

Rutland City Police Commission
June 10, 2024

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

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Delpha, Prouty and Whitehead, Ryan Brady, Mayor Doenges, Alderman Talbott, Nate Thibodeau, Cpl. Rajda and MaGuire, and Officers Dangal, Olsen, Falco and Razanouski.

Call to Order 6:09 pm.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Flory moved to amend the minutes of May 13 to change the reference from Commander Sheldon to Commander Delpha on page 2. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Kilcullen administered the oath to the following officers: Cpl. James Rajda, Officers Arun Dangal and Sean Olsen, and Probationary Officers Stefano Falco and Matthew Razanouski. Chief Kilcullen also mentioned that the Department received the Father Jack Hickey Award during the Dismas House banquet fundraiser. He said both Officer Dangal and Cpl. Sean MaGuire received recognition for their professional police work during two recent incidents.

Public Comment

None.

Communication from Union

None.

Commander's Reports

Commander Delpha said there was one resignation from the Academy, two candidates in background, both good prospects. Three will be in the next Academy class. There will be an award ceremony on June 25 at 5:30 pm at Mission City Church. The ceremony is open to the public. Commander Delpha said the Law Enforcement Torch Run will be held June 19 with 10 officers participating.

Commander Prouty said Taylor Cohen started in the CRS position on the 24th. The ACO position has not been filled yet, but two internal candidates are interested. Officer Rosario is working the parking meters Downtown. There is one candidate in background for the remaining CRS position.

Commander Whitehead said Officers Falco and Olsen graduated from the Academy and have started field training. There will be a CPR training in June and the annual Use of Force and Taser training in July at the Academy. Officers participated in a high visibility highway safety

campaign with traffic enforcement. Directed patrols are being done in the City parks after issues with vandalism were reported.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen said at 11 months through the budget, expenses are at 94.49%. He discussed the potential for expenses coming in 2% over budget with the biggest overage in overtime. He also said there are a couple expenses that were paid out of money donated by the hotels and a JAG grant, however not reflected in the budget, that will reduce the overall overage. Chairperson Brougham asked if the overtime line would decrease now that staffing levels have increased. Chief Kilcullen explained that in theory yes, but it takes time for officers after graduation, about 3 months, to become full-service officers. Chairperson Brougham asked about the \$22,544 in the machinery and equipment line. Chief Kilcullen said those expenses were covered by the JAG grant. Commissioner Headlam asked how the overage would be covered. Mayor Doenges said it will be covered by any surplus in other City departments. Commissioner Brown asked about the Police Commission budget line item. Chief Kilcullen said that is to pay for the meeting minutes.

Mapping Update

Nate presented the mapping update for May which includes forecasting, surface data and year-to-date comparisons.

The year-to-date forecasting call volume has been in the upper range for summer and he anticipates a really busy summer. Incoming call volume in Quarter 1 average daily calls was 31, May avg. 38, 2023 avg 36. Calls are up 3% in 2024 at 4,996 and in 2023 it was 4,839. Calls for May are up 16% at 1,089 from last month at 1,024. For total call volume the Quarter 1 avg. is 35 and May avg. is 44 and in 2023 40.

The year-to-date total call volume comparison is up 5% from last year at 5,717 and in 2023 5,451. Calls were up 14% from last month with April at 1,191 and May is 1,359. The busiest time in April was from noon to 3 pm on Fridays and in May it is between 2 and 5 pm on Fridays. Chairperson Brougham asked if there was a comparison in call volume done with the weather. Nate said he started looking at the history and last July, with all the rain, it wiped out calls. He said typically with the worst weather there are lower calls.

In regard to Surface Data and the 12 categories: NCI 30%, transferred traffic related to Proactive Policing 12%, Police Assistance 10%, Traffic related 10%, Routine investigations 8%, Non-violent crime 7%, Property crime 7%, Juvenile related going up at 4%, victimless crime 3%. Commissioner Flory asked what the age was for juvenile. Nate said under 18. Chairperson Brougham asked what was happening in particular to increase juvenile crime. Commander Whitehead said it is related to 3 kids and 1 adult. Chief Kilcullen said an unlawful trespass citation must be done within 60 days and the court doesn't provide a date within that 60 days so there isn't any way to hold the kid accountable. He added that the whole juvenile justice process needs to be reworked.

Nate continued with the sector call volume with the percentages of where calls are going: Downtown 24%, Sector 1 29%, Sector 2 17%, Sector 3 14%, Sector 4 13% and schools 3%. The

hot spots are plaza, hotels, Cumberland Farms, Stewarts, schools, 102 West Street (Laz Parking) and the hospital.

The year-to-date crime comparisons: Homicide 1 2023, 5 year avg. 24, 2024 0; Robbery 2023 1 reported, 1 confirmed, 5 year avg. 4.2, 2024 2 reported, 1 confirmed; Assault Offences 2023 128 reported 76 confirmed, 5 year avg. 30.8, 2024 89 reported, 41 confirmed; Burglary 2023 49 reported, 17 confirmed, 5 year avg. 23, 2024 22 reported, 9 confirmed.

Larceny Stats: Larceny Automobile 2023 36 reported, 20 confirmed, 5 year avg. 13.5, 2024 33 reported, 17 confirmed, Motor Vehicle 2023 79 reported, 73 confirmed, 5 year avg. 62.6, 2024 31 reported, 18 confirmed, Larceny from Building 2023 47 reported, 5 year avg. 14.8, 2024 59 reported, 17 confirmed; Retail Theft 2023 176 reported, 139 confirmed, 5 year avg. 70, 2024 129 reported, 70 confirmed; Weapon Theft 2023 10 reported, 10 confirmed, 5 year avg. 10, 2024 8 reported, 8 confirmed.

