

# PC 2013/03/06

Rochester Police Commission  
Rochester, NH 03867

James F. McManus, Jr., Chairman  
Alan B. Bemis, Vice Chairman  
David E. Winship, Jr., Commissioner

## MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting in City Hall Council Chambers on March 6, 2013. Present at this meeting was Comm. McManus, Comm. Bemis, Comm. Winship, Chief Allen, Dep. Chief Dumas, Attorney Grossman, and recording Secretary Warburton.

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

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

B. Prayer. Comm. McManus led the opening prayer.

C. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking all Commissioner's present.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment offered.

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

A. February 6, 2013

**Comm. Winship MOVED to accept the minutes of the February 6, meeting as presented. SECOND by Comm. McManus and PASSED.**

4. **OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

There was no old or unfinished business for discussion.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Policy Update

1. Standard 1.3.2; Use of Deadly Force: Update First Reading

**Comm. McManus MOVED to place policy 1.3.2 into First Reading. SECOND by Comm. Bemis and PASSED unanimously.**

**Comm. McManus MOVED to place policy 1.3.2 into SECOND Reading for adoption. SECOND by Comm. Bemis and PASSED unanimously.**

B. Monthly Reports

1. Operations Chief Allen said that ward meetings are still going well despite light attendance at some of them. There has been nothing noteworthy to report. At future meetings they will be discussing comprehensive zoning. Brock Street one way traffic continues to be an issue and we are doing significant enforcement there. There are a variety of violators from folks entering from side streets and businesses, as well as through the signs on the Washington Street side. We are issuing citations at this point.

Comm. McManus commented both he and Comm. Bemis received a call from a person cited, who said they didn't deserve the citation as the area was not properly marked. Comm. McManus said to satisfy his own knowledge he drove through the area and feels it is properly marked.

Sgt. Bossi is working on a community policing effort at the St. Charles Children's home, where the midnight shift officers will go and have breakfast with the children. This is still in the logistics stage.

There were three call outs for the investigations bureau this period - arrests were made in a felony level assault and a robbery; and the robbery at Walgreen's is still under investigation.

One of the open positions in the communications center has been filled and we are working on filling the remaining opening. We had a candidate that did not successfully pass the background. We have had some overtime in dispatch due to these shortages. On a per diem basis we re-hired one of the specialists who left to return to the private sector. He left on good terms and this will assist with the staffing shortages and give some relief to the overtime issue.

We have seen an increase in overall calls for EMS since our first contract in 2007. They are paying for one position and we have approached them about funding for added positions. This is still in the early exploration stages.

The POP unit is working on a website for retailers. It is close to being launched. We think it will be a positive program to help with the willful concealment issue.

In the prosecution bureau, Det. Gahan is working with Bridging the Gaps and students and the high school on doing a public service announcement. Det. Loignon and Diversion Coordinator Rodler did a segment on the public access channel regarding juvenile diversion and juvenile prosecution. This is positive engagement that increases our outreach efforts.

Officer Funk completed the DARE program this reporting period and is planning on a graduation ceremony in April. Officer Blair and Officer Harding are working on the seat belt challenge and a DWI mock crash event at the high school.

We held our first effective police and youth interaction training program. Nine officers attended and initial feedback has been good. We are looking to expand this and open it up regionally. We have two trainers who have been through the program to offer this course.

There were more than 300 attendees at the recent Teen night. An application has been submitted jointly from Police, Recreation and Bridging the Gaps for the National City Manager's Awards for programs of excellence.

2. Administration. Dep. Chief Dumas said we are in the process of purchasing a traffic counter with JAG grant funding. It gathers the same data as our speed trailer but in a less obtrusive manner. We are also in the process of getting our Power DMS software suite up and running which will be beneficial in terms of record archiving and policy management.

The most recent budget projection shows that we are in relatively good shape. There are a couple of lines in trouble including vehicle maintenance, equipment maintenance and fuel.

Transfers were made March 6, 2013. Dispatch overtime is an issue as well. With the staffing shortages it was already an issue, but then if you add vacation, comp or sick call outs it has to be filled at overtime. The supervisor used to fill a lot of those shifts.

