

Rutland City Police Commission

August 10, 2015

Present: Vice Chairman Tom Calcagni, Commissioners Sean Sargeant, Michelle Fairbrother

Not Present: Chairman Jensen, Commissioner Luther Brown

Others Present: Acting Chief David Covell, Commander Tucker, Commander Geno and Sgt. Sheldon

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Vice Chairman Calcagni

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Covell introduces newest hire Eric Morgano. Eric is part time certified through the Rutland County Sheriff's Department and is sworn in by Chief Covell.

Motion made by Commissioner Fairbrother to accept the minutes of July 13, 2015 and seconded by Commissioner Sargeant and motion passes.

Public Comment

Larry Walter addresses the board with his concerns as a pedestrian of people still using cell phones while driving. He has done some research and indicates that 8 to 10% of drivers prior to October 2014 were using hand held devices and after the law changed; his research finds 8% still using hand held devices. He is asking that something be done. Chief Covell responds and indicates there are things they can look at doing and will be more aggressive and increase the public education piece. Discussions held.

Communication from the Union

None

Sergeant's Report

Sgt. Mosher is present and indicates he is on Nightshift I and was promoted 2 months ago in June and is in the process of acclimating himself with his shift. He is on duty with Cpl. Jon Dickerson. He indicates that his shift is talented as there are people who have experience in BCI, criminal investigations, 4 FTOs, vehicle and traffic enforcement people, crisis hostage negotiators and a canine officer and a 30 year veteran in dispatch communication to include: Craig Hunt as a firearm instructor; Jen Czachor and Canine Jaguar doing well for 3 agency assists; Adam Lucia who is pro active DUI and drug stops and is an FTO; a new transfer officer, Jeff Warfle with past experience of FTO and canine handler; Patty Dunchus, Communication Operator.

Sgt. Mosher indicates he is able to focus on the northwest section and the plaza, as he is learning the trends from the RutStat meetings every 2 weeks with well received Walk and Talks in his assigned area in the Southwest of Meadow, Forest and River Streets. Officer Czachor has done demonstrations with private agencies and community organizations. Discussions held as to the River St. Bridge not being much of an impact to traffic as there is still one lane open. Discussions held as to the delay due to some difficulties of the change of the PSAP operations, however, they were there within 5 minutes.

Mapping Update

None due to storm related internet issues

Budget Report

Chief Covell indicates there is nothing remarkable to report. This is the beginning of the fiscal year and indicates the numbers are a little higher than they usually see after one month, as payments are made up front at the start of a fiscal year. They are in line with what they expected. Commissioner Sargeant inquires if the Chief and Mayor are in discussions with reference to the 2016 budget. Chief Covell indicates that the insurance costs may have an impact on the next fiscal budget.

Chief's Report

Chief Covell indicates that Russell Schauer has left dispatch and Laurie Walters has decided to return to dispatch in 4 weeks after the audit of the evidence room is complete. An advertisement for the position of Evidence Coordinator has been posted in the Rutland Herald as there was no interest internally. Interviews are to be scheduled with Det. Sgt. LaChance and Chief Covell.

Probationary Police Officer Maguire started the Vermont Police Academy on 8/3/15. There were two candidates for the Domestic Violence Investigator position with the State's Attorney's Office and Officer LaGuardia has been awarded that position. It is a 20 hour per week grant position.

The annual Leadership Summit is complete with great reviews. There was a lot of knowledge taken from the speakers that were present. Critical incident and critical incident stress and the complexities of that were addressed. Speaker Todd Ambrose spoke about his experience of traumatic incidents to include shooting process to incorporate to our policies with getting members support and help throughout the process. Tom Tremblay was a speaker and addressed domestic violence and victims.

Officer Nguyen represented the department at a summer camp for 5-7 years olds whose theme was the design of super heroes.

The department participated in the *Walk a Mile in Our Shoes*, with domestic violence promotional photos.

Clinician Lori Gurney came for 2 days to speak on the signs of stress and looking for signs of stress. There are discussions of her taking up the roll of previous clinician, Ken Kelley to help with critical incidents and meeting with officers.

Brad GoodHale is attending a conference at Yale Institute regarding social networking analysis for criminal justice and violence prevention.

Dr. Chen, Commissioner of Health met with Chief Covell and Commander Tucker regarding Project VISION.

School Resource Officer Greene was present with the Department of Corrections, The Fire Department and other members of the police department to welcome everyone back on the first day of school.

Commander Geno, Mayor Louras and some Governors for the Rutland Pedestrian Assessment Committee, have been invited to the Highway Safety Challenge luncheon in Burlington the last week of August.

A proposal request for data analysis was granted to Crime Research Group after being passed through the Board of Aldermen.

Chief Covell and Chairman Jensen have met with Rich Lloyd from the College of St. Joseph's to discuss upcoming events for the next semester.

Training

Officer Blongy attended a new DARE program in CT, *Keeping It Real*.

The Department hosted an Act 80, Mental Health Training.

Fair and Impartial Training held by TJ Anderson for the Dispatchers.

The PT Test is scheduled for October 5 and 7.

Taser Recertification is this month.

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant to go into executive session to address personnel matters and seconded by Commissioner Fairbrother. Motion passed.

Executive Session

The executive session began, present with Police Commission Members, Chief Covell, Commanders Tucker and Geno to discuss matters that if disclosed publicly at this time, could place the City, the Department or an employee of the Department at risk.

Submitted by:

Nancy Manning

cc: Police Commission
City Clerk Henry Heck
Board of Aldermen
Union President Lynn Gallipo
Mayor Louras