Commissioner Flory asked if the decrease in larceny from automobile was due to people locking their cars. Nate said it had more to do with an individual being arrested.

Traffic Stop Information 2023 506, 2024 451. Monthly traffic stops are 107 in May and 125 in April. Chairperson Brougham asked what is the main offence for traffic stops. Commander Whitehead said speed and cellphone use. Nate said there was a distracted driver event in May. Commander Prouty said it was focused on Downtown using Highway Safety money to specifically address cellphone violations. Nate said in a two-hour period they caught 17 individuals.

Nate reported that in 2022 juvenile offences started to increase, they leveled out in 2023 and in 2024 it has increased. Chairperson Brougham asked if all charges are included for a person in the reporting. Nate said all charges are included.

Commissioner Brown asked whether there are still issues with the crosswalks. Chief Kilcullen said a couple years ago an education pamphlet was put together to address vehicles yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk. It is a violation for a pedestrian to enter the crosswalk and force a vehicle to stop. Drivers are not required to stop for pedestrians on the sidewalk waiting to cross, they are required to yield to the pedestrian in the crosswalk. Anecdotally, it was found that the crosswalk issue was with the pedestrian more so than the drivers. The DPW and Traffic Safety Committee have increased the size of the pedestrian signs on both sides of the crosswalks and, in some locations, added reflective material to the posts. Bump-outs also minimize the distance for pedestrians to cross the road and some crosswalks have the flashing lights. These changes increased the visibility of the crosswalk and minimized the issues.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen said Officer Kelsey Parker is off probation and will be sworn in at the next meeting. He discussed the events during National Police Week in Washington DC May 13-16, as well as, the local dedications on May 17. On May 16 there was a Concerning Canine Behavior hearing, May 20 the City department heads met at the Paramount for a meeting with Eric

Mallette, May 21 the Teen Center opened, May 23 another Concerning Canine Behavior hearing, May 28-30 was the Chiefs' Conference in Killington and the discussion was prioritizing suggestions for the Legislature. Chief Kilcullen continued saying that on June 4 there was meeting to discuss uses for the Opioid Settlement funds including a necessary purchase for the Outreach Care Team, July 11 at noon is the next Project VISION meeting, June 12 there will be a meeting with one of the candidates for the ACO position, Cpl. Tavares was recently assigned to BCI special investigations unit, and on June 10 Anne Marie Gianni-Euber was hired as records clerk.

Trainings Completed

Death Investigation Class – Detective Tavares

De-escalation Training – Taylor Cohen

Two officers were sent to De-escalation Training before COVID one of whom became a trainer, but has since retired. Chief Kilcullen said it is more cost effective to train in-house and he plans to get someone trained again to be a trainer.

Upcoming Trainings

June - CPR/Fist Aid required annually

June 19 - Domestic Violence (department heads) – mandatory every two years

June 24-25 – ARIDE for Officers Parker and Rice

July 10 – VIN verification for CRS Fitzgibbons and Cohen

July 15-18 – Forensic Interviewing of Children for Officer LaGuardia

July - Firearms and Taser training for all sworn officers

July 22-26 – FBI LEEDA Command Leadership Institute Training for Sgt. Plemmons and Cpl. Caravaggio in Nashua NH

Issues and Comments from the Commissioners

Chairperson Broughman asked if the Commissioners were satisfied with the exit questions, she and Commissioner Headlam developed. There was discussion on whether the exit interviews would be in addition to any done by Chief Kilcullen or the Commanders and whether the process was public or private information. The consensus of the Commissioners was to refer the process to the City attorney and HR director for input. Chairperson Broughman will reach out to both the attorney and HR director regarding a process/procedure and report back at the next meeting. As for the exit questions, Commissioner Flory moved to accept the exit questions as provided. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Commissioner Flory discussed not receiving an announcement regarding the dedication of the community room. Chief Kilcullen apologized saying there was a memo in May that listed the event being held on a date to be determined.

Commissioner Romeo asked for an updated Assignment Roster for the PD. Chief Kilcullen said one will be provided after July 1. Commissioner Headlam asked for a list of officers who will be receiving awards. Chief Kilcullen said one would be provided.

Chairperson Brougham asked for an update on ride alongs. Chief Kilcullen said he will send the Commissioners each a ride along packet and the next step will be finger printing. The ride alongs are coordinated through Commander Whitehead. Commissioner Flory asked if this would be part of getting an I.D. Chairperson Brougham said now that there is a second records clerk, the Commissioners should be able to schedule an appointment for their IDs. Chief Kilcullen said the preference is for all vendors, whether finger-printed or not, to be escorted due to the sensitivity of information in the building. The ID will not allow the Commissioners to access the building without an escort. Commissioner Romeo and Commissioner Headlam discussed how the ID will allow the Commissioners to identify themselves to law enforcement during meetings and events.

Commissioner Flory asked whether changing the verbiage in the Dogs and Other Animals Ordinance to Concerning Canine Behavior is sufficient or would the Commission entertain researching other municipal related ordinances for potential additional changes to the City ordinance. The consensus of the Commission was not to revisit the ordinance.

Executive Session

At 7:53 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 Chief, Commanders, Mayor and Alderman Talbott to participate. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Executive session exited at 8:40 pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Flory moved to adjourn. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting called to close at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Barbara Spaulding

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