

Rutland City Police Commission
March 10, 2025

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

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Whitehead and Prouty, Officers Caravaggio, Joseph Mannino and Kevin Rimmer, Communications Operator Gabriella Gorruso, Staff Operations Support Specialist Brady, Dave Allaire, Alderman Talbott

Chairperson Brougham called the meeting to order at 6 PM following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Flory moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2025 Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 4-0.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Kilcullen administered the oath of Sgt. to Officer Caravaggio and introduced the new Communications Operator Gabriella Gorruso and newly hired officers Joseph Mannino and Kevin Rimmer, both transfers from Brandon. Chief Kilcullen also read emails recognizing Officers Razanouski, Parker and Stewart and CRS Sequoia Dixon-Woodard.

Public Comment

Newly elected Alderman Dave Allaire introduced himself as the incoming Board of Aldermen President and said he is in full support of the Police Department and hopes to have more interaction between the Police Commission and Aldermen going forward.

Commanders' Reports

Chief Kilcullen announced that Commander Delpha will be retiring as of June 1 and is currently using accrued leave time. Commander Delpha did wrap up the report with EIA regarding the Ebbighausen incident and the Chief will be reviewing it over the next few weeks and will report out then. Two applicants were tested in February at the Academy and only one passed. Commander Whitehead will work with Ryan to set up an interview panel in March and April.

Commander Whitehead said on March 26 and 27, the in-house De-escalation Training will start. The 3 instructors will be watched by the teachers from the facility to sign off on their certification. There has been an uptick in traffic enforcement with 20 cars stopped last Saturday. Work is being done to host a basic SWAT school in July at the Police Academy for both Rutland Officers and other departments. Commissioner Flory asked if the traffic stops had to do with speeding. Commander Whitehead said speeding and distracted driving, but also to be more visible in the community. Commissioner Romeo discussed seeing an increase in cars driving the wrong way on one-way streets.

Commander Prouty said they are still preparing for the Situation Table which will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, March 18-19, in Downtown Rutland. The program is sponsored by the State's Department Public Safety and Governor Scott's Violence Reduction Strategy who is

paying for the trainers from Massachusetts. Project VISION has provided \$4,000, non-taxpayer money, to support the training and 50 people have signed up including the CRS team, Chief, Commander Whitehead, RRM staff, BROCC, state entities and private entities. Commander Prouty said the CRS staff and the Community Care Network staff have been working well together. Office space in the VISION Center has been made available to Rutland Mental Health's Substance Use Disorder person and an outreach worker. Dave Carlson, VT Health Partners, and Candace Reigns from the Medical Reserve Board, have been added to that team. Commander Prouty said he is already seeing the benefit. The next Project VISION meeting is at noon on March 13 at Calvary Bible Church.

Mapping Update

Chief Kilcullen said an abbreviated update will be provided at the RUTSTAT meeting Tuesday March 11 at 8 am with focus on the 3peat locations.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen said at 2/3 into the year or 67%, expenses are at 61.83%.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen said on Feb. 10 he attended a public meeting regarding the charter change for the equipment replacement fund for the PD of \$180,000. He discussed how the change will affect the replacement of police vehicles and that mileage is being considered. Commissioner Flory asked if that will require another charter change and Chief Kilcullen said yes. Commissioner Romeo asked if the fund is not used in the fiscal year, would it be lost? Chief Kilcullen said no, but that won't be an issue due to the price of the cars and the lease payments. He discussed the lease to own program and how cars are repurposed, and the expense, when they come offline after 3 years. Commissioner Flory asked how many vehicles are needed? Chief Kilcullen said 6 frontline vehicles, 1 canine, 1 downtown beat and 2 for CRS. Only the frontline patrol vehicles are required to be replaced every 3 years. Commissioner Brown asked if checking another vendor and creating competition might lower the costs. Chief Kilcullen said as a member of a consortium to access negotiated pricing, they currently have the most cost effective plan. Commissioner Romeo asked if the dealerships lend cars for undercover work. Chief Kilcullen said they rent cars now and one account is funded through drug proceeds from forfeiture process.

The Chief said he attended the Feb. 17 Department Head meeting, Feb. 21 Traffic Safety Committee meeting, Feb. 25 RTCT program, March 3 Department Head meeting and on March 3 the police contract was ratified by the Aldermen, Town Meeting on March 4, March 6 there was a meeting with JCI who are working with the City to resolve energy inefficiencies in municipal buildings, including replacing the police department building roof top units at a cost of \$200,000. Upcoming meetings include March 11 Concerning Canine Behavior with 5-6 cases, March 17 Department Head meeting, March 19 Chiefs' Association training on officer-involved shootings, April 11 VT Judiciary Commission on Mental Health is having a conference on mental health and how it intersects in the Court System. Chief Kilcullen said he reached out to Tom Burditt, House Judiciary Committee, who is proposing legislation that puts a timeline on the review for an officer-involved shooting. Sgt. Lorman has been assigned back to Patrol as of

last week, the contract was ratified by the Union on March 5 and the terms will go into effect shortly.

Trainings Completed

March 4 - Fair & Impartial Policing Requirement for Bill Giotti, Evidence/Property Manager

Upcoming Trainings

March 19-21 – Field Training for Officer St. John

March 27 - VIN Verification Training – CRS Dixon-Woodard

April – Defensive Tactics Trainings for Cpl. Lucia

April 16 – Firearms Training at the range

April 21-22 - Communications Training Officer Course for Seth Savageau

April 28-30 – Death and Homicide Investigation Class for BCI Detective Misty Jax

April 28-29 – Firearms Instructor Course for St. John and Mannino

July 17-18 – Background Investigation Class for Sgt. Rose and Detective Jax

Commissioner Brown asked if all of these trainings are required. Chief Kilcullen said the State's Attorney's office does require some training, but not all of them are required for certification. Commissioner Flory asked for the current number of officers. Chief Kilcullen said 32 today and in FY 25 the budget is funded for 34 and FY26 it is 33 in the operations budget and two additional officers in the unassigned fund balance. Chief Kilcullen said to be fully staffed it would be 39. Commissioner Flory asked if they are still trying to recruit. Chief Kilcullen said yes and the new contract will help.

Issues and Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Romeo asked for an updated Assignment Roster that includes years of service. Chief Kilcullen said the rosters are revised every January and July. He will see if the roster can be updated in the interim.

Commissioner Romeo discussed a conversation he had with the person he mentioned at the last meeting regarding the CRS. The woman had a positive interaction with one of the CRS. It was suggested that she be invited to the Project VISION meetings held on the second Thursday of every month at noon at Calvary Bible Church.

Commissioner Flory asked if any other officers are eligible for retirement in the coming year besides Commander Delpha. Chief Kilcullen said there is one eligible, but he does not believe he is interested.

Executive Session

At 6:51 pm Commissioner Flory moved to go into Executive Session under I VSA 313 to discuss personnel issues and invited the Chief and Commanders to attend. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion was approved 4-0.

Commissioner Flory moved to exit Executive Session. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 4-0. Executive session ended at 7:23 pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
Meeting called to close at 7:24 pm.

Submitted by Barbara Spaulding

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