

**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, May 2, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Pinkham, and Secretary Warburton. Also present were invited guests, members of the Department and public.

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

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

B. Prayer. Comm. Peters requested a moment of silence in solemn recognition of the crashing of the C-5 in Savannah, Georgia this date.

C. Roll Call. The clerk called the roll marking Commissioner's Peters, Stevens and Stanley present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

3. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

A. April 4, 2018 regular meeting.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2018, regular meeting as presented. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Stanley. Open for discussion.

Comm. Stanley noted an error in the time of the meeting. Where it says 2:00 P.M., it should say 7:00 P.M.

Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes with that amendment. The motion was SECONDED by Comm. Stanley and PASSED unanimously.

4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Any Old Business for Discussion – None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Awards and Recognition:

1. Business Partnerships - Patrick Gagnon, Granite Steak and Grill. Chief Toussaint said that one of the things we stress in the police department is community involvement and partnerships. Many of you know Pat. He does a lot of work in the City and is known for ownership of Granite Steak and Grill. Pat has been one of our strongest allies of the past several years. Pat and his staff allow us to host trainings at his facility. He never charges us for those, we have been able to host outside training because we do not have a facility large enough. Pat steps up all the time and I want to recognize that.

One of the things that Pat has consistently done for the past several years is to help us with our Project Good Morning Program events. Project Good Morning was started under former Chief Blair, where elderly residents who live alone and may not have family in the area call and check in with the Department every day. If they have not checked in by a certain time, we call them, or send an officer to check on them. These same folks may not have any family for the holidays and the Dispatchers, along with Pat's help host a Christmas Party for them. The facility, food, and staff are donated. It is a wonderful time and the participants appreciate it.

Pat has also been very accommodating to the Police Benevolent Association. I know he is modest and does not do this for recognition. But we have a plaque that Pat can hang in the business. It is an honor to present this to you Pat. The plaque from the Police Department and Police Commission reads:

With sincere appreciation of continued support to our community and to various law enforcement programs; including Project Good Morning and the Police Benevolent Association.

2. Commendation Bar for Lifesaving. Both Officer Robinson and Officer Benjamin were dispatched to Wal*Mart earlier this year for a report of a cardiac arrest. On arrival they found a man down, not conscious, not breathing, and no pulse. A civilian along with Wal*Mart staff were rendering CPR. These officers took over CPR and rescue breathing, as additional rescue personnel from Fire and EMS arrived. An AED helped the individual regain a heartbeat. He was transported to the hospital for further acute care. The man is recovering today.

Without a doubt, the teamwork of everyone involved saved this life. The officers were presented with the lifesaving ribbon to be worn on their uniforms.

B. Community Outreach – LEAD Program. Sgt. Deluca oversees the School Resource Officers. He is also the Middle School SRO. He gave a brief presentation about the program.

Sgt. Deluca advised that he has 24 years on the job and transitioned to this position two years ago. We moved away from the DARE program and replaced it with the Law Enforcement against Drugs (LEAD). This program started in the 70's in Miami and it has migrated so that approximately 3,000 communities use it. It is a ten-week program with lesson plans for each grade. We looked at the crucial age groups and decided to offer it to grades three, six and nine.

Where the DARE program talked about drugs and alcohol, this program has a high emphasis on decision making, goal setting, relationships and peer pressure. The tail end of the program focuses on drugs. We feel if they get the foundation of dealing with peer pressure, not just saying no, but multiple ways is going to be more effective.

By starting the program in the third grade with a basic foundation; by the time they get to the sixth grade they are familiar with the program already, and it is now tailored to where they are at in life, i.e., middle school, puberty, emotional problems. Some of these kids when they get to sixth grade are a little lost, in that there is more free time for them socially, in sporting events, walking to school, where in fifth grade, they are still escorted. There are more opportunities for them in decision-making.

The lesson plans build on each other. It would be hard to jump into the program mid-term. We try to focus the program to explain what they are going through, followed by information regarding drugs.

This is our second year in the Middle School and the kids have moved up so they are dealing with peer emotions and choosing good friends and setting goals. In three years, that group will be at the high school and we will revisit it again where they are at in life.

We also offer the program at St. Elizabeth Seton in the third and sixth grades. We work with the rec center to talk about some of these lesson plans during the summer camp programs, particularly on rainy days when they are inside. The goal is for the kids to recognize what is going on.

The kids always want to know when we are going to get to the drugs part, but I tell them its decision making first. This is a great program and it has been working well. DARE did work in the past, this program gives them more tools to understand and to make better choices.

Comm. Peters said his understanding is that with LEAD you can alter the classes the way you want to fit the situation.

Sgt. Deluca said it is strict. If you get the core of it done, you can add to it. Some lessons are games and trivia, but all relative.

We do tweak it for the special needs students. A lot of this is over their head, but they do need to know how to manage stress and emotions. Same for the autistic children. Some are high functioning and some are not. Life goals and lessons is the important part.

Comm. Stevens commented that his daughter took the program and spoke highly of it.

Chief Toussaint commented the ancillary benefit of offering it at 3rd, 6th and 9th grade is positive interaction with law enforcement. Many would never have that interaction without such programs.

Comm. Stanley asked if there is follow up with the students or surveys in the schools to measure effectiveness.

The program is not new and scientifically backed. They have decades of data. I think this will bear out in the years to come.

B. Monthly Reports

1. Operations. Captain Pinkham reported that four of the six wards met with no major concerns to address. We continue to find ways to improve citizen attendance and participation. The RUN program is a great way for residents to interact by asking questions and getting feedback from different community people including police, city councilors, city offices and departments that inform residents what is going on in specific areas.

Comm. Stanley asked if Ward 6 was meeting quarterly or monthly.

Chief Toussaint said we wanted to improve attendance so we have been kicking around ideas on how to do that. If we changed the frequency of the meetings, we could guarantee our attendance, with the longer lead-time. Some meetings have been missed when officers are diverted for emergency calls. We can still do monthly meetings, and we will do our best to get an officer there.

The Honor Guard participated in the ceremony for Daisy Mae on April 9. They have been requested for a flag detail for C.H.aD football at the UNH and the opening day at Roger Allen Park. They also will be attending the Police memorial ceremony in Concord.

Lt. Bossi attended the RPOA meeting on April 5. He talked about frauds and scams. These meetings are open to any rental property owner. The next meeting will be May 3 at 8:00 A.M. at the Hellenic Center 219 Long Hill Road in Dover.

The K9 unit responded to three calls in Rochester for drug searches. We anticipate that number increasing with a new dog.

In Comp Stat, we have noticed motor vehicle collisions have increased in the North Main Street, Farmington Road, Route 11 corridor over the past year. We are monitoring this from a public safety standpoint. There have been no significant trends in property crimes. We did have two robberies. We have increased our proactive time with improved staffing, which has also positively affected response times.

In support services there were 39 cases sent up from patrol to ISB. There are 65 cases assigned. There were 19 cases sent to the Grand Jury, all with true bills. We remain active with compliance checks for sex offenders and pawnshops, as well as analyzing cell phones. There were four detective call outs for this month.

The Communications Center is going well. All of their annual evaluations are due this period.

Are the evaluation done internally or does Fire also contribute?

Capt. Pinkham said it is mostly the police department.

The Center staff are working on updating the help manuals, emergency action plans, fire alarms and materials.

Comm. Stevens asked if this is digitally maintained or hard copied.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said some is digital but historically, fire is hard copies. We are working on getting some of the data to backfill on the screens. This is a long-term project and we continue to work with the fire marshal on that.

Housing had 19 police related calls this period and nine backgrounds for potential tenants. We have addressed some issues with people sleeping in the halls and stairwells of complexes and that is being monitored.

We had 110 Youth at the last Teen night. The attendance is still declining and we are working together to see what we can do to increase those numbers.

Nicole Rodler presented at the citizens police academy this period.

Community Engagement Officer Danie continues to be very active. He has also helped to teach the CRASE program, he addressed a shoplifting incident in the downtown, was teaching the LEAD program during Officer Ball's absence, he presented to the citizens academy, and as part of the evidence team he attended some crime scene training. All of those were done around his various community meetings.

2. Administrative. Dep. Chief Boudreau said with the surplus in the vehicle CIP this year, that the Council and finance committee approved us using those funds for a back line car. This will reduce the number of cars we are asking for in this budget. We are hoping to standardize the fleet. However, last week Ford announced they are discontinuing their sedan lines. We will have to go back to the drawing board for what we will start to purchase next year for the back line. It is our intent to purchase a new Ford Fusion this year. This is a basic car, not a top model.

The Commission asked about the Dodge cars.

Chief Toussaint said we did not have good luck with the Dodge Chargers so we are moving away from those.

Our budget presentation to the Council went well. There were a few questions and we provided additional back up data.

We are working on increasing our bicycle patrol unit. We are adding ten officers to the unit. We have some unspent JAG grant money that we have asked the grant office permission to change what we intended to spend the money on. We need to purchase gear for these officers.

What kind of training will they need?

Chief Toussaint said they would get some abbreviated in-house training on basic maintenance for flats, chains, etc. We want them to be interacting with the public.

We are also planning to add officers to the motorcycle unit. We will not outfit them until after July. We cannot really recycle some of the gear because they are custom-fitted. We will be able to send them to safety classes hosted by Seacoast Harley. They do not need full gear for that. We will also recertify existing staff. Former Officer John Harding is an instructor and we had him come in the last time at a per diem rate to do that training for us.

The new speed trailer has been delivered and we are getting training completed. Now that the nice weather has arrived, we can start to deploy it into neighborhoods.

We are 83% through the fiscal year and 77% spent. We are looking at this point on the projection to return approximately \$200,000.00 to the general fund.

