

Rutland City Police Commission
April 14, 2025

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

Also attending: Commanders Whitehead and Prouty

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

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Headlam asked where the \$4,000 from Project VISION came from to support the Situation Table. Commander Prouty said it was a donation and not tax dollars. Commissioner Flory moved to approve the minutes of March 10, 2025 with the correction of Sgt. Lorman's name on page 2. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Commander Whitehead said Cpl. Morgano and Officer Ducharme were recognized for the De-escalation Training they gave for sworn and civilian staff. Having completed the training, they are now certified instructors. Sgt. Caravaggio will be certified at a future training. Commander Prouty said Judge Susan McManus recognized Officers Falco and Rosario in regard to a positive resolution with a youth outside the court house last week.

Commanders' Reports

Commander Prouty said the training for the Situation Table was held March 18-19 and the date to "go live" is Wednesday April 16. Probation and Parole Director Richard Eckrote will take the lead. Commander Prouty said they will support the Sequential Intercept model, a mandate from the Vermont Judiciary for Addison, Rutland and Bennington. Sgt. Williams will be leading the upcoming firearms training. Commander Prouty noted that ACO Sweeney has been very busy in his role and doing a good job. Chairperson Brougham said she has been in contact with ACO Sweeney and agreed he does a thorough job. Commissioner Headlam asked for more information on the intercept model. Commander Prouty said it is the Judiciary trying to identify all of the areas, within the systems, where providers could do a better job so that people don't end up in front of a judge or have services set up before being released back into the community. It is a bigger systems look and is separate from Probation and Parole. Commissioner Headlam complimented Commander Prouty for going over the Situation Room with everyone at the last Project VISION meeting. Chairperson Brougham asked if she could sit in for the Situation Table. Commander Prouty said she would need to sign an NDA, but it is not open to the general public. Commissioner Headlam suggested running it by Rich for issues. Commander Prouty said as long as everyone follows their organization's guidelines and rules there is no issue.

Commander Whitehead said the job opening created by Commander Delpha's retirement closed on April 12 and interviews will begin soon with three internal candidates. The first round of de-escalation training was completed. Officer St. John attended FTO (Field Training Officer) training school March 19-21 and is now a full-time officer. Spring firearms training will be held April 15-17. Communication Officer Savageau will attend CTO (Communications Training

Officer) April 21-22 which will certify him to train dispatchers. Sgt. Williams and Officers Mannino and St. John will attend Law Enforcement Red Dot Pistol Instructor course in Norwich on April 28-29. The new PT policy will start on May 6 and 8 with a practice run. Testing will be on May 27 and 29. Officer Giotti received his Level 2 Certification and will be out on his own on patrols as needed.

Budget Report

Commander Whitehead said at 78.8% into the year expenses are at 76.7%.

Chief's Report

Commander Whitehead said on March 21 they sat in on a Patrol Finder Presentation, a software for patrol cars for mapping that will show where officers haven't been. The purpose will allow the Sgts. to direct patrols to areas where they haven't been or areas of multiple calls. This will increase police presence to the whole City and demonstrate with data where officers have been. Commissioner Headlam asked if this will affect the RUTSTAT 3peat reporting. Commander Whitehead said no, Analyst Thibodeau will still be able to pull that data from Valcour, but if the public inquires when was the last time a cruiser was somewhere in the City, that's when this software will come into play. Commander Whitehead continued saying the Loyalty Day Parade is May 4 at 2 pm, Cpl. Rajda has been appointed Acting Sgt. until the promotions of Sgts. occurs. There is an anticipated retirement of Sgt. Lorman on May 3. The Union contract was signed and ratified by all parties. Chief Kilcullen is away from March 25 – April 2 and April 8 – April 14 with Commanders Whitehead and Prouty splitting the duties. Det. Cpl. Lucia attended a jiu jitsu seminar in Boston March 21-23. With jiu jitsu becoming a staple in law enforcement more officers are starting to train. Chairperson Brougham asked if there is an instructor in the area. Commander Whitehead said there is and that he attended the Use of Force training day at the Academy where he demonstrated how to get an individual under control or an officer out of a situation with minimal adrenaline, more confidence and not getting hurt.

Trainings Completed

Fair and Impartial Policing webinar for sworn officers.

March 27 - VIN Verification Training – CRS Dixon-Woodard and ACO Sweeney

Upcoming Trainings

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

Background Investigation Class for Sgt. Rose and Detective Jax

Issues and Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Headlam said April 13-19 is National Public Safety Telecommunications Week to congratulate our dispatchers.

Commissioner Romeo discussed a conversation he had with Esterina Bergendahl, who lives on Meadow Street, who said she was visited by Officers Parker and Razanouski and she really appreciated it and couldn't say enough good things about them. Commander Whitehead said that is part of the Neighborhood Stabilization with officers coming in on their days off to stay on top of problem areas to minimize repeat damage to the community.

Executive Session

At 6:29 pm Commissioner Flory moved to go into Executive Session under I VSA 313 to discuss personnel and contract discussions and invited the Commanders to attend. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Commissioner Romeo moved to exit Executive Session. Commissioner Headlam seconded. Motion was approved 5-0. Executive session ended at 7:40 pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Romeo moved to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting called to close at 7:41 pm.

Submitted by Barbara Spaulding

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