

Rutland City Police Commission

September 14, 2015

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

Others present: Commander Kevin Geno, Acting Chief David Covell

Call to order by Chairman Jensen at 6:00pm

Motion by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Fairbrother to approve the minutes of August 10, 2015 and motion passed.

Introduction / Recognition of Police Department Members

None

Public Comment

A resident, Tim Johnson, is present from 113 Robbins St. and wanted to address the board with a complaint against a police officer that handled a call at 115 Robbins St. on Thursday around 5:30pm and the way he spoke to Mr. Johnson. Chief Covell will review the audio/video recording to find out the facts and circumstances and will get back to Mr. Johnson. Chairman Jensen thanked Mr. Johnson for coming in and indicated that he has done what the Commissioners expect citizens to do.

Communication from Union

None

Commander's Report

Sgt. Joseph Bartlett is present and addresses his Nightshift II. He indicates morale is good in lieu of things going on in the Rutland Herald. He indicates that since 3/4 of the people addressed are gone, it is unfortunate that the Herald continues to drag the Department through the mud.

Sgt. Bartlett indicates they are adding extra directed patrols based on the data results near Walmart. He reports that motor vehicle enforcement is down as the call for service volume is up and once the weather changes, things will be switched around. DUIs are way up. Cpl. Whitehead is doing an outstanding job on DUI checkpoints. Discussions held. Sgt. Bartlett indicates he is a Project VISION believer and Chief Covell indicates he appreciated Sgt. Bartlett's positive attitude and, appreciates his mentorship and leadership. Chairman Jensen indicates the board is proud of the department.

Mapping

David Harrington is present to give his presentation. He has met with Brad GoodHale as well as with Chief Covell and has gone over some of the things that he will be doing. He presents the new dashboard that has been developed to take a look at crime data in real time. This new dashboard system will be rolled out soon. It allows you to create all kinds of visuals. He presents the traffic enforcement efforts for June, July and August. He shows the comparisons of breaking down data as a visual; traffic tickets issued; motor vehicle traffic type related things; and comparing night time data to day time data.

The mapping piece is then reviewed by geo-coding of addresses, along with the drug crime dashboard. Information in this new system is updated daily, gathering as much information as it can. The new system is another tool for sergeants to look at data and for administration to see what is going on. It can be used in the short term for developing tactical strategies. There is a lot of potential with this system and a lot to learn; but we will continue to work with it. Vermont is one of only 6 locations that is trying this new system out.

Chair Jensen indicates he would like feedback and has a huge amount of respect for the data work that is being done now and would like to pinpoint what data that they would like to see at the Police Commission meetings. Discussions held.

Chief's Report

Chief Covell reports that Cpl. Souza's last day of work was last Friday. Cpl. Souza has taken an ATF position out of State. Chief Covell is sorry to see him go and wishes him the best of luck. His position will need to be replaced in BCI. Cpl Lorman will transfer to replace Cpl. Souza, which leaves a Corporal position open on Dayshift I and there will be an internal posting starting tomorrow for one week.

Laurie Walters will transfer from evidence back to dispatching on October 5. Sgt. LaChance, Chief Covell and Sgt. Sheldon have held interviews of six high quality applicants for the evidence/property custodian position and there is one in background now. The start date will be October 1 and the employee will attend evidence/ property custodial training.

Two candidates have been interviewed for the Assessment Center. The Department sworn personnel staffing is at 37 with the goal to get one more candidate in the next Vermont Police Academy class.

Officers Anderson and Ashe have increased their families on the same day.

There continues to be compliments from the public with the success on the presence of the Police, Fire and Department of Corrections on the first day of school.

Four officers attended the ice cream social in the Southwest sector, which was a nice presence.

The department has received two responses to the proposal for the clinician services for bi-weekly visits of 8 hour blocks for critical incidents. One responder was Lori Gurney and the other was Sonny Provetto from Burlington. They will be presented to the Board of Aldermen for approval.

Commander Geno and Sgt. Delpha to try to drive the increase in the plaza thefts down and will meet with Security Officer Stockton.

Commander Tucker and Mayor Louras will attend a Collaborative Coalition on October 6.

Corporals Dickerson and Whitehead attended an FBI Supervisory Training in New Hampshire which was very useful and will look into sending all Corporals to this training in the future. Sgt. LaChance is attending at the Command level.

Officers Alger and LaGuardia will attend the Reed School in November for training on interview and interrogation techniques.

Sgt. Sheldon to attend an Impartial Police Trainer Training in December. All officers attend Impartial Police training once a year for a refresher.

Officer Lucia to attend a proactive enforcement training; Firearm training is this week; all Sergeants and Commander Geno attended an emotional survival for law enforcement training.

Commissioner Fairbrother requests that they do more activities as a police commission and would like it to be put on the next agenda.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Fairbrother to go into executive session. Motion passed.

Executive Session

The executive session began, present with police commission members, Chief Covell and Commander 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