We are all set for the hiring interviews tomorrow. We are tracking the storm and hope it doesn't impede travel.

The Citizens Academy starts next week. Rochester has 10 applicants, and Somersworth has three so far.

The recent survey we did to track how we are doing to date has yielded 178 responses. Forty-one of those were conducted by our intern who called people we knew we had contact with.

The questions were intentionally opened ended. It gives us a good feel for what we do and where we can improve. We advertised the survey through ward meetings, Face Book, the newsletter and our web page, as well as through the intern calling people, so we got a mixed population by design with both good and not so good responses. The fact that it was anonymous and people took the time to response is encouraging. This way the responses are an honest reaction to what the citizens feel is going on in their City.

The results so far are as follows:

PD's overall performance -

2.9 % rated us as a 1 or poor  
7.0 % rated us as a 2  
16.9% rated as a 3  
39.5% rated us as a 4  
33.7% rated us as a 5 or very good

or 73.2% rated our overall performance above average.

When asked how we could improve this rating 67 people responded with an overwhelming variation of improved response times, more officers, more neighborhood patrols, better response to lower priority calls. One person thought hiring more attractive staff would be beneficial.

#### PD's overall image

1.7 % rated us as 1 or poor  
9.2% rated us as a 2  
21.3% rated us as a 3  
31% rated us as a 4  
36.8% rated us as a 5 or very good

or 67% rated our overall image above average.

The survey showed people wished us to put more emphasis on

Drug enforcement - 26.6%  
Neighborhood Patrols - 31.2%  
Crime Prevention/Education - 7.5%  
Traffic Enforcement - 8.1%  
Downtown Foot Patrols - 15%  
Criminal Investigations - 6.9%  
Other - 4.6%

The last question as to what the public would like to see us put more

emphasis mirrors what was stated above with drugs and neighborhood patrols being the most common response.

This reinforces the DDACTS (data driven analysis to crime and traffic safety) Programs focus and shows how our efforts with traffic enforcement and patrols of the neighborhoods overlap. Results are in line with what we have been emphasizing.

This casts the net to a wide group to see what the community thinks of their police department in general. It is a great way to show the job we are doing now and where we need to improve moving forward. This gives us a base line that we can use at our annual goal setting meeting where we bring the community in to help set our goals.

Comm. Bemis commented that based on the emails he receives the concerns and complaints the Commission was seeing six years ago, this ticks all those boxes.

Chief Allen said that we kept the survey simple to encourage folks to fill it out. We met as a staff and narrowed the questions to what will give us the most information in the shortest reply time.

Comm. Bemis commented on the recent burglary, where suspects were apprehended on the roof of downtown businesses. He felt the incident was handled very well and the merchants were grateful. They are all talking about this. He would like to see a letter

to Sgt. Emerson's file for the excellent work, communication and coordination of our response. Chief Allen said that we will talk this up at the next meeting.

#### 6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Members of the Department, including the following were recognized this month. Off. Krans is recognized for his response to a barricaded subject at Frisbie ER. Off. Ouellette is thanked by Mr. Kittredge for his professional response to a criminal mischief call. Ms. Barry thanks the Department for their part in helping her make better choices for her and her family. Sgt. Burke is thanked by Concord Chief Duval for assisting with CIT training. Off. Krans is thanked on face book for his response to a child and the safety of seatbelts. Off. MacKenzie is thanked for his assistance with a drug search at the Rockingham County Jail. Det. Tapscott is recognized by Exeter PD, Capt. Poulin for ICAC work.

#### 7. INFORMATION:

- Information Other; enclosed with Agenda: No discussion.

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

**Commissioner McManus MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:49 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) SECOND by Comm. Winship. The motion PASSED by roll call vote with Comm. Winship, Comm. Bemis and Comm. McManus all voting in the**

**affirmative. The non-public session closed at 8:11 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. McManus, SECOND by Comm. Winship and PASSED unanimously.**

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Comm. Bemis MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 8:11 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca J. Warburton,  
Secretary