



**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, March 1, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in City Hall, Council Chambers. Participants in this meeting: Comm. Peters (by remote feed), Comm. Stevens, Comm. Winship, Chief Boudreau, Dep. Chief Thomas, Capt. Swanberry, Capt. Pinkham, Lt. Turner, Chaplain Cilley, and 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 (by remote feed), Comm. Stevens and Comm. Winship present.

B. Remote Attendance: Comm. Stevens chaired the meeting, and inquired of Comm. Peters if he was physically unable to attend tonight's meeting in person. Comm. Peters confirmed that was true. Comm. Stevens inquired if any other person was in the room with Comm. Peters. Comm. Peters stated no (no one else was there.)

All votes to be by roll call vote.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one present offered any public comment.

### 3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. February 1, 2023.

**Comm. Winship MOVED to accept the minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting. Comm. Peters SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes as presented PASSED by roll call vote 3-0; Comm. Winship yes, Comm. Stevens yes, and Comm. Peters yes.**

#### 4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Policy 41.3.2.4.1: Body Worn & In-Car Video Cameras - Second Reading and Adoption.

**Comm. Peters MOVED to place Policy 41.3.2.4.1: Body Worn & In-Car Video Cameras into a second reading by title only, for adoption. Comm. Winship SECONDED the motion. Open for discussion.**

Comm. Peters asked Chief Boudreau to talk about the cameras.

Chief Boudreau said this camera is the Motorola V100. It is relatively small in size. The mounting plate is magnetic. It simply snaps in. The cameras are mounted center mass and depending on the set up of the uniform the camera features will adjust the angle. The cameras don't turn off. Officers hit a button to record and double tap to stop recording. There is a combination dock and charging station. Officers can view their videos but don't have the ability to view other videos. A supervisor could unlock that feature if needed.

This is a great insurance policy for our officers and our citizens. By law and policy when officers are performing law enforcement functions they are to record, and to notify people they are being recorded, for the entirety of the interaction. There are sensitive investigations and information that we do handle and the way the law is set up those situations allow us to stop recording. There are a multitude of community interactions and community policing we are involved in, and officers are not required to turn them on but they do have that the option. We are waiting on some different mounts and will be moving forward with the training aspect.

Comm. Stevens asked the anticipated date of going live.

Chief Boudreau said by the end of this month is the hope.

**The motion to approve the policy PASSED by roll call vote 3-0; Comm. Winship yes, Comm. Stevens yes and Comm. Peters yes.**

## **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. Commendations and Awards**

1. Medal for Bravery: Officer Nicholas Alexander
2. Distinguished Unit Action Award: Communications Specialist's Michelle Bowley and Eric Pike

Chief Boudreau commented that tonight we are recognizing Department members for their outstanding work during a residential fire. He called up Officer Nicholas Alexander and Specialist Michelle Bowley. Per Diem Specialist Eric Pike, also to be recognized, was out of state and not available for this meeting.

Chief Boudreau noted that on January 22, 2023 at 1:20pm, the Communications Center received a call from one of their own—Communications Specialist Andrew Neal – who called in directly and calmly notifying the center that his home was on fire and that he was working to get himself and his wife out of the residence. Both Specialists Pike and Bowley set to work dispatching police and fire and making notifications per protocol to area agencies.

Officer Nicholas Alexander was the first officer on scene. Nick grabbed the fire extinguisher from his cruiser, and entered the home that showed flames coming from the roof of the residence and black smoke coming from the second floor windows. Upon locating Andy and his wife, Nick sprayed the fire extinguisher on falling embers giving the family the opportunity to get down the stairs, and out of the home with the family dog.

The fire went to a first alarm and more apparatus and manpower were requested to the scene. Communications Specialists Pike and Bowley worked as a team at making notifications to nearby agencies for more manpower to assist in battling the fire.

The bravery, professionalism and teamwork of Officer Alexander and Communications Specialists Pike and Bowley showed during a chaotic and stressful call involving someone they work with regularly was without a doubt exemplary. For this Officer Alexander was awarded the medal for bravery. Dispatcher Michelle Bowley and Dispatcher Eric Pike were awarded the Distinguished Unit Award. Andrew Neal issued the award to Officer Alexander.

A recess was called at 7:23 P.M. The meeting came back into session at 7:33 P.M.

A second recess was called at 7:41 P.M. due to a fire alarm sounding in the building. The meeting resumed at 7:51 P.M.

#### B. Monthly Reports

1). Operations. There are 84 cases in ISB, 42 are new cases sent up or detective generated. There were three call outs this period and one evidence collection call out. Four backgrounds are being done, between patrol and in dispatch.

Officer Hatch and K9 Ripley had one call out. A subject that ran from a vehicle was located.

**COMPSTAT:** Lt. Turner noted a 75% increase in traffic stops, which can be attributed to increased staffing and proactive activity with officers being released from training.

Motor vehicle accidents are consistent with prior months.

There was nothing of note to report in violent crime. There was an increase in property crime in burglaries, many of those being storage units. Also an increase in graffiti.

Comm. Stevens asked if there is a suspect in the graffiti case.

There is, and this is being handled by the POP unit.

Comm. Stevens asked about accidents. These seem to be continuously high. Salmon Falls Road being one of those roads.

Chief Boudreau replied that Salmon Falls is a “pass through” street. Causes can be road feature, time of day, weather and speed. The City Public Safety Committee did recently place deer crossing signs due to the large number of deer strikes on Salmon Falls Road.

Route 11 does see a high number of accidents as well. It is a high volume traffic corridor.

Capt. Pinkham said the accidents are spread out. Columbus Avenue and other main corridors in and through the city, as well as in parking lots. Salmon Falls Road is on the list, but it is not the top of the list.

Comm. Peters commented that it is good to see the motor vehicle unit out and increases in traffic stops. We know it is not about the ticket, but education and rules.

Capt. Pinkham commented that it’s not a motor vehicle unit as much as it is someone from the shift assigned to focus on motor vehicle work.

Comm. Peters asked if we would get this [MV Unit] back.

Chief Boudreau said that is in my goals of where I’d like us to be. We only have a certain amount of staff and we need to put them in the best place and not diminish or stretch the number of patrol officers that we have. Our call volume is such that per officer it is higher than surrounding agencies. If we remove too many from patrol into specialty units those calls are still there. We have to find a balance. Front line supervision is putting the emphasis on motor vehicle during the shifts whether just on patrol or special assignment in blocks of time.

Comm. Peters asked how many stops we had.

This period was 730.

That is less than we used to do when fully staffed, but we are gaining in numbers.

Chief Boudreau said we had two officers assigned to the MV unit, and they were very aggressive in stops. But, we also weren’t staffing ISB (Investigative Services Bureau) as heavily as we are now. We have to find the balance.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING (POP).** CEO Kimbrough worked with the group Cops for Kids with Cancer. This group made a donation to a local family. It’s great to help such families in need.

CEO Kimbrough has been working with the fire department on a software program about the homeless camps we've mentioned in prior meetings, generating a map so that the outreach coordinator and PD knows who is staying where and we can follow up on offering resources.

Chief Boudreau said that is part of a larger project the city is working on and includes the GIS data out of Public works. With the new CAD/RMS system it will pull the ERSI data for our locations. This is a solution that IT has been working on in house and this just adds another layer and allows for some customization.

Comm. Stevens asked approximately how many homeless do we have in the City.

Chief Boudreau said there are different breakdowns about homeless. You have people that will couch surf and you have people living in tents. It is not an easy number to track. If I had to put a number on it, I'd say it's less than 100.

The POP Unit took the lead on the graffiti spree and are investigating that. They do have some suspects. They have been teaming up and working with various task forces in the Counties and Federal level and doing different things in town.

Comm. Peters asked if the POP Unit was fully staffed. He was advised it is and we hope in the future to increase it.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** The center still has an on-going staffing shortage; and are still down five positions. We have one in training, who is doing well. We continue holding sporadic interviews. Our efforts are out there. It is not easy to fill those positions.

**HIRING:** The past two weeks four conditional officers were given and backgrounds are underway. As of that moment, if all of those pan out, we will be fully staffed.

Comm. Stevens said this is an important point. Being fully staffed doesn't mean all are on the street. We have people in the academy. But we've made some significant progress.

The four conditional offers, people are a long way from hitting the road. We have three in the academy, and one in field training, so on paper we are fully staffed, and we are in a very good spot.

Comm. Peters said in 9.5 years he's been on the Commission, this is the second time we have been fully staffed. And one of those years it was only for one day. That is a credit to the men and women of this agency. We encourage folks to do a ride along before the conditional offer. The officers "selling our department" hats off to them and to the folks getting candidates in front of the Commission as soon as possible. We thank you for that.

Comm. Stevens said we have hired qualified good people. We never compromise our standards and that is a testament to the Department. I would put our quality to anyone, anywhere. People need to know how good the people we have that are serving the city of Rochester.

**HONOR GUARD:** The honor guard is preparing to attend the CHaD hockey game this month.

**RPOA:** We attended the recent property owner's association meeting. The discussion centered on burglary and vandalism and the importance of reporting. Prevention and awareness was the main focus.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS:** The SRO's and K9 did an organized drug search at the high school.

Comm. Stevens asked how we made out.

Chief Boudreau said nothing was found. He's not sure if they ever have; which is a positive for our school.

Do we search the middle school?

No, just high school.

**TRAINING:** Dep. Chief Thomas said Officer Hill and Officer Settele started the Academy on Monday. Officer Birmingham has finished 8 of his 16 weeks. Officer Howardkoppes and McPherson have been released to solo patrol, which allows us to bring Det. Tim Rummo over to ISB. Officer Mills, who is certified, is in week two of field training.

2.) Administration. Dep. Chief Thomas said he and the Chief met with the City Manager and Finance on our proposed budget, and our issues and options submissions. These are under review by the City Manager.

NEVO is still backlogged but have started stripping our old cars and we are looking forward to getting the new vehicles outfitted.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence received for the month included: Off. Hatch and Off. Lombardi are thanked for their efforts in helping to locate a missing vulnerable adult.

## **7. INFORMATION:**

None for discussion

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

**Commissioner Peters MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 8:03 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 8:35 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. Comm. Peters SECONDED the motion. The motion PASSED by roll call vote Comm. Peters – yes, Comm. Stevens – yes, Comm. Winship – yes.**

**Comm. Peters 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. Winship MOVED to approve the evaluations and merit track advancement for Off. Nicholas Alexander (Step 7), Officer Isaac Moon (Step 2), Officer Dwayne Hatch (Step 9), Officer Douglas Crawford (Step 4), and Officer Matthew Kimball (Step 4). Comm. Peters 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 8:39 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton  
Secretary

APPROVED BY COMMISSION: 04/05/2023