

Rutland City Police Commission
October 12, 2015

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

Others Present: Acting Chief David Covell, Commanders Scott Tucker and Kevin Geno, Sergeants David Lachance and Greg Sheldon, Crime Analyst Brad GoodHale

Call to Order

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

Approval of September 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Brown to accept the minutes for approval. Motion passed.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Acting Chief Covell swears in Officer Damon Nguyen to Corporal Nguyen.

Public Comment

None

Traffic Control at Construction Locations

Chairman Jensen wants to address regulations for flaggers at construction sites throughout the city. Commander Geno indicates that the Department of Public Works does not provide flaggers, however, all other companies, i.e. GMP and Comcast hire their own flaggers and there are varying levels of control. Roads are purview of the Chief of Police, when bids are done determination of the need or not for law enforcement and flagging, is done. For safety reasons, the City Police can shut the construction down if it is too dangerous. Discussions held. Chairman Jensen suggests that the Chief of Police re-establish contact with someone at City Hall to make sure regulations are followed to be included in contracts when they need to be included.

Communication from the Union

None

Commander's Report

Commander Geno addresses the board with their data driven approach to crime and safety. Commanders Geno, Sgt. Prouty and Crime Analyst Brad GoodHale have begun with the DDACT initiative to try to lower crashes and crime. They will begin working with State St. to Crescent St.; State St. from Grove St. to Water St. and Pine St. from West St. to Park Avenue, will run data comparisons with crimes and crashes for those areas for a 60 day period, will begin with this portion of the Northwest sector and continue with the directed patrols in the Plaza. This includes physical police presence, high visibility present during peak time. Discussions held.

Mapping

Dave Harrington present via Skype. He introduces a new approach to reporting. He indicates that they have been analyzing data for the past two years and now they want to take a look at how other agencies are reporting things. He indicates comparing a two week period to the prior two week period is good for short term to identify crime spree, but for long term, it is best to

compare the time period they want, and compare it to the previous year. The numbers of calls for service and crimes reported to the Police Department over time, varies in large part on the specific time of the year. The reporting period of the cycles, don't line up the way the seasons do; Winter Jan to March, Spring April through May, Summertime June through August, Fall September through October and Holiday season November through December. It looks best to be comparing the current two week reporting period to the same period to the previous year.

There was an 8.2% decrease in calls for service of the top 50 calls in 2013 at 9,974 and 2014 at 9,156. Comparing the top 50 calls for service in the first 3 quarters of 2015 to the first 3 quarters of 2014, indicates that they are down 3.3% and down 12.7% for the same period in 2013.

Commissioner Fairbrother makes a suggestion to get those numbers out to the public and Chief Covell indicates that the Associate Press will be doing a piece with the numbers showing the comparisons from 2012 to the present.

David Harrington continues and shows the average of monthly totals of quarter 1 through quarter 3 and shows the new reporting format for a two week period from 2014 to 2015 and shows % changes. Chief Covell indicates that they will do a combination of the two formats.

Comparing three months of the summer 2014 to the summer of 2015 for calls for service:

Sector 1 1251 to 1358 - an increase of 8.6%

Sector 2 654 to 586 - a decrease of 10.4%

Sector 3 732 to 644 - a decrease of 12.0%

Sector 4 167 to 169 - an increase of 1.2%

Chief Covell indicates that it is important to them to know where they stand to do the comparison for a two week period. They will do a combination of the two comparisons for the Rutstat meetings as it is beneficial to look at data different ways.

Budget report

The budget is at 26 1/2%. Expenditures are over, however that is due to payments being made up front in the beginning of a fiscal year and those will even out. Sgt. LaChance's vehicle has been upgraded. Commissioner Sargeant inquires of the 2016 Fiscal year budget and what can be expected from Mayor Louras. Discussions held. He indicates that the department strategies are being supported by the Mayor as to the professional service line including fees for computers, data portals, work that David Harrington is doing.

Chairman Jensen inquires how close they are to ordering body cameras and Chief indicates they are awaiting approval. Vice Chairman Calcagni inquires about the new vehicle program. Chief Covell indicates he needs to take a look at the process and may be reassessing the whole program as their plan was to sell the old cruisers, however are having trouble with that.

Chief's Report

The hiring process for the Evidence Property position has been filled by Melissa Sharkis and she began on October 1, 2015. She has been working with Laurie Walters and the evidence room audit has been completed as of today.

Lori Gurney has been approved as the Clinician for the department. She will meet with both shifts on October 28, 2015.

There are 3 applicants in the assessment center process as of October 1.

Sgt. Bartlett has suffered a work related injury and has been approved for light duty to include 6 hours administrative duties and will be re-evaluated in the next 3 months.

There is a succession plan to have Commander Geno's replacement named ahead of time as he reaches retirement age in February. All four Sergeants: Prouty, Delpha, LaChance and Sheldon, have put in for that position. There will be interviews with Chairman Jensen, Joe Krauss, Commander Tucker and the State's Attorney's office and input / comments will be sought from other commissioners.

Officers Harvey and Czachor and their canines, including RCPD canine King Jagger, participated with over 100 competitors in the Green Mountain Iron Dog, one and a half mile obstacle course competition. Officer Czachor and canine King Jagger were the fastest in the Building Search time. Fastest time overall was Officer Harvey and his canine.

Officer Harvey has been selected to replace Officer Souza as the new firearms instructor.

The PT test was held last week and 22 have passed the test with 5 superior, 3 excellent, 6 good, 5 average, 3 others passed, and 5 need to retest.

Some of the results include: Nate Harvey finished at 9.32 seconds followed by Morgano 2 seconds behind. Fastest female was Misty Klementowski at 10.55. Most sit ups by a male officer was Officer Cleveland with 52 and female officer was Misty Klementowski with 45; Male with most Push ups was Damon Nguyen with 72 and female with most pushups was Misty Klementowski with 42. Most weight benched for male was Adam Lucia with 350 lbs and most weight benched by female was Administration staff Nora Moore at 135 lbs.

There are five members who will participate in the *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* on October 18; there will be police presence at the Community Public Outreach Alliance Fellowship Church prior to the parade; there will be pickup basketball games with the Boys and Girls Club on Fridays at the Knight of Columbus; there were three officers present at the Rutland Intermediate Field Day a couple of weeks back; there was a good presence at the Northwest Block party.

There are positive stories on the media front including a press release on the open data initiative with WCAX. Crime Analyst GoodHale is working on something for the Local Fox 44 out of Champlain Valley.

The Policeman Benevolent Association Ball will be held on December 11, 2015 at the Holiday Inn.

The Awards ceremony is scheduled for December 18, 2015. The location has not been finalized. Donna GoodHale has agreed to take photos.

Taxi ordinance enforcement has begun. A number of people are in compliance; however, there are a number that are not.

There is a meeting scheduled with Chief Brandon del Pozo of the Burlington Police Department on November 5 to talk about Project VISION and the opiate issues in Vermont.

Training

Firearm and Taser training are complete. Sgt. LaChance attended LEEDA training and Sgt. Mosher and Sgt. Delpha will attend in the future.

Rutland City Police Department's new chief, Brian Kilcullen is introduced to the commission.

There is an awards ceremony along with the swearing in of Chief Kilcullen at the theatre at the College of St. Joseph's on Thursday.

Total staffing number is now at 38.

Motion was made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Calcagni to adjourn and go into Executive Session. 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

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cc: Rutland Police Commission
Chief David Covell
Commander Scott Tucker
Commander Kevin Geno
Mayor Chris Louras
City Clerk Henry Heck
Board of Aldermen
Union President Lynn Gallipo