One training highlight to note is that Sgt. Cost and Lt. Swanberry are working on developing a training for the Crisis Intervention Team. We were one of the first in the State to have this program, and we certified ten of our officers through that program. Some of those officers have left, while others have taken on new roles in the agency. We are working with the New England Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) and we hope to certify at least six of our own officers, as well as open up the course to outside agencies. It will be a nominal fee to cover the cost of the instructor. One of the doctors at the Monarch school is looking to collaborate with us to host annual training to expose more of our officers to this type of contact.

This is a five day school they will be certified and they attend an annual recertification training.

We are also hosting another Glock certification training in June. We get one free slot for hosting the class.

The Commission interviews for May 11 are set. We invited 218 people to the PT test, only 11 showed up and 5 of them failed. We put the remaining six through the oral boards. Times have changed and the candidate pool is shrinking. That is a nationwide decline.

We had another successful Drug Take Back Day, partnering with Bridging the Gaps. We collected ten boxes of unwanted prescriptions. Any time we can get drugs off the street or out of medicine cabinets the better.

We did a CRASE training at the high school and will complete one to the tenants of the community center.

C. Other.

1. Policy Update 41.1.4 K9 Operations. Chief Toussaint advised when this policy was written it only took into account one animal. Now our handler has two dogs. The policy specifically outlined the work week and compensation for the care of the animal. We need to update the policy to account for the second animal. The City Attorney has vetted this.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to amend policy 41.1.4 as presented. SECOND by Comm. Stevens.

Comm. Stanley MOVED to suspend the rules and read by title only, for adoption Policy 41.1.4. SECONDED by Comm. Stevens.

The motion to amend and adopt policy 41.1.4 PASSED unanimously.

2. Downtown Crosswalks/Speed. Comm. Stanley noted a constituent contacted her last week with legitimate concerns about the crosswalks in the downtown. I spoke with DPW and I know they have some major plans for the downtown, but they hope in the interim to get the crosswalks done.

This man asked about the speed trailer. My personal feeling is not that we have a problem with speeding, but with the speed limit being too high in the downtown. How do we address that?

Comm. Stevens asked what the speed limit is in the downtown.

The speed limit downtown is 30 mph. Dep. Chief Boudreau said to reduce it would require it going to public safety and then to a vote by the Council.

Chief Toussaint said we have put the speed trailer in the downtown, and it is not necessarily a problem with speed, but 30 does look quick.

Comm. Stevens said it depends on how far downtown stretches. Do you consider it Wakefield Street or by the Library, or where?

Chief Toussaint said historically the downtown would be the square.

Comm. Stanley said probably from Bridge Street to Portland Street.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said there is an extensive plan for downtown. Part of it is reclaiming and paving some of the area, so they do not want to paint it before they do that work.

Comm. Peters asked if that was to happen before or after July 1.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said he was not sure.

Comm. Stanley said the work is scheduled for summer, which to me says after July 1; but I understood they were going to try to get some paint down. The plan is for narrowing the road somewhat to slow people down. This person was hit two years ago.

Comm. Stevens asked what the statistics of accidents downtown involving pedestrians compared to other parts of the City are.

Chief Toussaint said people occasionally get hit downtown. There is no denying that. But it is usually due to driver inattention, not speed. Driver inattention does not always mean using a cell phone. It can be anything, such as looking at a store sign, or adjusting your radio. I do not know how many related accidents we have had in the downtown speed.

Putting the trailer out there cannot hurt. Comm. Peters added that with warmer weather we could also be more proactive downtown.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said that data from when we had it out there in the past showed most people were traveling under the speed limit. The old signs in the road that are seasonal, they are coming back. We had a person come to public safety last week who mentioned those draw your attention to the center of the road and away from people entering crosswalks.

Chief Toussaint said we will be able to have an increased presence with the bicycle unit downtown, not just for motorists and pedestrians, (whom have a responsibility) but to respond as well. That will be one of the focus of the unit to interact with people, with the business community and enforcing pedestrian and motor vehicle laws down town.

3. Wings and Wheels. The Police Department and Rochester Rotary, June 2, 2018 from 10AM-2PM are hosting this.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence for the month included: Off. Nance and Off. Seagar responding to a welfare check and assisted a resident walking home with a walker to their residence, escorting them safely home and inside. Off. Bentz while on extra patrol reported a gas leak at Granite Ridge. This keen observation prevented potential loss of life and property damage. A resident commends Off. Pendlebury and Off. Benjamin for being polite, respectful and phenomenal communicators in deescalating a situation they responded to at the residence. Sgt. Emerson, Off. Forrest, Det. Moore, Det. Mundy, Det. Rousseau, Off. Seckendorf and Off. Turgeon are commended by the Attorney General's office for their assistance with a search warrant relating to financial exploitation of a resident of Rochester.

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 8:13 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 8:43 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stanley, who also 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. MISCELLANEOUS:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to award merit increases on the respective anniversary dates to Off. Chris Mangum (3.65%), Off. Michael Lambert (2.85%) and Off. Justin Livingstone (3.8%). Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 8:44 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton
Secretary