

**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, February 6, 2019 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:

Richard Sliwoski 255 Old Dover Road. Mr. Sliwoski spoke of the speeding issue on Old Dover Road, opining that it is a turnpike without a tollbooth. He came to the Commission to make it aware that the road has a speed problem, and would like to see the city do more due diligence to address it.

It was noted that once the springtime comes and snowbanks are gone we can put the speed trailer out there and collect data. In the meantime, we will pass this on to patrol.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. January 2, 2019 regular meeting.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the January 2, 2019, regular meeting. Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Comm. Stanley asked for an update for the items the Union has requested the Department address. She would like this to remain on the agenda so that we are touching base with it regularly.

Shoplifting Complaints. We did some outreach as to how other departments handle this. Specifically we reached out to Newington, which has a large retail base. They handle it the same as we do. Chief Toussaint said I am not recommending any changes to the shoplifting policy.

Cages for the cruisers have been ordered, and new cruisers moving forward will include those.

Vests and outer carriers. We are wear testing, so that is pending.

Strategies for recruitment. We are getting applicants and solid recruits, but it takes time to get them certified.

E-ticket. We have been in touch with Chief Krauss in Milton. He will come down and complete some training with supervisors and our IT staff. Milton has been using the program for a while.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Awards and Recognition

1. Life Saving Award – Off. Oswalt was recognized with a lifesaving award after responding to a medical aid call where the resident was clearly in distress and non-responsive. He performed lifesaving measures until EMS arrived. This resident survived.

2. Employees of the Year

Support: Madeline Brinkman. Her peer who noted that she is always kind and courteous and gets along with her coworkers nominated Maddie. She ensures her work is complete and the job done to the best of her abilities. She picks up overtime shifts and helps when she can to ease the workload on others. Her peer noted that she is dedicated committed and compassionate, a leader and a role model. Maddie was presented with a plaque noting her achievement.

Officer: Kyle Danie. Kyle's nomination says that he represents the best of how we want all of our officers to perform their duties. Kyle is welcoming and professional, always willing to help citizens or other officers with any task. Members of the community often comment how impressed they were interacting with him and what a caring and compassionate officer he is. He always has a smile and is upbeat and enthusiastic. He created a couple of outreach programs this year in conjunction with other departments, including Skate with a Cop and Christmas on the Common. Events like these are a tremendous amount of work to develop, plan and make successful. Kyle willingly involves himself in special enforcement problem areas to improve situations for the best of the community. He is articulate, intelligent empathic and wants the community to become a better place. Kyle was presented with a plaque denoting his achievement.

3. Chief Blair Memorial Award – Michael Brinkman. Mike exemplifies several characteristics reminiscent of Chief Blair. He is consistent, dependable and accurate in carrying out responsibilities. He handles situations calmly and objectively. He displays a high degree of honesty loyalty and integrity. He has been unwavering in his outlook and dedication to the Rochester Police Department. He often defends and supports the agency in any way he can and has become a mentor to younger officers.

Chief Blair's family was on hand as Mike was presented with a plaque for the award. Flowers were presented to Mike's wife, Maddie Brinkman for her support.

Short recess for pictures. Back in to order at 7:39 P.M.

B. Accept Resignations

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the resignations of Officer Angela Lavrich, Officer Justin Worthley and Officer Matthew Bailey, with regret. SECONDED by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED unanimously.

C. Monthly Reports

A. Operations. Four of the six wards met this period. The issues ongoing in Ward six that we have been reporting out on are being addressed. There were no other major issues reported in the other wards.

The Honor Guard is preparing for the annual CHAD battle of the badges police-fire hockey game, at the SNHU arena in March. There are no other planned events at this time.

Lt. Bossi attended the Rental Property Owner Association meeting. He provided information on trespassing issues on the properties, as well as snow and plowing issues.

The year-end report for the K9 shows that they responded to 56 calls for service. There were 32 were tracks, 27 of those in Rochester. There were 24 drug searches and 19 of those were in Rochester. As was widely reported, after Daisy Mae passed away in February, a new bloodhound, Gunner, was introduced to our team. The team has appeared at many community events including Teen night, National Night Out, touch a truck and other events.

In Comp Stat, we remain consistent with prior months. There has been an increase in shoplifting, but a decrease in all other property crime. There has been no major trends in violent crimes or drug activity.

In Support, services there were 28 cases sent to investigations by patrol. There are currently 61 cases assigned. There were 28 cases presented to the Grand Jury, all with True Bills. There were 541 pieces taken in to the evidence locker, 34 pieces returned and 175 pieces destroyed. This continues to illustrate how busy the property room is. Members of ISB have been busy completing backgrounds and polygraphs for new hires. There were four detective call outs for the month.

Comm. Stanley inquired into the stabbing at a downtown establishment. She noted rumors from people not even from Rochester are circulating.

It was reported that the investigation is leaning toward this being self-inflicted and not by another person. We don't believe it was an assault.

