

Rutland City Police Commission

July 13, 2015

Present: Chairman Larry Jensen, Vice Chairman Tom Calcagni, Commissioners Sean Sargeant, Luther Brown

Not Present: Commissioner Michelle Fairbrother

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

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Jensen

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Sargeant to accept the minutes of June 8, 2015. Motion passed.

Introduction / Recognition of Police Department Members

Acting Chief Covell swears in recent promotions and recent hires to the Department to include: Corporal Ken Mosher to Sergeant Mosher, night shift; Officer Dickerson to Corporal Dickerson, who will be on night shift with Sgt. Mosher; Officer Whitehead to Corporal Whitehead; and Sean Maguire to Probationary Police Officer Maguire, who will be attending the VT Police Academy in August.

Public Comment

City Attorney Charles Romeo is present to review the Charter Provisions, Ordinances and Directives of the Rutland City Police Department applicable to the Rutland Police Commission that he has compiled by doing a word search of the various documents, including those provisions in which the Police Commission, or the Chair thereof, was referenced. He reviews the power and duties of the Police Commission with them. Discussions held as to the policy and procedures of the Vicious Dog Ordinance. City Attorney Romeo highlights some of the directives of the Rutland City Police Department and reviews the rules and regulations to govern their actions. Some of the duties of the Rutland Police Commission include: providing and maintaining vehicles; appointing the chief of police, control of the police chief and firing of the police chief; final approval to regular police force, tests and manner in which applicants are managed; rules of conduct. Discussions held as to double badging and following up on the language in the contract, and possibly changing the language to updating #4 of the directives. Discussions held as to the training and career development / promotion of an officer who is involved in critical incident investigations and review. This would need to be brought before Mayor Louras and the Board of Aldermen for approval.

Mapping Update

Dave Harrington present via Skype to give a recap of the last six months compared to the same six month period of 2014. Beginning with a breakdown of information in Sectors 1-4, there has been a decrease in calls for service from 2014 to 2015. Sector 1 shows a 7.2% decrease from 2025 to 1879 calls for service; Sector 2 shows a 5.9% decrease from 1049 to 987; Sector 3 shows a 4.9% decrease from 1118 to 1063 and Sector 4 shows a 27.7% decrease from 285 down to 206. 45% of all calls for service were in Sector 1; 24% in Sector 2, 25% in Sector 3 and 6% in Sector 4. The total number of calls in 2014 for the six month period was 4,477 and 4,100 in 2015. Dave Harrington reports that on the reported incidents compared to the last six month period from 2014 and 2015, there was nearly a 1.6% increase in Sector 1 over last years' 2014 numbers with decrease in each of the other sectors. The top 15 reported incidents data is given and there has been an increase in DUI enforcement in the City of Rutland and an increase of 31.6% for intoxicated persons from 117 to 154. Numbers are given by Dave Harrington as to burglaries and larcenies, which show they are down significantly, 35% in sector 1 and 66.6% in Sector 2. Discussions held as to the difference that Stockton Security is now patrolling the plaza and the department is not getting as many calls. Traffic crashes by Sectors are reported by Dave Harrington. There has been a 50.9% increase from 2014 to 2015 for non reportable crashes, injury crashes are down, property damage crashes are also down. Vice Chairman Calcagni inquires of getting more years to the reports showing back to 2012. An analysis, using heat charts based on time of day data, shows motor vehicle enforcement / traffic crashes.

Communication from the Union

None

Commander's Report

None

Budget Report

Acting Chief Covell reports that they are roughly 97% at the end of the fiscal year with minor expenditures outstanding and they will come just under the budget. Chairman Jensen reports that they could be at \$25,000 to the IACP by the time they are done with the new Police Chief search.

Chief's Report

Personnel

Sgt. Sheldon has been working on an orientation for Corporals and has designed a one day program to review responsibilities that go with the position.

The Department will be down one dispatcher as Russell Schauer has resigned and is relocating back to Barre as of August 1. The position will be posted within the city and if no interest, will be posted to outside agencies.

Two new applicants have been interviewed for Rutland City Police. An offer has been made to Eric Morgano, who is part-time certified. He will begin August 1, and will attend the VT Police Academy in August.

The Rutland County State's Attorney's office has received a domestic violence grant which will cover a prosecutor and an investigator. SA Rose Kennedy is accepting names for the position. The investigator position will be 20 hours per week doing follow-up work on county wide domestic violence cases, and 20 hours at the department under the supervision of Det. Sgt. LaChance.

All shifts are currently staffed with 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal and 4 officers.

Sgt. Sheldon and Executive Assistant, Mary-Kaye Zambon put together a Leadership Summit 2015 for July 16 –17; Summit agenda handed out to the commissioners.

Training

Sergeants will be attending leadership and police organization trainings. Sgt. Sheldon has the same officers outfitted with Watchguard Body Cams for a demo. It has been reported that the officers like the Watchguard unit better as it is easier to use and is more economical.

Cpl. Sousa's and Cpl. Dumas's patrol rifle qualifications are complete.

Commander Tucker and Sgt. Prouty to attend a Symposium on Terrorism at Rutgers University next week.

The IACP Summit at the FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. is scheduled for the 21st to the 23rd.

The Police Data Initiative is moving forward and a splash page to link into all data sets is being worked on. Commander Tucker's interview on VPR regarding the Police Data Initiative with reference to police cams was good, and the interview was also picked up by NPR.

There was a great turnout for the Evergreen Block Party with Commander Geno, Commander Tucker, Officer Blongy, Sgt. Prouty, ACO Tim Jones and Chief Covell in attendance. There was a lot of good interaction with the public. Approximately 500 people were in attendance.

The Department was able to purchase a Ford Connect Minivan for Animal Control Officer Tim Jones.

Motion was made by Commissioner Calcagni and seconded by Commissioner Sargeant to adjourn 7:47 p.m.

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

/nem

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