

**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 October 3, 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, invited guests and members of the public.

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. September 5, 2018 regular meeting.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the minutes of the September 5, 2018, regular meeting as presented. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Stevens and PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No discussion.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Awards and Recognitions

1. Presentations – Thank a Police Officer. The committee for Thank a Police Officer came forward and Chief Toussaint invited Nicole Rodler from the benevolent association, along with any uniformed and non-uniformed officers to come up for the presentation from the Committee.

Lauren Jerr noted that Sept 15 was a special day in the City. Residents and businesses came together to paint the City blue. Residents and business posted signs and hung blue ribbons of support. The schools provided artwork throughout the town and local businesses had thank you card stations so people of the city could say thank you to the men and women in blue. On behalf of the National Thank a Police Officer Day committee, we have a few tokens to present showing our sincere gratitude for your commitment and service to the City of Rochester.

Angela and Paula from the American Legion, Unit 7 Ladies Auxiliary wished to thank the police officers for their sacrifices and commitment to keeping Rochester a safe place to live and visit. As the daughter of a career police officer, she is proud to know that he helped others when they needed him. A basket of thank you cards filled out by citizens and children of Rochester was presented.

Kristy Methot from Holy Rosary Credit Union said on behalf of the committee they have a check for \$2,100.00 to present to the Rochester Police Benevolent Association. This is money collected from sponsors and others wishing to donate. We have a plaque for where the funds came from.

Tanya Lee Hervey Photography said her ride along was an excellent experience to see what a typical day is. So much goes on. She present a pic collage of some of the photos she took, a USB drive with a video compilation of the pictures and a professional photo of the police department to be hung within the building.

Chief Toussaint said on behalf of the Rochester Police Department I want to thank everyone who was involved in the effort of thank a police officer. I know many people put in a lot of hard work. So much of police work has negative aspects of society and it is nice to be reminded that the community supports us and is willing to go the mile to show that. It is really appreciated.

2. Lifesaving Award: Officer Plumb and Officer Watt. Both officers were called to conduct a welfare check on a citizen. The female resident was found hanging in a closet while her young child was nearby. Officer Plumb, who is a trained paramedic cut the female down and began lifesaving measures, assisted by Officer Watt. She was not conscious, not breathing and had no pulse. By the time she was transported to the hospital she had a pulse and was breathing. This is a clear-cut case of saving a life and the officers were presented with ribbons to wear on the uniform signifying such.

3. Retirement Recognition: Sgt. Jamey Balint. Chief Toussaint noted that this is a bittersweet night as we say goodbye to an officer who served the city for more than 21 years. Jamey's last day was on Friday September 28. We did our traditional final salute. We recognize him one final time tonight as he leaves us. He has been instrumental to our operation and has been a valued member of our agency. He has served in many capacities and earned many awards and recognitions over the course of his career. He is considered an expert in traffic reconstruction. He served as the team commander for the TAR team. He will be missed as a supervisor, as a friend and our family member. He is not leaving law enforcement, just going to serve part time in Alton.

Jamey was presented with a shadow box of his uniform shirt denoting his achievements. Chief Toussaint said I hope when he looks at this he proudly remembers his days with the Rochester Police Department.

Jamey Balint said it does take a village. I could not be where I am without everyone else's help. We have all been team players and stepped up to back each other. As far as agencies go, this is the best and everyone has been very good to me. I thank you for the wild ride and look to continue serving -- at a slightly slower pace.

B. Accept Retirement Notice – Sgt. Jamey Balint.

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the retirement of Sgt. Balint with regret.
SECONDED by Comm. Stanley and PASSED unanimously.**

C. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Captain Pinkham said that all wards met this period. Four of the six had limited attendance. The meetings are beneficial and we continue to promote them in an effort to increase attendance.

Comm. Stanley noted the amount of vigor the residents brought to the Ward 6 meeting. She said that Sgt. Miehle communicated the issues in that ward. There were a number of residents encouraged to come to this meeting. Some of the items addressed currently have resources dedicated to them.

Chief Toussaint said that he read Sgt. Miehle's report. He would encourage residents that have issues not to let them fester for long periods. Call us. This particular residence has been on our radar. People should not have to live with nuisance residence nonsense like drug activity, or lewd behavior. Please don't wait until you are so angry that you show up to a ward meeting in force. Our goal is to work together, open the lines of communication and address issues as they come.

Comm. Stanley said the residents are attempting to work constructively.

Capt. Pinkham said the comp stat report shows property crimes and violent crimes have decreased over the month. We did also see a decrease in traffic stops attributed to the focus in the downtown, using other proactive means targeting selected areas in the downtown. Overall, we are pleased with the effort and results.

The Honor Guard participated in the September 11 remembrance ceremony at the Fire Department, along with other city officials and staff.

The K9 unit had eight calls. Five were tracks and three were drug searches. Two of the three drug searches were in Rochester.

Over in the support bureau, 31 cases were sent from patrol for review or investigation. There are 48 cases assigned. There were 16 cases presented to the Grand Jury, all were true bills.

We logged in 325 pieces of evidence and returned 88 pieces to owners. An additional 357 pieces were destroyed. The locker takes in a lot of property so we purge items when the statute allows.

The Communications Center now has two vacancies stemming from resignations effective on October 3 and October 6. Both have submitted requests to remain per diem. We will use a combination of overtime and per diems to fill those slots pending a hiring process.

There were 44 calls at the housing properties. We continue to complete backgrounds on new applicants. We attended a meeting at Coldspring addressing parking issues and other close-quarters living.

The first Teen night of the year is Saturday October 6. This runs the first Saturday of the month from now until May.

The Community Engagement Officer remains active in his role. He is currently attending a three-week school.

Officer Porfido was certified as a LEAD instructor this period.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau said we do not yet have a delivery date for the new cruisers.

There have been three meetings to date on the radio replacement project. We have been discussing what our system needs are, microwave technology and coverage areas in the City. This includes the tower locations as well as scouting future locations of towers if needed. We have also submitted a request to waive the city purchasing policy of going out to bid, and using the state bid instead. We are following up with some other municipalities on this.

Comm. Stanley asked if this has an equipment installation component.

Dep. Chief Boudreau responded that it does. This will go directly to the vendor. Motorola hires a sub-contractor. More than likely it will be Two-Way, who is also our radio vendor. Our vendor will be the one who services this after installation.

Our two recruits at the Academy have completed five weeks. So far, there have been no issues academically or physically. We are looking forward to them completing the Academy and getting them back here. We have two candidates that completed the background process and will be starting on November 18. The next Academy steps off in January. As of the second week of September, they already had 11 recruits enrolled.

We have three additional candidates deep in the background process. If we get those completed, we could potentially send five candidates to the next Academy.

We are hosting a three-week evidence class that has 8 Rochester officers and 3 Somersworth officers. They will be certified in crime scene and evidence collection at the conclusion. We have been looking to improve in this for some time. This is a very intensive, hands-on course. This is funded with a JAG grant and not as expensive as sending officers away to train.

Comm. Peters asked if there are both detectives and patrol attending.

Chief Toussaint said we have both detectives and patrol assigned to the team. For a major crime, we will call them in the process the scene. This training is critical. If they are called to testify they will have certification, rather than a broad statement of being shown how during field training.

Captain Pinkham noted that he went through the class.

Bridging the Gaps did receive the no cost extension that takes us out to March of 2019. It pays only salary and benefits of the coordinator. No programming. We bought materials would could before the end of the grant.

Comm. Peters asked what do we do moving forward.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that the coordinator, Julie Perron is on the October agenda for the Community Development committee to talk about the program. It is going to finance after that to see if the Council wants to continue the costs associated with the program. This is very much a working status.

Comm. Peters said so we are still looking for other grants and options.

We were notified of a small grant that Bridging the Gaps received. We need to have Council accept those funds.

Comm. Stevens said we cannot be the only community facing the end of the grant.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said other communities have used a combination of municipal money and private funding. Some have benefactors and some formed their own 501c3 to fundraise, while others have dissolved. There are options.

The Rochester Fair held September 6-9 and 13-16 overall had no safety issues from our perspective. We staffed about 300 hours and covered radio dispatching on site. Only one arrest and it was for a warrant, not anything related to the Fair.

D. Other.

1. Downtown Presence. Comm. Stevens said last month we talked extensively about police presence down town. Do you feel it has been effective?

Chief Toussaint said all along that our numbers did not bear out a major issue. However, the perception did. We have received positive feedback on the visibility and increased presence. People seem appreciative of that. We have made some arrests, we have moved some people along who were loitering and doing things they should not. We are down there when we can be, given our staffing challenges.

Comm. Stanley said there appears to be less loitering.

Comm. Stevens noted he was getting good feedback as well.

2. Thank a Police Officer. Comm. Peters said on behalf of the Commission we want to thank all those involved in the Thank a Police Officer campaign. Everyone did a great job.

We were following the Facebook page and the comments. The staff appreciated the support. Sometimes we forget the support we have from the community.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: A citizen recognizes Off. Watt as an asset whom reflects great service to the PD and the community. A citizen thanks Off. Powers for a conversation, which has led to the citizen seeking change to make better life choices. A citizen thanks Off. Bailey for his assistance in his care and concern for a malnourished dog that the family eventually adopted. A student thanks Off. Jackson for his dedication to the Explorer program. Off. Danie and Nicole Rodler are thanked for sponsorship of the Monarch Schools annual fundraising programs.

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 7:54 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 8:27 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. MISCELLEANOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. Joseph Rousseau (3.65%), Off. Elizabeth Turner (3.95%), Off. Spencer Williams-Hurley (4.0%), Off. Jacob Garstin (3.75%), Off. Keith MacKenzie (3.9%). Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 8:28 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary