

**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, March 6, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. Present at this meeting was Comm. Peters, Comm. Stevens, Comm. Stanley, Chief Toussaint, Dep. Chief Boudreau, Capt. Thomas, Chaplain Cilley and Secretary Warburton and invited guests.

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

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

B. Prayer. Chaplain Cilley led the prayer.

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. February 6, 2019 regular meeting.

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2019, regular meeting. Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion. The motion to accept the minutes PASSED unanimously.**

**4. OLD AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. Union Concerns – status update. Chief Toussaint said I have two updates. The first is on the recommendation for the outer carry vest to take the weight off the duty belt. The Dep. Chief has been in touch with a company to do some wear tests and evaluation before purchasing. We are in the process for receiving these to test.

The second is the MDT's and E-ticketing. Chief Krauss from Milton PD came and provided some training to our IT department, to the Lieutenants and Sergeants. We have people that know how to work the system. We are still working out some minor bugs with printers but should be up and ready to go quickly.

We had been using an email program to send cases to the County Attorney, but it was not CJIS compliant, so we have been manually transporting cases to the County Attorney. We are working on becoming members of a law enforcement only group that will allow us to resume emailing cases.

We are still working on the ALS issue. We have to get in touch with the State.

Comm. Stevens asked in terms of the vest if the Commission would have a chance to see them and evaluate them.

Chief Toussaint said there are many people going to these. It does look like the uniform.

Comm. Stevens commented that our uniforms look sharp. The way you dress goes a long way in perception.

Chief Toussaint said I agree. I am a traditionalist and image is everything.

Comm. Peters said that Manchester is testing some new body cameras. If we get body cameras are these adaptable.

Chief Toussaint said we have not looked into that, but you can customize these.

Comm. Peters asked about a time line.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said he is thinking a couple of weeks. We are waiting on the manufacturer.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Community Outreach -Domestic Violence Program. Chief Toussaint said that last month there were questions about the rise in domestic violence calls in the City. The best way to answer those questions is to have Det. Bob Frechette, assigned to the Family Justice Center to provide a better insight regarding domestic violence in the City.

Det. Frechette said when you look at year-end numbers you cannot just look at numbers. Increases do not necessarily mean that we have more. It could mean that more cases are being reported, where they may not have been. For example, apartment complexes have thin walls. The #METOO movement has triggered more reporting and validation that violation against women is not okay. This is happening nationally and we are seeing a bit of that in Rochester.

In Strafford County and in Rochester we handle this better than in other places. We have centralized prosecution. The Family Justice Center, the first in the State offers wrap around services to surround the victim. Prior to that we would give them a blue card with a list of resources on it, we arrest “the bad guy” and everything is all set. That system is difficult to navigate when you are not in crisis, imagine if you are in crisis. That is their source of income. Suspects will say things like if you ever leave me you will die. I will take the kids. I will tell them you are on drugs. Abusers do not typically lie. They follow through on bigger threats.

The Family Justice Center helps navigate that system so that the next time they report they get the help they need. Making that call is the hardest part. When we do outreach in the community we tell people, if you hear it, call us. We are training dispatch rather than saying do you want to be anonymous, to asking what their name is. Let the officer engage with that caller because they can give information about history. When we have evidence-based prosecution, we do not even need the victim to testify. It is safer for a victim to call 911 and to get that person what they need.

Therefore, an increase in arrests is a good thing. Our cases are stronger; we are getting help to people who need it. If we don't prosecute, we get them information. Strafford County, and Rochester have dedicated resources to this position and the City Council supported us. We are doing some great work there. We are on the cutting edge in this area.

Comm. Stanley said the FJC serves more than Rochester.

Det. Frechette said it does. Law enforcement is a primary partner and he has relationships with area Departments. If someone needs services right away we have an officer come in and meet with the client. We send the report rather than make the victim go out and do it. We can provide transportation.

Comm. Stanley asked what the average length of time services are provided is.

Det. Frechette said it can be one visit, it can last a year or more. The services are survivor driven. They can come for one or a plethora. A lot of survivors come just to talk to confidential advocate.

Comm. Stevens said there is no cost to the victim.

Det. Frechette said there is not. For more information about the Family Justice Center, please visit <http://scfjc.com>

**B. Accept Resignation**

**Comm. Stanley MOVED to accept the resignation of Officer Brittney Marvin, with regret. SECONDED by Comm. Stevens. The motion PASSED unanimously.**

**C. Monthly Reports**

A. Operations. There was only one ward meeting this period, in Ward 6. It has low turnout. Comp Stat the first month of the year doesn't give a good snapshot of the year. Field activity is down due to staffing and increased calls for service. The increases in thefts of motor vehicles on the surface may seem alarming, but more of them are just taking without owner consent. There are no other trend or patterns in property crimes.

With the recent resignation of Officer Marvin, we have another vacancy on the Honor Guard and we are working to fill that. The Honor Guard is presenting at the CHaD Battle of the Badges later this month.

The K9 had two tracks and one drug search, all in Rochester.

There were 25 cases sent up from patrol to investigations. There are currently 60 cases assigned. There were 22 cases presented to the Grand Jury. All were true bills. There were three phones analyzed with the Cellebrite machine. There were two Sex Offender checks. There were three backgrounds and three polygraphs completed. There was one evidence call out and three detective call outs.

There were 384 pieces of evidence taken in, 128 pieces destroyed and 60 pieces returned.

The Communications center is up to full staff. There are three in field training. Det. Frechette is working on training with the County Attorney for dispatchers taking domestic violence calls. They are the first contact in these incidents and this is used in prosecution.

We were notified this week that the NH Emergency Dispatch Association is recognized Sgt. Babine as Dispatch Supervisor of the Year. He will be recognized at an upcoming banquet.

Chief Toussaint advised the Commission that the Bureau commanders have switched roles as of March 1st. Captain Pinkham will oversee Detectives and Captain Thomas will oversee patrol. It is important for senior commanders to know all aspects of the Department. We will be moving forward with a more formalized succession planning that exposes the Captains to the work the Deputy Chief does. The jump from Captain to Deputy is a different realm and we are working to get more training.

Housing was steady this period with 30 calls. There were 13 background checks done on prospective tenants and Officer Blair assisted with eviction hearings.

Teen night had over 150 youth attending. Staff will be attending a Smart Access to marijuana training geared to those working with youth to prepare for recreational legislation.

Juvenile prosecution had 37 petitions, 12 arraignments, 9 trials resolved by plea, 5 violation hearings, 2 review hearings and 3 motion hearings. Adult prosecution had 267 new cases with 365 charges. There were 128 guilty pleas, 76 not guilty pleas and 58 failed to appear. There were 23 cases dismissed by the court and 34 charges nol prossed as part of plea agreements. 16 cases were continued and 2 were placed on file.

The Explorers had one meeting this period. The post is running well under Officer Jackson. Recruitment has doubled the members.

Comm. Peters asked how many members the post has.

Capt. Thomas advised he would have to get that number.

All three of the SRO's have been busy and to list all of what they worked on would be lengthy. All are on track with the LEAD program. Off. Jackson chaperoned students to Boston for the Patriots parade, worked with administration on a safety plan, attended a meeting with the school and homeland security and conducted normal safety checks at the school, monitoring the parking lots and Pines. Sgt. Deluca handled several investigations including assault, theft and possession of tobacco. He attended Teen night. Off. Porfido has assisted with patrol calls for service, attended school lunch and assisted with the Explorer meeting.

CEO Danie is doing a tremendous job. We had the Skate with a Cop this period, where we added skating with Fire as well. Officer Danie is working on the planning of the Wings and Wheels event, and is working with Officer Turner on a training for women's self-defense. He is also working on "Coffee with a Cop."

B. Administration. Dep. Chief Boudreau said Car 5 is now back on the road. We have a bid out for the weapon lights. The opening is at the end of March. We are using JAG grant funds for this.

Comm. Stevens asked if that is covered 100% and Dep. Chief Boudreau said it is.

Chief Toussaint and I met with the City Manager and Finance on our FY2020 budget. There were not issues or concerns regarding our O&M lines. We are still working on what our presentation may be to Council.

Comm. Stanley asked if the Commission could get a copy of the budget proposal.

Dep. Chief Boudreau said we are 66% through the fiscal year and overall we are 50% spent, with savings coming from salaries and benefits due to open positions. Our O&M lines are 69% spent, and in line with where they should be for this time of year. Overtime is 95% spent.

The three recruits at the academy are halfway through. Officer Butcher and Costin have entered into the last phase of field training. They are on track for release to solo patrol on or about March 25.

The three interviews the Commission did we have one background completed. The psychological test is today and the medical on Friday. We have Officer Coffey and Officer Bilodeau registered for testing for the next academy. Their start date is March 18.

The current hiring process we have eight set for oral interview, and hope to bring them before the Commission as soon as possible so that we can get them registered for this upcoming academy. None of them is certified.

Officer Danie and Officer Turner recently attended a training at Primex "So you want to be a Supervisor." Both said it was an eye opening experience.

One program that we need to keep current on is field-training officers. The Academy offers the class only twice a year and there is a lot of competition to be accepted. There is an on line class out of Texas A&M that is cost effective. We put Officer Garstin, Officer Benjamin and Officer Williams-Hurley through the course and they felt that it covered all necessary aspects.

D. Other.

A. Citizens' Academy. Chief Toussaint said that every year we have done the Citizens' Police Academy and it has been very successful. It is a very useful program. It is about to start in a couple of weeks, and only six people have applied to attend. There are a lot of man-hours that go into the program and we are proud of it, but it is not cost effective to host it for just six people. Course attendees learn what their police department does. They hear from our specialty units, do ride a long's, and visit the range, dispatch. They hear a lot from people who are very knowledgeable in their subjects. If people are interested, they should reach out to Captain Pinkham. The program is Tuesday nights, from 6-9 P.M., for 11 weeks, with an optional range day.

Comm. Stanley said she could ask the Chamber to e-blast it.

B. Statistics Year End. Comm. Stevens commented on the volume of calls the Police Department handles.

Last year the Department responded to 22,659 calls of priority one, two and three calls. From that, we generated 5,431 offense reports and 687 other reports.

Chief Toussaint said we are busier every year. Our year-end report compares us to a five-year look back. We are up 18% in calls for service. The city is busy. Staffing is huge in how we provide our service. We have decreased our response time in all three categories. Our self-initiated activity is up from 2017. We are getting good results. The staff of the Department are working their tails off.

Almost all of our property crime categories are down and our overall violent crime is down. Property crime is down 7% from 2017, and 24% from five years ago. This is significant and incredible work.

Comm. Stanley said we should do a PowerPoint pictorial for the public on the year-end statistics.

Chief Toussaint said we can have the crime analyst come to the next meeting. This year-end is essentially our report card for the year. I am proud of the work our people are doing.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Correspondence for the month included: Officer Krochmal, Officer Lambert and Sgt. Miehle were nominated for the Annual Blair Memorial Award. Officer Benjamin was nominated for Officer of the Year. Officer Jackson was recognized by his peer, Officer Garstin for assisting him in a juvenile matter while he was off duty. Officer Garstin and

Officer Marvin are recognized for their work on a traffic stop that led to a search warrant, an arrest and federal prosecution of drug crimes.

**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 7:50 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 9:06 P.M. on a MOTION by Comm. Stevens. SECOND by Comm. Stanley. The motion PASSED by roll call vote 3-0 with Comm. Stanley, Comm. Stevens and Comm. Peters voting in the affirmative.**

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to seal the minutes indefinitely. SECOND by Comm. Stanley. 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 Sgt. Patrick Emerson (4.1%), Off. Jacob Benjamin (4.1%) Off. Dwayne Hatch (3.8%), Sgt. Randy Smith (3.5%), Off. Andrew Jackson (4.15%) and Off. Brenden Bentz (2.05%). Comm. Stanley SECONDED the motion and it PASSED unanimously.**

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Comm. Stevens MOVED to adjourn. SECOND by Comm. Stanley 9:07 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca J. Warburton  
Secretary