Staffing in the Communications center continues to improve. We have one in training and two new people starting this month. The training typically will last ten weeks depending on the learning style of the individual.

Calls at the Housing properties have been steady, at 26 this period at the various locations. There were 17 checks completed of prospective tenants.

There were about 130 in attendance for Teen night.

The Explorers held two meetings and are working on their re-chartering. Officer Jackson and Officer Porfido are working diligently on the program.

Officer Jackson is working on an alert system for the schools and is working on a plan to handle disruptive students. All of the School Resource Officers are working on the second half of the year L.E.A.D courses. They are also dealing with a rise in e-cigarettes and vaping. Sgt. Deluca attended and assisted at Teen Night. Officer Porfido has been active in various programs with the students as part of L.E.A.D. as well as school lunches.

Officer Danie was chosen as Officer of the year. He is very active in the community and department. He has assisted patrol with short staffing taking calls for service, worked with the SRO's and Explorers, he has begun working on Wings and Wheels for 2019. He also planned the Skate with a Cop.

Comm. Stanley commented that since Officer Danie has been working on the issues with a particular street that has been having issues, not one resident from that street showed up at the recent ward meeting. We are assuming that is a good sign.

Chief Toussaint said this is exactly what we want the POP unit to do. Officer Danie worked with the code enforcement, the landlord, probation and parole, focusing on a problem residence in the area and I think he has made a difference.

Comm. Stanley said the plan we thought we had with Bridging the Gaps may have fallen through. She has a meeting with Julie to discuss the program further.

B. Administration. Dep. Chief Boudreau said that we have picked up the replacement for Car 5 and it is at our vendor being outfitted.

The FY20 budget entries are done and with finance. We are waiting on our meeting date with the City Manager to review.

The City Council voted the previous evening on the Memorandum of Understanding related to the pay compression issue. We will start processing that paper work.

Our FY19 budget, we are 58% through the year and 50% spent. Much of our savings will be in salaries and benefits due to open positions. Our projection, while early is trending to the good.

Comm. Stevens asked if there are any areas we will have to move money.

Chief Toussaint said traditionally we have to move money for overtime. We usually run at a deficit and the money is moved at the end of the year.

The dispatch overtime line is over expended.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said this is handled the same. It runs at a deficit and transfers are made at the end of the year. We are projecting dispatch to be in the black.

Our OM lines generally we plan well, but with any budget sometimes there are hiccups and we transfer if we have to. Our vehicle maintenance line is in good shape. We have been rotating the tires since Sgt. Babine took over management of that and it has made a difference.

We received a preliminary design from 2-Way on the radio equipment and tower logistics. We hope to have more of an update next month.

Comm. Peters said that theoretically we could get started this summer.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said probably not this summer. We are hoping to square up some of the small stuff toward the end of the fiscal year. We are looking more towards a 2020 start.

Comm. Peters asked if there was any new technology coming that we should be aware of as this proceeds.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said not anything that has been tested enough to recommend.

Training and Hiring – we lost one recruit from the Academy. The other three are doing well with no major issues. The two officers on field training are also doing well according to their daily observation reports. As through move through the field-training program, they will be exposed to more calls where they will take the lead.

We held our first hiring process for 2019, and are starting our second with the test list from Great Bay. We have three candidates to bring before the Commission for open positions. Sgt. Cost attended a senior seminar for the criminal justice majors at New England College. We were one of five agencies that took part.

We looked into going to these events at UNH, but they charge employers to come in and set up a table and do not waive that for government.

Discussion on overdoses – they are down, and fatal overdoses are down.

We are seeing a lot of meth, which doesn't produce the symptoms that heroin or fentanyl do. We are seeing increase of folks under the influence of different drugs; but they are not dying.

Comm. Stevens commented it went down quite a bit.

Capt. Pinkham said we are still responding to drug-related calls, but not the opiate instances and deaths as in the past. Many more people also have access to Narcan.

Comm. Stanley commented that several areas of property crime are at 10-year lows. Property crime is down and the clearance rate is up. There is a lot of good information here for the public.

We could do a presentation and highlights at an upcoming meeting so people can see it. We also put this up on our website.

We should highlight the things the department has done over the past year, even though staffing is short.

Comm. Stanley noted that domestic violence and suicide are both up.

Chief Toussaint said that we are a major partner of the Family Justice center. The number of their clients does keep going up. There is not a lot we can do to prevent violence in the home.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Communications Specialists Bowley and Pearce are recognized for effort and ability during an extremely busy shift

7. INFORMATION:

A. There was no discussion.

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

Commissioner Stanley MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 8:13 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 9:01 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. Stanley MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. William Robinson (3.6%), Off. Jason Plumb (3.75%), Off. Matthew Flathers (4.2%), Off. John Gantert (3.1%), Off. Brandon Kimbrough (3.35%), Off. Nicholas Alexander (2.95%), Off. James Murphy (3.25%), Lt. Jeremy Aucoin (3.0%). Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 9:01 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary