

**Rochester Police Commission
Rochester, NH 03867**

Bruce E. Lindsay, Commissioner
Lucien G. Levesque, Commissioner
David R. Stevens, Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

The Rochester Police Commission held their regular monthly meeting in City Hall Council Chambers on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. Present at this meeting was Comm. Lindsay, Comm. Stevens, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Pinkham, Chaplain Cilley, and Secretary Warburton as well as members of the public.

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

A. Pledge. All participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Prayer. Chaplain Cilley led the opening prayer.

C. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner's Lindsay and Steven's present. Comm. Levesque was excused.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. October 4, 2017 regular meeting.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the October 4, 2017, regular meeting as presented. SECOND by Comm. Lindsay. The motion PASSED.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Any Old Business for Discussion - None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Award and Recognition – Dep. Chief Boudreau; 20 Years. Dep. Chief Boudreau was given a plaque recognizing his twenty years of service to the Department and the citizens of the City.

B. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Capt. Pinkham said that we had a successful campaign supporting the child advocacy center of Strafford County with our beards for bucks.

We continue to see an increase in calls for service in priority one and two calls. With our decreased staffing it is impacting response times. It is important to note as officers are released from training, this should improve.

All six wards met this period, but due to call volume we did not attend a couple of the meetings. We get to as many as we can.

The Honor Guard is getting ready to participate in the annual holiday parade sponsored by the Chamber.

Officer MacKenzie was at Bloodhound training in Virginia this period. He did complete three tracks and one drug search. The unit continues to do outstanding work.

Over in the support bureau there were 33 cases sent up for review. There are 92 cases assigned. There were 43 cases presented to the Grand Jury all with true bills. These are felony cases, which mean there is a lot of man hours dedicated to these cases.

Our evidence technician is away from the office. His duties are being covered by an officer on light duty, which means our numbers may look off from previous reporting periods. That is temporary.

There were 14 phones analyzed with the cellbrite machine.

Comm. Stevens inquired what the cellebrite machine is. It was stated that it is an electronic device that is used to do a forensic analysis of electronics and data dump. Chief Toussaint said virtually all of our crimes have some computer component. This is a valuable tool that we use on a regular basis

There were three detective call outs this period.

One of our dispatchers recently resigned, but will stay with us per diem. We are working to fill that position as soon as we can.

Housing remains busy with 27 police calls at the complexes. Off. Blair responds to as many of them as he can. He also completes the backgrounds for potential tenants and is supported by Off. Funk on weekends and off shifts.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau reported that we have been in constant contact with our vendor for the cruisers. Ford has pushed back the production of the Interceptor. We are now looking into December before taking delivery of the cruisers. However, looking back this is consistent with last year.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said he and Chief Toussaint attended the finance committee meeting to talk about the TASER 60 program, which is essentially a five year program that lets you buy all new Tasers at once, versus our ten year phase in plan we had in the CIP. The committee was supportive and will bring this to the full council for a vote.

Our insurance company has settled on a number for the speed trailer that was totaled in the hit and run accident. Due to the features of the unit, they increased the amount by \$1600.00. We have put out a bid with a closing date of November 30.

Our overtime line is a concern. We are 29% into the year, and 88% spent, when factoring in comp time liability. If you remove the comp time liability that number

reduces to 38%. Once we get back to full staff without having to replace openings, this may balance out.

Comm. Stevens noted that comp time is a benefit versus overtime, because with the comp time it can balance out through the year. Overtime is immediately paid.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said there have been no big changes in operations, clothing and medical services remain the same as well. Those lines took a hit with hiring.

Sgt. Cost has returned to duty. Lt. Swanberry did an excellent job filling in, in the interim.

All of the trainees are doing well and we are set to get several of the new officers released from field training next week. Officer Nance took the opt-out exam at the academy and passed, so he will be entering the training program full time.

The four officers at the academy are on schedule to graduate December 15, and we are looking forward to having them back into field training.

We held a Bridging the Gaps meeting to discuss sustainability of the program once the grant expires. There were several events scheduled around Red Ribbon week which is always in October. The week concluded with a Drug Take Back day sponsored by the DEA. We collected 13 boxes of unused and unwanted prescriptions for destruction.

How did the drive through work?

We feel it worked well. People were able to pull up to the officers, hand off the meds for collection and be on their way. If the weather holds, we will do this again in the spring event.

Comm. Lindsay asked about the funding for Bridging the Gaps. Will they come out with a similar grant program, or will we have to look for multiple sources?

This is a ten year grant, and we are in year ten. There is some funding that we can petition for a no-cost extension to use up the last of that money. Once that is done we cannot reapply. We will have to seek funding from outside sources but there has to be a collaboration to keep the program going.

Comm. Stevens asked about the “staying connected with your teen” program.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that Julie and Nicole Rodler have been exploring ways to bring this to Rochester. It looks worthwhile, but there is a cost.

Comm. Stevens that the Department for being out and about during trick or treat events. It is great to see the police officers out, connecting with youth. Comm. Lindsay echoed those statements for officers out in the neighborhoods during trick or treat.

Chief Toussaint said this is all a major part of our philosophy for the Department. It will always be a key component. Chief Toussaint mentioned the patrol staffing levels and the crisis we have had over the past several months. The good news is that virtually all of the officers on light duty or in training will be available in a couple of weeks. We will start to get officers back in large groups. We have made major progress in the hiring process and are starting to see the fruits of that labor. Once we are up to full staff we can get back to doing some of the proactive work we do as a Department, which includes replacing the community engagement officer, and replacing our officer assigned to the drug task force. We committed to them full time and it's an important position to fill.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Chief Information Officer Sonja Gonzalez thanks communications staff, Bailey, Behr, Colwell, Knox, Moule, Neal, Pearce and Spicer for all their support and patience during a phone outage that lasted more than 24 hours. Officer Matt Bailey, Officer Justin Seckendorf and Officer Justin Worthley are recognized for their efforts assisting with the cruiser maintenance

program. Sgt. Babine is thanked by a resident who observed him retrieve a flag that was blowing in the wind back where it belonged.

7. INFORMATION:

A. None.

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

Commissioner Stevens MOVED to enter a nonpublic session at 7:36 P.M. pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, paragraph II, section A (personnel) and section E (legal.) SECOND by Comm. Lindsay. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 2 – 0 with Comm. Lindsay and Comm. Stevens voting in the affirmative. A five-minute recess was called. The non-public session closed at 8:06 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. SECOND by Comm. Lindsay and PASSED unanimously.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. Elizabeth Turner (3.6%). Comm. Lindsay SECONDED the motion and it PASSED 2-0.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Lindsay MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stevens at 8:09 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

**Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary**