

Rutland City Police Commission
May 13, 2024
Amended

Present: Chairperson Pat Brougham, Commissioners Luther Brown, Tony Romeo, Alis Headlam and Peg Flory.

Also attending: Commander Delpha, Ryan Brady, Dave Allaire, Mayor Doenges and Alderman Talbott.

Call to Order 6:00pm.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Flory moved to amend the minutes of March 11, 2024 to reflect that Commissioner Headlam was present. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Commissioner Flory reminded the Commission that at the April 8 meeting it was motioned and approved to add Issues and Comments from the Commissioners to the agenda. Chairperson Brougham said she will request that Mary-Kaye add it to the agenda.

Commissioner Flory moved to approve the April 8, 2024 minutes. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

None.

Public Comment

None.

Communication from Union

None.

Commander's Reports

Commander Delpha said he will include his report with the Chief's report.

Mapping Update

None.

Budget Report

Commander Delpha said at 86% through the budget, expenses are at 89%. Commissioner Headlam noted that there were a few line items over budget. Ryan Brady explained that in the case of Professional Services, the Department contracted with Lori Gurney to conduct psych evals that were not previously budgeted. Commissioner Flory asked how many officers are off-duty. Commander Delpha said two on modified duty. Commissioner Flory inquired about the

process where officers who want to return to work could do so on light duty. Commander [Sheldon] Delpha said the cases are considered on a case by case basis depending on injury. Chairperson Brougham asked if there was a light duty policy to which Commander Delpha said no. In order to allow officers to return to light duty and maintain employment, as well as, relieve stress on full-duty officers, Chairperson Brougham suggested having a meeting with Chief Kilcullen, Commander Delpha, Commissioner Flory and herself to discuss a potential light duty policy.

Outside Employee Request

Hailey Corrigan, Woodstock PD per diem as needed, approved by supervisor and commander.

Commissioner Romeo moved to approve with the understanding that any injuries suffered during outside employment would not be covered under the City's workman's comp. Commissioner Flory seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Chief's Report

Commander Delpha said Kyle Dawson and Tyler Billings have both left the Department. Commissioner Headlam asked how many officers remain. Commander Delpha said there are 33 with 34 budgeted for FY25. He added that there are 3 officers that could retire over the next year. Commissioner Flory asked if exit interviews were conducted. Commander Delpha said not to his knowledge. Commissioner Romeo said the Commission used to do exit interviews at his insistence. Chairperson Brougham moved to reinstate exit interviews with officers. Commissioner Headlam seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Headlam volunteered to develop a questionnaire.

Commander Delpha continued with the Chief's report saying there were 10 potential applicants for the open Records Clerk position, but the first conditional offer was refused. The second person is in back ground and an offer could be made by the end of May. ACO Tim Jones will be retiring in June and Sgt. Williams will fill in until that position is hired. There is an open CRS position, a new hire will start in May for the second full-time CRS position. Currently Julie Fitzgibbons is the part-time CRS. Emily Lineoff resigned from the part-time dispatch position; however, all dispatch positions are currently filled. Commander Delpha said that Chief Kilcullen is in Washington DC for Police Memorial Week honoring Officer Ebbighausen who will be added to the Wall of Honor on May 15. Commander Delpha read a memo from Chief Kilcullen discussing the designation of Police Week and events in Washington DC. Local events include a dedication of Jessica's Corner at 10 am on May 17 at the Justin Thomas Memorial Park and at 4 pm May 17 at City Hall a memorial service by the Police Benevolent Association. The dedication of the Community Room to Officer Ebbighausen will be at a later date. The Commissioners are invited to attend either one or both of the events.

Commander Delpha said five officers completed the Corporal promotion testing and have been ranked. When a position opens in the future, the highest ranked will be promoted.

Trainings

Courtroom Testimony – all new officers

Tactical Narcotic Debriefing – Detective Menjivar
Radar Training – new candidate
Death Investigation School – Detective Tavares

Upcoming Trainings

CPR/Fist Aid/Domestic Violence – mandatory
Firearms – July and August

Commissioner Romeo asked if those officers with specialized training are assigned particular shifts. Commander Delpha said the Union allows the officers to bid on shifts, and specialized cases are forwarded to BCI. Currently there are four detectives in BCI and their shifts are Monday – Friday 8 am to 4 pm, but they can be flexible as needed.

Issues and Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Brown asked about follow up regarding the neighbors who came to the Commission complaining about a house on Bellevue Avenue. Commander Delpha said a search warrant had been executed in that case.

Chairperson Brougham asked what role the Commissioners had when they are told that police officers or dispatchers are being rude and disrespectful to citizens. She has received 3-4 complaints. Commander Delpha asked if those citizens had filed a report. Chairperson Brougham said she was unaware if they had. Commissioner Headlam asked if there is a form the Commissioners could fill out. Ryan Brady distributed copies of the Rutland City Police Department Compliment/Complaint Regarding Personnel form to the Commissioners. Commander Delpha suggested submitting the forms to the on-duty supervisor. Mayor Doenges suggested that the complainant note the date and time of the incident in order to verify with body cams and dispatcher recordings.

Commissioner Headlam asked what is the Commission's role when the public addresses the Commission with complaints. Commissioner Romeo said the role is to listen and make sure the Chief and Department are doing their jobs and due diligence. Chairperson Brougham said it is also not the Commissions' job to investigate or make a determination, but to pass along information. Commissioner Flory asked for follow up from the Chief after information is passed along.

Commissioner Romeo asked if there was any word on IDs and fingerprinting. Chairperson Brougham said until there is help in Records, appointments will have to wait.

Commissioner Headlam asked if there was any word on the possibility of a ride-along. Commander Delpha said he will ask the Chief and Commander Whitehead to provide an update this topic at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Commissioner Headlam moved to adjourn. Commissioner Flory seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting called to close at 6:57 pm.

Submitted by Barbara Spaulding

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