waiting eight or more months for a car, which is not ideal.

We started our FY20 budget building process. The CIP database is open for entries. The O&M lines we are being held to not more than a 2% increase, which is roughly \$12,000.00 for our budget.

Officers' Butcher and Costin are graduating from the Academy on Friday the 14th at 2:00 P.M. They will have a couple of weeks of in-house training and then be released to field training for the next 10-12 weeks before going solo.

The officers who took oath this evening are slated to attend the 178th Academy on January 7. They are doing some in-service training before heading out.

We still have open positions and two new positions budgeted in January. It is a trend in the state and nationally that police applicants are decreasing. As we reported, we invited 67 people to our last PT test and only 4 showed up. All of them passed, and we have two candidates to bring before the Commission. We will be starting another hiring process.

As the Bridging the Gaps funding comes to a close we believe a solution has been found that is the best for continuation of the services. Seacoast Youth Services is looking to merge the program and come into the city to host a lot of the different programs that they do. Comm.

Stanley has been a champion of securing a new location for them and we are in the final stages of subleasing a space from Frisbie.

F. Other.

1. Policy Change. Chief Toussaint said he is looking for a sense of the Commission on the issue of hiring. We are members of the Great Bay Coalition, which holds a police exam a couple times a year. The test is an aptitude and basic knowledge test. We are one of several departments that pull candidates from those test results.

We are proposing a change that the Commission can waive that test if someone has a college degree; at least an Associate's or has military experience. I would like to be able to waive that written test and bring them in for an interview. Nothing about that part would change. If we remove one of the hoops people have to jump through we can target specific areas and generate more interest in the openings we have. The way we are doing it now, competing, is not effective.

Currently it is in the policy that they must take that test, but the Commission can waive it. But, if we are going to waive moving forward, let's not do it case by case. I could have made the changes and brought this to you tonight, but you may not have bought into the change.

Comm. Stanley said it would be expeditious to waive that part of the policy for now, until we bring the full change.

We have three open positions now, and two more coming in January. We have two candidates to bring before the Commission.

What we have to consider is that every department looking for people is looking at the same group.

Do we need a formal vote?

A consensus until the policy change will suffice.

The Commission agreed to the change and to bring the policy to the January meeting.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Renee Goodspeed thanks Officer Bailey, Officer Gantert and Officer Turner for locating her grandson who was lost in a pack of runners during the Foley Memorial Run. Officer Plumb is recognized for his professional and caring manner in responding to a past-tense domestic assault.

7. INFORMATION:

A. There was no discussion.

B. Commissioner Peters on behalf of the Commission wished all happy holidays and a Merry Christmas.

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

Commissioner Stanley MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 8:04 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) SECOND by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 – 0 with Comm. Stanley, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Peters voting in the affirmative.

The non-public session closed at 8:26 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stanley. SECOND by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 – 0 with Comm. Stanley, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Peters 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. Stanley, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Peters voting in the affirmative.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. Craig Forrest (3.8%), Off. Geoffrey Moore (4.3%), Off. Robert Frechette (4.5%), Off. Thomas Blair (2.76%), Off. Donovan Funk (1.92%), Lt. Anne Gould (3.04%). Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary