



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, September 6, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall Council Chambers. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Winship, Chief Boudreau, Dep. Chief Swanberry, Capt. Pinkham, 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 us in prayer.

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

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one was present to offer any public comment.

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

A. August 2, 2023

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the August 2, 2023 meeting. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as presented PASSED unanimously.

4. **OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no old business at this time.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Oaths for Promotion

1. Andrew Swanberry to Dep. Chief
2. Jeremy Aucoin to Captain
3. Spencer Williams-Hurley to Lieutenant

After a brief recap of these officers careers to date by Chief Boudreau, Secretary Rebecca Warburton administered promotion oaths to all.

A ten minute recess was called.

Back in session at 7:28 P.M.

B. Accept Resignations

1.) Officer Slankard

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Slankard, with regret, and wished him well in his endeavors. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED unanimously.

C. Monthly Reports

1). Operations. Capt. Pinkham reported that there were five different call outs for Officer Hatch and Ripley.

Chief Boudreau added that in patrol activity in the downtown. We have had a couple of sprees of criminal mischief happening in the downtown. Patrol responded and we are collecting the reports and obtaining video. These cases will either be moved to the POP unit, or investigations because of the significant spree. We want to package these and deal with them the best way we can.

In Support, Captain Pinkham reported the case load is 90 total cases. There were 38 new cases sent up. There were six cases presented to the Grand Jury. There was one call out. We have been working on an evidence audit to make sure everything lines up in the system as we transition over to the new records management software. This has been a big undertaking by everyone. We are pleased to have that done.

The Community Engagement Officer and POP officers have been active. The CEO Officer Kimbrough has been active in the community at various events including the Senior Breakfast, Touch a Truck at the summer camps, working with the city Outreach Coordinator visiting homeless camps, Crimeline, National Night Out, Summer Camp field trips. He is working with the City's Government Channel Coordinator regarding a public service announcement for crosswalks

The POP unit has been monitoring a couple of issues and working weekends to address one matter they are working on. They have been visiting the homeless camps with the CEO and the city outreach coordinator.

In Communications we have two dispatchers that are in training, and one background underway. If all goes well it will leave us with two open positions. The center had an NCIC audit and they have provided some tips to improve the center and to make it more efficient. We continue to meet weekly with CSI going over call types and responses to import over to the new records management system.

Comm. Peters asked when do we expect to no longer have IMC?

Capt. Pinkham said we expect to start doing some department-wide training at the end of October, and we plan to launch CSI the beginning of November. We will still have access to IMC as a searchable database during that transition.

Chief Boudreau said that IMC will be maintained for probably a year after CSI just to make sure everything came over in the transfer. We won't update it but we can still access the database. This is common to do this.

Comm. Stevens asked what is the big difference between IMC and CSI? Is it supposed to be a better program?

Chief Boudreau said we have had IMC since 1996. IMC has been bought several times over the years. Now it's just one program in the central square technologies company. They have multiple different police applications. Originally IMC was specific mostly to New England. The backend of IMC is an old database design and is old technology. It is also on site and is maintained by IT. CSI is more modern, has a newer platform with different abilities. CSI is also cloud based solution so we won't host any servers on site that we have to maintain. Responding to Comm. Stevens Chief Boudreau said with a lot of things cloud based storage seems to be the way manufacturers and municipalities are going.

Comm. Peters commented that our body cameras and the in car video are cloud based. Will this be compatible?

Chief Boudreau stated it would be. We want to bring CSI on board before we start integrating them.

Comm. Stevens asked if it would be less expensive?

Chief Boudreau said no. It is significantly more money over IMC but is better supported and is newer technology.

Capt. Pinkham said school opened this week. SRO's are back in the schools. We are without an elementary school SRO. We still want a presence and will continue the adopt-a-school program in the elementary schools. There were a lot of interested officers and it worked out well.

Comm. Stevens asked if the schools get extra time per officers vs having just the one elementary SRO?

Chief Boudreau said he wouldn't say more time but we have more officer involvement over having one officer dedicating his day over eight schools. They aren't there a whole 8 hours, they may adjust their schedule for an hour. Mornings, or afternoons, or at lunch. At the elementary school level it is more of a community policing presence as opposed to some of the other functions an SRO does.

Comm. Peters said one of the things he likes is this way the students meet a majority of officers instead of just one officer. They can build a better rapport. I look forward to eventually going back to a full time SRO in the schools, but for now this works out well.

Juvenile Division Coordinator Nicole Rodler sits on a variety of committees. She did a fantastic job coordinating the annual National Night Out with attendance of approximately 5,000. She coordinated Teen Travel camp this summer, she is helping to teach the mental health first aid, and she works with the CEO and the Community Outreach Coordinator conducting outreach to youth and young adults. We are getting a lot of positive things out of that department.

Capt. Pinkham said I don't have a slide but I have some compstat numbers, such as YTD property crime and violent crime, traffic stops and things of that nature.

Comm. Peters asked how are we trending is the question. Are we staying where we have been over the past several years or are we trending down a bit?

Capt. Pinkham said as of now it is trending down significantly in both property crime and violent crime which is a good thing. Traffic stops have increased almost 50% year to date for the same period last year. Most of the stats we are trending better in proactive activity and trending down in the negative areas.

Comm. Peters said this is due to having officers on the street, and sending cases up to detectives which we have reinforced. We look forward to getting cadets out of the academy and on the street.

Comm. Stevens asked that we let folks know where property crimes dropped down this last year.

Capt. Pinkham stated that Burglaries are down 33%, Simple Assaults are down 18%, Aggravated Assaults are down 52%, Robberies are down almost 100%. This is year to date.

Comm. Peters said that means the men and women are doing a good job.

Comm. Stevens commented that the misconception that crime is rampant, there is actually a significant decrease in a lot of crime.

2.) Administration . Dep. Chief Swanberry stated there were a few purchases over \$5,000, most related to the changeover costs for the front line cruisers. We have also started expanding the female locker room so there are carpentry costs associated with that.

Comm. Stevens commented that being out of locker space is a good problem to have for our community. The make up and diversity we have from people all over the country benefits everyone in the City. I see this as a problem, but a good problem.

Dep. Chief Swanberry continued speaking of needing more space we have also paid for some engineering and design of the third floor expansion where the dispatch center is going up there. The last incurred costs over 5k was purchasing four new portable radios for patrol.

We have taken delivery of all the cruisers that we ordered. Two front line and two backline. The backlines are both Ford Escapes. One is an addition and one is to replace one that is highly rusted. The two front lines will replace our 2018 cars. Since NEVO is backlogged we will continue to use the 2018's until the new cruisers are outfitted. Instead of trading the cars to the dealership, we will be part of an auction along with other city departments with property to auction as well.

Comm. Winship asked how far backlogged is NEVO?

Dep. Chief Swanberry stated he is not sure, but they are moving. We will do the front line cars first. NEVO doesn't specify which car we bring to an opening as long as we have the necessary equipment for the install. The backline cars can work off of portable radios and without blue lights more than the front line cars can.

Comm. Peters asked can we reuse any of the equipment from the 2018 cars?

Chief Boudreau said we always reuse whatever we can. However when the body of the cruisers was redesigned in 2019/2020 there were things that didn't fit, such as the back seat. The cage could fit with different mounts, the center console was different, the light bars will fit with different mounting kits. We will use what we can but it will depend on that redesign.

Chief Boudreau added that we do typically trade the vehicles. That decision falls under the authority of the finance department. During the FY2024 budget discussion some of the councilors questioned trading over auction, and is the city getting fair market value for them. We generally trade a car at 3.5 years with 100,000 miles (and not an easy 100,000 miles) on them. I feel we have gotten fair trade value. However Mark Sullivan in finance wanted to try to see where we are, what are the values on trades for the old swat van, the ford focus and the front line interceptors; as compared to auctioning them? There are other Departments in the City participating as well. We need to try to get the best money for the City.

Dep. Chief Swanberry continued noting that in training we have two in FTO that are progressing well and both are projected to be out of FTO by the end of this month. We have four officers at the academy in two separate sessions. Two have completed 12 weeks, and two have completed five weeks. They are also progressing well.

We did have a set back with Great Bay recently canceling their police exam due to low enrollment. There were only ten who registered to take the test. We are still recruiting using InDeed.

Attorney Blanchard, the Deputy City Attorney and prosecutor for the City conducted 2-hour blocks of instruction on DUI investigation/documentation training for all patrol officers and supervisors. He felt officers would benefit from this training.

Comm. Peters commented on Police Standards now offering the mental health training through the Academy.

Chief Boudreau said that CIT is now part of the academy basic curriculum. I am grateful for that. I know they don't want to lengthen the academy but it's possible that could happen to cover certain areas. They have changed the makeup of the training which previously was heaving on lecture and written exam for a more hands on scenario based training.

Comm. Peters asked about the budget.

Dep. Chief Swanberry said it's early but the lines are in good shape. You will see that some are close to 100% spent, but that is normal for the things we purchase and pay for in full at the beginning of a fiscal year.

Comm. Stevens asked about the body cameras. Is there still an issue on the vendor side?

Chief Boudreau said there is an issue with assigning rights to officers. We are going to move forward without the redaction piece. We don't have to redact for court. We will have to monitor what else gets released.

Comm. Stevens inquired when will we be live?

Chief Boudreau said he doesn't have a time frame. This is one city project of several that IT (who are short staffed) is working on. The CSI project is huge.

Comm. Stevens inquired if it's a vendor problem or not.

Chief Boudreau commented its both. Some of this is outside of our control.

Comm. Stevens asked do you regret selecting this vendor?

Chief Boudreau said he does not. We have a great relationship with them.

D. Other

1. NCIC Audit. Chief Boudreau commented on the NCIC audit in Dispatch. This is from the state, they come in and audit our records and different things. The supervisor put together a lot of information. There are some areas we need to correct. Our last audit was about 8 years ago. Our center is high volume and there has been a lot of turnover in staffing. There is other things coming statewide in changing some of our practices and there will be some policy updates happening, related to the audit and best practices.

2. Model Policy and Policy Update. The Police Academy just released a model policy related to internal investigations. The State has an officer conduct review committee. I will be working on updating our policy. Our policy meets the requirements but this is a model policy based on CALEA and national standards so I want to move in that direction.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence received for review this month.

7. **INFORMATION:** There was nothing for discussion.

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

Commissioner Stevens MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:59 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 3 – 0 with Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship - yes.

The non-public session closed at 8:38 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. Comm. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3 – 0 with Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship - yes.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the evaluations of Officer Root (top of grade) and to approve the merit track advancements as presented for Officer Jonathan Marshall (track 3). Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED unanimously with all Commissioner’s voting in the affirmative.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Peters at 8:38 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: