



Rochester Police Commission  
Rochester, NH 03867

David R. Stevens, Commissioner  
Lisa M. Stanley, Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Police Department, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lecture Hall. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Lt. Swanberry, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton.

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

All participated in the pledge of allegiance. Chaplain Cilley led us in prayer.

B. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner Stevens and Commissioner Stanley present.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comment.

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

A. August 4, 2021 regular meeting.

**Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the minutes of the August 4, 2021 meeting, with corrections to typographical errors on page 3. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion to approve the minutes, with corrections. The motion to accept the minutes PASSED unanimously.**

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

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Accept Resignations.

1. Officer Patrick Flathers
2. Officer Jeremy Riddle
3. Officer Jacob Coffey

**Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the resignations of Officer Patrick Flathers, Officer Jeremy Riddle and Officer Jacob Coffey with regret. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED unanimously.**

It was noted the resignations were brought up at the City Council meeting the previous evening. Officers hired after a certain date now must work 25 years and be age 50 before retiring at 50% of their base pay. Agencies outside of New Hampshire are offering better packages.

B. Monthly Reports: Commissioner Stevens felt there was not a need to go over the monthly reports unless anyone had highlights to go over or questions on any of the entries.

Operations: The POP Unit has been pulled back into patrol. The elementary SRO has also been pulled back into patrol. This is to address staff shortages.

**K9**: Officer Hatch and Gunner were certified as a team. We have been leasing Gunner from Keith MacKenzie. The lease is due to expire at the end of October, but could be renewed if both parties agreed. Knowing that the lease was coming due, we have been looking for a new dog. We found a breeder in New York that had two puppies available. The Connecticut State Police buys dogs from this breeder annually. We decided to move forward with using \$2,000.00 of forfeiture funds to purchase this dog.

The puppy is a shepherd. While it is known that the bloodhound is a better tracker, there is very little support in NH for training of bloodhounds. Officer Hatch would have to travel weekly to Leominster, MA, which just isn't feasible. Keith MacKenzie had noted that he was available to assist with training, but he also has another business where he is highly sought after.

We had a discussion with Keith MacKenzie about extending the lease for six months, which would bring us close to the retirement age for Gunner, but would give us more time for certification with the new dog. After talking with his family, Keith declined to extend the lease.

Therefore, we will be without a K9 for 8-12 months while Officer Hatch and the puppy train and become certified.

Training. Our two officers that graduated from the Academy on August 20 are now in field training. The law package for our two out-of-state certified officers starts Monday the 13<sup>th</sup>. The remaining four at the Academy completed week one without issue.

B. Other.

Police Range. Comm. Stanley mentioned the police range and discussions she had with Rep. Newton about complaints and questions for the area that is busy with recreation opportunities.

Dep. Chief Boudreau stated that we have placed temporary signage on the gate (installed last week) for when the range is in use. We have ordered a more permanent sign. The gate will now be locked at all times, and the area up at the top has been widened for additional parking. The area used to be wide open. We moved some transient folks sleeping in car from the area recently.

The Police Department has had exclusive access to the area on Fridays and for the entire month of November. There are times we need to adjust that, but it is not often. In this instance, we worked with Recreation on a four-day span that included a Saturday. We would not have asked if we didn't need to. Notice of the closure was posted on the recreation website as well as on the disc golf site.

Comm. Stanley said it is near impossible to notify everyone. Is there an opportunity to move the range?

The city has no desire to move it as this juncture.

Comm. Stevens inquired about joining some of the private clubs, such as Major Waldrons.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said some area agencies did, but it became a problem for agencies using it. The City of Dover has worked out an arrangement with Birch Armory in Dover, which has an indoor range.

Chief Toussaint said that the range is completely safe. It is not possible to shoot someone on the disc golf course from the range.

The disc golf area should also have a sign to be cognizant of activity the area.

We worked directly with the Recreation Department and the City Manager. We are comfortable with the solutions we have made and will continue to monitor this, as it is a fluid situation.

Training Agreements. Dep. Chief Boudreau brought up discussions on our training agreement and ideas of amending the same. Following the discussion, the Commission agreed it was prudent to amend our current agreement to 24 months commencing from the date of release from field training to solo patrol.

Paint The City. Comm. Stanley noted that on Monday Sept. 13 from 8:30-12:30 the students would be painting in the downtown for Thank a Police officer. It would be great if officers could stop by while they are out there.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The following correspondence was received this period: Officers' Decost, P. Flathers, Garstin, Robinson and Seager are recognized for effective collaboration with local and federal law enforcement resulting in federal prosecution of a suspect on firearms violations. Officer Decost and Sgt. Benjamin are praised by a resident for their handling of a burglary alarm.

## **7. INFORMATION:**

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

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

**The non-public session closed at 7:53 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stanley. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.**

**Comm. Stanley MOVED to seal the minutes indefinitely. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.**

**9. MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the evaluation as presented for Officer Jonathan Marshall and to approve merit track advancements for Officer Nicole Knox and Sgt. Thomas Powers. Comm. Stevens SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Stanley – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley at 7:54 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton  
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 10/06/2021