



**Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867**

Derek J. Peters, Commissioner
David R. Stevens, Commissioner
David E. Winship, Jr. Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall, Council Chambers. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Winship, Chief Boudreau, Dep. Chief Thomas, Chaplain Cilley, Secretary Warburton, and invited guests.

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

All participated in the pledge of allegiance.

Chaplain Cilley led all in prayer.

B. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Winship present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. April 6, 2022 regular meeting.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2022_meeting. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as presented PASSED 3-0 with Comm. Winship, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Peters all voting yes.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No old or unfinished business.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Oaths of Office. Comm. Peters said it is an honor for this Commission and command staff to welcome six new members who have gone through a very long process to get to this point. We look forward to them working with us and for the Department and I think they will really enjoy their career here.

Chief Boudreau welcomed friends, family and officers. This is a special night where these officers will begin their law enforcement careers with Rochester. This is not an easy process to make it

here, to the oath. Not everyone we interview gets a job officer. There are interviews, a PT test for the minimum standards for the academy, and extensive background, including a polygraph, where we dig into every piece of their background looking for the type of person they are. There is close to a 50% failure rate. We vet these candidates thoroughly. It is an honor to be here and a privilege and I hope you all feel that way.

As Commissioner Peters said this is the first night of a long and prosperous and happy career in one of the best jobs. Not an easy job. It is never boring, you will see and do a little of everything and make some amazing acquaintances and close friends with the people you work with.

Chief Boudreau called Shane Downs and his family up. Chief Boudreau said Shane comes to us via Northwood Police Department. He is already certified. He is a Rochester native and a graduate of Spaulding High School. He holds an Associate's Degree from McIntosh College. He is a Rochester resident and currently serves an elected position on the Rochester School Board. He is involved in the community in youth sports. We look forward to him beginning his career here.

The oath of office was administered to Officer Downs by Secretary Becky Warburton.

Chief Boudreau said we have several more officers who are not certified and they will be heading to the June Police Academy. That is 16 weeks of training and not an easy task. They will focus heavy on academics and practical. They will come back and then go through roughly 12 weeks of field training learning the ins and outs of the job, the agency and our community before they are released to solo patrol.

Chief Boudreau called up each Officer giving a little bit of background on each.

Officer Manolin Terrero comes to us via Merrimack County Jail corrections. He is a member of the NH National Guard. Originally a Brooklyn, NY native, he settled here in NH after attending New England College in Henniker where he excelled in baseball.

Officer David Lombardi is a native of the NH Seacoast. He is a veteran of the US Marine Corp. He is attending George Washington University, working on a Bachelor program in German language and Literature. He is also a student athlete there on the rowing team.

Officer Brian Dale is a 2016 graduate of Spaulding High School, where he was part of the ROTC program. He went on to Keene State College, graduating in 2020 with a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in History. He comes to us from the business community where he has some background in retail loss prevention, an issue we deal with on a frequent basis.

Officer Logan Allen gets long distance award. He comes to us from Kentucky where he attended Murray State University. He was awarded a Bachelor Degree in Political Science with a Masters in Human Development and Leadership. These will be put to very good use dealing with the public and should serve you well.

Officer Zachary Marsh is the fourth Zachary we have hired in recent months. He is a native of the Seacoast and is enrolled at Keene State College pursuing a Bachelor degree with a focus on Homeland Security with a minor in additions and Holocaust studies.

The oath of office was administered to all five recruits by Secretary Becky Warburton

A fifteen minute recess was called. Back in session at 7:27 P.M.

B. Accept Resignation

1. Officer Frank Porfido

Comm. Peters MOVED to accept the resignations of Officer Porfido with regret. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED unanimously.

C. Monthly Reports

1). Operations. The investigations bureau has 42 cases open for investigation. There was one call out for a death investigation. In April there were four backgrounds completed that were a combination of Police and Dispatch positions.

Det. Frechette officially retired on April 29. Kendall DeCost was selected as the next family and DV detective. She was able to spend about three weeks with Bob cross training.

Sgt. Benjamin trained the new evidence technician who is now running solo. He has excelled and is doing a spectacular job.

COMPSTAT: We had an increase in traffic stops, with officers focusing on the downtown and major routes in and out of the City. There was a decrease in motor vehicle crashes, but an increase in DWI. Many of those were uncovered either through motor vehicle accidents or reported be on the lookout (BOLO). We are higher year to date and are working to detect DWI before crashes happen.

Property crime is down year to date, but has shown an upward trend since February. We don't see any specific pattern.

Comm. Stevens inquired what part of property crime increased.

Dep. Chief Thomas noted the report didn't indicate that. He will get an answer and get back to the Commission.

There has been an increase in fatal overdose deaths. We have information from the State of Maine they are also seeing such increases. We suspect it has something to do with the batches of drugs that are being produced.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER/PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING UNIT:

Officer Kimbrough has been selected as the next community engagement officer. As soon as staffing allows he will move full time into that role.

COMMUNICATIONS: Dispatch is still down positions. We have two working toward release from field training, one conditional pending and two positions still to fill.

Comm. Peters inquired into the mobile command unit.

Chief Boudreau replied we are still hamstrung by the supply chain issues. There is one part that controls the main part of the radios. We also worked with IT on firewalls and connecting remotely and wirelessly into the network. Our goal is to have the unit up and running by the fireworks event in July.

2.) Administration: Dep. Chief Thomas advised that we are 83% through the fiscal year and 74% spent in O&M lines. All lines are in good shape with no major concerns. The City Manager presented his budget to the Council on April 19. Chief Boudreau and Dep. Chief Thomas will be attending the Council budget retreat on May 6 and May 7.

Two of the new cruisers are operational and in service. The third cruiser is waiting on the delivery of the cruiser equipment box for installing. This should be operational next week.

Comm. Peters asked about the motorcycles.

The Chief replied that we are limited with available officers. We have one patrol officer and two sergeants who are certified to ride. We did send an officer to the training. This is an intense program where they teach putting the motorcycle down multiple times. A fully dressed Harley is a heavy bike. Unfortunately the officer over-exerted himself and had to drop from the course. The next school is in September.

One of the things we have run into when soliciting for the motorcycles is the lack of members who actually have a motorcycle endorsement. We have looked into the course that NH holds, but the way the budget falls with the course at the end of the year we are not able to send anyone.

Comm. Peters inquired into bicycle officers.

Chief Boudreau said that we have several that are certified and outfitted. We did look into an instructor course but it was cost prohibitive. We will be soliciting more officers for the bike patrol. This is a great tool. The citizens and the officers love them.

Dep. Chief Thomas said that we have five new bicycles that have been on order for a year. The supply chain issues affects many things including the web gear for the bike patrol.

HIRING: We have four officers who started on April 25, 2022 with two additional officers starting on May 9, 2022. One officer is certified in NH. We are working to get the other five into the June academy. These officers were sworn in earlier in this meeting.

Dep. Chief Thomas said that between May 9 and May 16 there will be two oral board sessions, with physical agility tests for new hires. Currently there are 16 confirmed attendees. Those that pass the orals and physical agility we will bring before the Commission. Indeed has been the biggest help to our recruitment pool.

TRAINING The recruits who graduated from the academy in December have all been released to solo patrol. We have four recruits, currently in week 13 of the academy who are expected to graduate on May 27. They will have a couple of in house training weeks and then be moved to field training.

E. Other.

1. Body Camera Project. Chief Boudreau advised that pieces of our order are starting to arrive. We were told to expect to hear from the Department of Safety on the grant status by the end of April, beginning of May.

Comm. Peters asked if we have a camera on site for next month, can we bring it to the meeting for a demo.

Chief Boudreau said he would work with our vendor for that.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following correspondence was received this period: Sgt. Krochmal, Officer Slankard, Officer Granatowski and Officer Lazaar are thanked by Fire Department Captain Plante for assistance and teamwork on a difficult EMS call. Officer Labosier, Officer Johnson and Officer Kimbrough are thanked by a resident for how they responded to some unsettling suspicious activity in the neighborhood. Sgt. Williams-Hurley is thanked for being a great guy and helpful to a business owner in town. Officer Decost, Officer Knox, Officer Rummo, Officer Alexander and Sgt. Robinson are recognized for their professional handling of a call of a person threatening to “shoot up” a local business.

7. INFORMATION: None

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

Commissioner Stevens MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:43 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, paragraph II, section A (personnel). Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

The non-public session closed at 8:28 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to seal the minutes of the non-public session. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Winship. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the evaluations of Officer Flathers and Officer Jackson, both of whom are top of grade. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Winship at 8:29 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 06/01/22