

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 September 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, 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:

Human 402 Portland Street noted his attendance at the Commission meeting last month, and comments made at that meeting by the Chief of Police show that he is out of touch with the community. Human gave his opinion on an officer involved shooting.

Chairman Peters noted there would be no comment from the Commission on the officer involved shooting as it is under investigation.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. August 1, 2018 regular meeting.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the minutes of the August 1, 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. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Capt. Thomas said that Wards 1-5 meet quarterly. All are scheduled to meet in September. Ward 6 meets monthly and met in August. There were 16 residents, as well as officers, and city officials attending. An ongoing issue at a residence on Prospect Street may soon be resolved with the eviction of a tenant. We are also working to resolve a neighbor dispute on Winter Street. The remainder of the meeting Councilor Gray informed citizens about upcoming elections.

There were no Honor Guard events in August.

The K9 unit had five call outs this period. Three for drugs and two tracks. All in Rochester.

Comp Stat field activity traffic stops remained consistent in the 700 stops range. There were four drug related traffic stops. There were 11 thefts from motor vehicles, two of which residents note the vehicles were locked. There were three stolen motor vehicles. There were five burglaries, two at the same address relative to a person living in the home. There were a couple of good drug possession cases, including from a search warrant on South Main Street and a heroin possession arrest following a bicycle stop, by a bike patrol officer.

Comm. Stanley inquired as to how the new bloodhound was working out.

Gunner is doing well. He recently tracked right to a suspect in a robbery who was hiding in the woods.

On the support side there were 33 cases sent up from patrol for review or investigation. There are currently 70 cases assigned. There were 26 cases presented to the Grand Jury, all were true bills. Evidence took in 362 pieces and returned 99 pieces. Compliance checks were conducted for seven sex offenders and eight pawnshops. There were three detective call outs and two evidence call outs. One background was completed.

Communications had no ordered overtime. There is some training scheduled for them in the fall.

There were 36 calls to housing properties this period. Officer Blair attended a meeting at Wyandotte requested by the tenants. He answered questions related to panhandling. Both officers have been addressing a violation of housing rules related to drinking in the common areas at Coldspring Manor.

Summer Teen Travel ended with a trip to Wells. This program has been very successful and allowed for building relationships with the SRO.

Nicole Rodler trained two of the new recruits in drug trends before they left for the Academy.

In juvenile prosecution, Lt. Gould had seven arraignments, five trials resolved by plea, two violation hearings and seven review hearings. In adult prosecution, there were 215 new cases with 306 charges. There were 94 guilty pleas, 28 not guilty pleas and 98 failed to appear. Seven cases were dismissed by the court and seven cases were placed on file. 36 charges were nol prossed as part of plea agreements. 36 cases were continued.

The Explorer Post will resume activities now that school is back in session. Off. Porfido is the new elementary school resource officer this year and is off to a good start. He participated in a welcome video for the students at William Allen that has gone viral.

CEO Danie remains busy and involved. If any businesses have issues, they should feel free to reach out to him.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau noted that the three cruisers had been ordered, but he doesn't have a firm delivery date. It may not be until December or January. All of the equipment has been ordered. This will phase out our last two Chargers as well as our last Crown Vic, the K9 cruiser.

Dep. Chief Boudreau noted that he will be changing out the flip phones in the front line cruisers for smart phones. The new phones will permit audio and video recording of statements that can be sent to an email and downloaded to their reports. IMC, our records software, is looking to launch an app for mobile phones that will permit downloading of photos and statements right into the system wirelessly. There is an associated fee. Dep. Chief Boudreau noted that he will be attending the IMC conference in October to learn more about technology that will improve officer efficiency.

The IT Dept is updating our security system in the building. The current technology, installed fourteen years ago during building construction, is outdated. We will be getting all new keypads and updated software.

Our recruits started the Academy last week and all reports show they had a good first week. We did reach out to the recruit who recently failed the entrance exam. He is interested in coming back and we will begin the process for that for later this fall. He is thankful and welcomes the opportunity to come back. Sgt. Cost is working on setting up the psychological and medical testing for the newest recruit and if this is successfully completed she can be given a start date.

C. Other.

1. Bridging the Gaps. Comm. Stanley noted that as the grant is ending, the program is in trouble. They applied and were not approved for two other grants. Unless other funding is located, the program is going away. If the grant extension for using the remaining funds is approved it can only be used for the Coordinator salary. No programming or supplies. I want to ask this Commission how we as a group feel. Do we feel it is something that has significance in accomplishing our goals as a Department and should we advocate finding some funding to keep it around?

Comm. Peters said we have been speaking to the council right along about the funding.

Chief Toussaint said we have had discussions with different people in finance. It is my understanding that Bridging the Gaps was its own entity before being placed under the Police Department. There were issues with record keeping and the grant funding was in jeopardy. The City became the fiscal agent to save the program and finish the grant.

My understanding of the plan at the time was the group was going to try to be self-sufficient by the end of this; it was not slated as a long-term city program. However, things have changed. There is a different climate in the City, the region and in the Country. The importance of prevention is even more so than it used to be. I do think it's a worthwhile program. Law enforcement has a role in the opioid crisis, but the focus needs to be on prevention and treatment. If this valuable prevention tool goes by the wayside, it only hurts the community. I think it's worthwhile for the Commission to back it.

Comm. Peters asked what is needed to keep it running until the next budget.

They can use the remaining funds to pay the salary and benefits of the Coordinator. Stipends and programming things like that goes away. We've been having regular meetings about this. Coordinator Perron has been looking at alternate funding sources. In fact, we have a meeting this Friday. She is hoping to collect donations for the first year of programming. I think the program can finish the additional year with donations but after that, there is nothing.

Comm. Stevens said so through 2019. The majority of the funding for salary?

Dep. Chief Boudreau said the grant cycle ends in September 2018. We have filed the no cost extensions but have not received notice that we can spend that money. Julie is working on buying supplies she can purchase now before end of the cycle. She has identified a funding source potentially to fund the youth advisors through the remaining of this year.

Comm. Peters asked the plan moving forward.

Chief Toussaint said the group can possibly join another 501c3 to raise money or it can be a city program or a combo of the two. The reality is it works as a city program with police, schools, etc.

Chief Toussaint said the location in the PD is not necessarily a fit. The location as a combo of Recreation, Schools and PD and several other groups. It would be beneficial if they were on their own in the community center, or a place where kids can drop in. Right now the Bridging the Gaps office space is very small and in a secured area of our building. No one can just drop in.

Comm. Stanley said if she can get some buy in from this body, I'll go to the council committees to transition this into the actual budget. I'm looking for a blessing.

Comm. Stevens asked what is out there that others are doing in this area.

Chief Toussaint said that Dover has a well-established program. They have a benefactor in Wentworth Douglas Hospital, as a major public private partnership and the city gives them space. So long term partnering in our community like what Dover is doing.

Comm. Stevens said you need the right place. Location is part of the picture. I see the value of the program and wouldn't want it to go away or morph into something else.

Comm. Peters said the Commission supports this. He asked that Comm. Stanley continue to work with the committee and update us on progress.

Comm. Stanley said the program floundered in the last year of the grant. We have a gem of a coordinator and I don't want to lose this.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: School Resource Officer Jackson is recognized for giving tour and talk about the Police Department to some elementary school children. Off. Williams-Hurley is recognized by a resident addressing a criminal mischief issue as an "exceptional and outstanding" officer. Off. Turner and Off. Bailey are thanked for their investigation and follow up after a serious motor vehicle accident, with injury. Sgt. Balint is recognized for his supervision of a serious motor vehicle collision.

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 7:47 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 8:11 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. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary