

Rutland City Police Commission
July 24, 2023

Present: Chairman Sean Sargeant, Commissioners Tony Romeo, Luther Brown and Alis Headlam.

Also attending: Mayor Doenges, Aldermen Talbott, Commanders Prouty and Delpha, Chief Kilcullen, Officer Tim Rice, Ryan Brady, Nate Thibodeau and Gordon Dritschilo.

Call to reorder by Chairman Sargeant at 6 pm.

Chairman Sargeant asked for a moment of silence for Officer Ebbighausen.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Commander Prouty introduced Bill Gaiotti, Community Resource Specialist. CRS Gaiotti was previously a level 3 officer at the RPD.

Communication from the Union

Officer Rice thanked the community, Police Commission, Alderman Talbott and Mayor for their support following the events of July 7 that decimated the line 2 patrol division. He also thanked the commanders and administration for all the help through two critical incidents. Officer Rice said the wellness conference for first responders, organized by Dispatcher Emily Leinoff, was rescheduled for this week. On Saturday the Cops and Kids Soccer Clinic will be held at Vermont Sport & Fitness. Officer Rice said they talked to the City attorney regarding part-time officers in the hopes to get that going quickly.

Chairman Sargeant said he will reach out to Officer Rice this week about the proposed PT policy and get that back on the table. Chief Kilcullen asked that all the parties, including the department, be included in the conversation regarding the conditions to hire part-time officers.

Officer Rice mentioned Richard Card who wanted to thank Officers Maguire and LaGuardia who were both sent to a disturbance on School Street and how professional they were in addressing his concerns and offering resources.

Commanders Report

Commander Delpha said the date of the current policy PT is Oct 3 and 5. He asked to be included on the email to Officer Rice regarding the new PT policy.

Commander Prouty thanked everyone for the support over the past few weeks adding that he was proud to help the Chief carry the load, the officers stepped up and the community was unbelievable. He said Bill is fitting in awesome as CRS with Lawson and

Julie. Commissioner Headlam thanked Commander Prouty personally for helping with a situation in her neighborhood and moving it forward.

Mapping Update

Nate was only able to provide a verbal update of the data due to the deck being corrupted. He reported that in June the CRS position has been doing very well. In total 76% of the calls are handled by patrol, 11% by VISION and 10% by CRS which is very good for just 2.5 people. He added that BCI handled 3%.

Mayor Doenges asked about the difference between VISION and CRS. Nate said VISION includes Rosario and the bigger group, while CRS is just 2 people.

Nate said retail theft continues to increase. Changes to how the data is coded will reflect the number of calls in which the theft is confirmed or unconfirmed (no statement or video footage), this will provide a better understanding of what is happening. Currently retail theft is at 216 so far with 180 confirmed. In June the weapon theft data showed 5 stolen, currently we are at 17 for the year, with 17 in 2021, 15 in 2022 and 2023 17. These weapons are mostly stolen from vehicles at residential locations and 56% the weapon was unsecured.

In a table comparison of arrest information from last year to this year: in 2022 there were 241 individuals arrested or cited and for this year there is a total of 454. In June there was a total of 92. There are 340 individuals cited, 102 flash cited, 91 lodged, 83 arrested on warrant and 31 have a warrant request. Of the 257 people arrested, 75 or 29% have had multiple offenses, 4% had over 5 violations, 2% had over 10 violations and 1% over 15 violations.

Nate continued with the overdose data saying there have been 75 so far this year. Last year we were only at 54 and in 2021 we were at 40. Chairman Sargeant asked if there was data on why there is a spike. Nate said at the end of June there was a huge spike which could have been the result of increased fentanyl in the drugs. There is a certain house where a high number of occurrences are happening, as well as, at the hotels. Chairman Sargeant asked if those addresses will go up for the RUTSTAT meeting and the full 360 degree wrap around approach be taken. Commissioner Romeo asked if these numbers only reflect Rutland City. Nate said yes. Commissioner Headlam asked for the date of the next RUTSTAT meeting and was told August 1.

Commissioner Brown asked how the City compares with other communities of similar size in regards to crime. Nate said he would try to get some numbers, but it depends on how other communities code their violations. He did say in regard to overdoses and drugs, everyone is experiencing the same spikes, as well as, in retail theft.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen said in terms of the year end in June there was an approximate surplus of \$400,000 due to vacancies. Commissioner Headlam asked whether the surplus included the \$200,000 allocated to the station's HVAC system. Chief Kilcullen said only \$70,000 of the \$200,000 allocation from funds formally known as ARPA, was used toward the HVAC system. Staff Operations Support Specialist Ryan Brady asked the Board of Finance to reallocate the \$130,000 balance towards replacing police cruisers. The Mayor mentioned the MERP grant which could be used for future building upgrades, of up to \$500,000, to the police station following an assessment. Commissioner Headlam asked how many cruisers will be purchased with the \$130,000. Chief Kilcullen said the cruisers are leased and paid over a 3-year period. There are 4 cruisers on order, two to replace those totaled and two that were slated to be replaced. The Mayor said the cruisers cost up to \$60,000 each, so two will be covered by \$130,000 and two will be covered by the equipment replacement fund which has \$57,000 available. He added that the base cost of the vehicles has increased and we will need to look at this going forward due to the requirement to replace vehicles every two years. Chief Kilcullen said because 4 vehicles are being procured now, the department will not be required to purchase vehicles until FY26. Commission Headlam asked about upgrades to the cruisers being purchased. Chief Kilcullen explained that they were burying cruisers that were not outfitted and transferring equipment from the car coming offline to the car coming online to save money and the old equipment was still usable. However, the transfer added a lot of time to the turnaround of the vehicles, up to 4 -6 months. He said we are switching from Ford Explorers to fully outfitted Chevys.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen thanked the Mayor, Aldermen, Board of Finance, Police Commission, the department, staff and the community for their support. He said there have been two vicious dog hearings and two motel meetings. Probationary Officer Allyson Adamo started on June 19 and she will go to the Level 3 Academy and will be introduced after that. Cpl. Rose was promoted to Sgt. and Amber Houle resigned, she was a big help handling the CFAC cases. Noah Sweeney was hired as dispatcher on July 16. On July 31, Probationary Officer Nicholas Fontana will start his pre-basic followed by the Level 3 Academy.

Completed Trainings

June 21-23 - Detective Menjivar attended a basic Forensic Interview of Children class
June 22-23 - Officer St. John attended ARIDE training
June 23-24 – CRS Julie Fitzgibbons, Emily Leinoff and Cpl. Caravaggio attended a Wellness Conference in ME

Upcoming Trainings

July 27 - Field Training Recertification Class for Cpl. Heter and Tavares
August 1&3 - Trial Training with State's Attorney's office

August 14-18 – FBI LEEDA Supervisor Institute training in NH will be attended by Cpl. Tavares and Officer McGuire

August 23 - Taser training in NH for Cpl. Tavares

Aug 29-31 – Annual Use of Force training for whole department

Oct 2-6 - Cpl. Lucia and Detective Menjivar will attend East Coast Gang Investigators conference.

Commissioner Headlam asked how the officers are doing and when is a good time for commissioners to stop by the station to offer support. Chief Kilcullen said during the shift change at 6 am or 6 pm and coordinate with Commander Whitehead. To visit with the detectives, contact Sgt. Dickerson. Chief Kilcullen said the department is doing well thanks to the support received and coverage provided through a lot of resources including VSP.

Commissioner Headlam thanked Awesome Graphics for the yard signs they provided. She said they are still selling them for \$26, and want to donate the money on behalf of Jessica.

Commissioner Romeo discussed renaming a portion of Wales Street in honor of Officer Ebbighausen. He also asked if the badge would be retired. Chief Kilcullen discussed ongoing ways to honor the officer including renaming the community room in her honor, a ceremony to retire the badge and engraving her name on the memorial in front of City Hall. The Chief said there could be a discussion of renaming the driveway in Jessica's honor, but that would come from the community. Commissioner Romeo discussed close calls for vehicle collisions at the intersection of M&T Bank and he suggested a right turn only sign out of the bank. Chief Kilcullen said he would get the subject on the traffic committee agenda next month.

Mayor Doenges said everything done in honor of Jessica, day to day operations and keeping the City safe had been executed flawlessly. He said the department was exemplary in their response to the services and they deserve to be thanked and recognized. Commissioner Romeo said the Chief's speech was well received and needs to be followed up on in Montpelier.

Executive Session

At 6:53 pm Commissioner Romeo moved to go into executive session under I VSA 313 paragraph (4) for the purpose of discussing disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee and invited the Mayor and Alderman Talbott to participate. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion was approved 4-0.

Executive session exited at 7:24 pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Romeo moved to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Meeting called to close at 7:25 pm.

Submitted by: Barbara Spaulding

cc: Chief Brian Kilcullen
Mayor Mike Doenges
Police Commission
City Clerk Tracy Kapusta
Board of Aldermen
Union President