

Rutland City Police Commission
June 9, 2025

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

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Prouty, Whitehead and Williams, Cpl. Eric Morgano, Nate Thibodeau

Chairperson Brougham called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Flory moved to approve the minutes of May 12, 2025. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Kilcullen recognized Officers Dangal, Stewart and Menjivar who provided medical intervention to two women on separate occasions last week. He has also received compliments for Dispatcher Gabby Gorruso.

Chief Kilcullen administered the oath of Commander to Officer Jason Williams.

Communication from Union

Cpl. Morgano said they are pleased with the administration and how things are going.

Commanders' Reports

Commander Williams said there are 4 individuals in background and 1 attending the part-time Academy with anticipation of them going to the full-time Academy at the end of the year. Cpl. Morgano was transferred to CRT as the Community Response Team Supervisor opening up a spot in BCI for a detective. A detective has been selected but not notified. They are starting a Sargeant promotions process with four Corporals interested. In his first Commanders' meeting there was creation of an Investigator Support Team to be offered to officers interested in supporting the detectives in BCI with case follow up. Sgt. Dickerson will have complete discretion over the team. The PBA, Cpl. Morgano and the Chief have been discussing the annual award ceremony to be held at the end of summer.

Commander Prouty said that a CRS has resigned to take a job closer to home. The job will be posted immediately. Project VISION supported BCI with executing a search warrant at 3 Meadow Street. CRS Taylor had to step in the last two weeks and chair the Situation Table at Probation and Parole. Feedback is that she did it like a pro. Cpl. Morgano is assigned to VISION with focus on recruiting and spearheading the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative. Construction is still underway upstairs.

Commander Whitehead said he, Officer Ducharme and Stewart recently taught Taser at VT Police Academy. Patrol conducted a search warrant at 157 Porter Place. Cpl. Maguire was able to get the house shutdown and it will no longer be a nuisance in the neighborhood. Honor Guard detail conducted a funeral for Chris Kiefer-Cioffi and for the Memorial Service, they are trying to reenergize Honor Guard around the State and New England. Tryouts were held for the Emergency Response Team that included the fitness test, firearms qualification and oral boards. Four to five people will be selected to attend the SWAT training in July. The schedule for the Outlaw Motorcycle detail, July 17-20, has been posted. The Outlaw Motorcycle Group convened at the Fairgrounds last year and are coming back again this year with even more riders. Commander Whitehead has been working with the State Police and emergency personnel to be prepared. He added that there were no issues last year, but it is a heavy lift and expense for the police and City services.

Mapping Update

Nate presented the mapping update with the YTD Incidents is up 13% from last year and is currently 6,452 and includes directed patrols, traffic stops and incoming calls. The 3-year YTD average is 5,184, the YTD monthly average is 1,290 and the daily average is 43. Currently the incoming calls are up 12% at 5,640. Directed patrols are up 34% from last year and 16% increase for traffic stops. Nate predicts that the call volume in May of 1,477 will reach the same amount if not more of August last year's peak at 1,662. Nate clarified that the 13% increase is YTD from January to May 2025. The area of highest incidents is Sector 1 30.84% followed by Downtown. Commissioner Flory asked if incidents had gone down in any areas. Nate said the Downtown has gone down some from last year.

Nate continued with the Daytime Analysis saying the busiest days in May are Thursday and Friday with May the busiest so far due to the warmer weather. The busiest time is between 12 pm and 3 pm and 9 am to 12 pm is second busiest. Larceny from person increased by 150% in April there were 2 and May had 5. Burglary decreased from 9 in April to 1 in May. Nate reported on Weapon Theft information saying YTD there have only been 4, a 6% decrease from last year. The total weapons stolen is 8 and 75% that were stolen unsecured with unlocked vehicles being number one.

There are YTD 22 overdoses, a 44% reduction from last year and the 5-year average is 38. The monthly average now is 4 with 30% in public areas/view. There have been two fatal overdoses this year which is 67% reduction. The percent of repeat victims is 6%. Commissioner Headlam asked if there is a correlation between the police securing the drugs and that is why overdoses are decreasing. Nate said the biggest effect on those doing drugs was the number of fatal overdoses. Chief Kilcullen discussed displacing the drugs outside the City and they have heard anecdotally that it is too hot in the City for drugs. Commissioner Flory asked if there was data regarding how many fatal overdoses had previously received Narcan. Cpl. Morgano said every user has told the police that they have overdosed at least once and received Narcan. Commissioner Brown asked if Nate collects data on who is administering Narcan. Nate said he does have data on who administers Narcan first and that would be the police officers, but there have been incidents when a bystander has administered Narcan. He will include it in the update next time. Commissioner Headlam asked what drug is being used in overdosing. Nate said cocaine mixed with fentanyl. Nate continued with YTD seizure information saying narcotics is 924 grams or 33

ounces, currency \$48,000 and weapons is 21. Total offenders arrested is 49. The percent of repeat individuals is 18% and non-Vermonters is 17% and houses closed is 5 with one last week. Seized most is cocaine followed by meth and heroine. Commissioner Flory asked if the people overdosing receive any violation for drugs. Nate said only if they are in possession of drugs, it would be a misdemeanor. Overdosing is not a crime. Chief Kilcullen said the focus is getting the individual the proper care following an overdose, but there has been incidence when an arrest is appropriate. Commissioner Headlam asked what happens to the \$48,000 that has been seized. Chief Kilcullen said it goes through a Department of Justice forfeiture process program with a percentage of those proceeds coming back to the police's asset forfeiture account that supports the drug investigation. Commissioner Romeo asked the Chief's opinion if the State puts an injection site in Rutland City. Chief Kilcullen said he does not support anything that facilitates criminal activity.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen said at 91.7% of the year or 11 months, expenses are at 90.75% of the budget. He expects to be on budget at the end of the year.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen discussed the physical fitness test that was held last week. He thanked Cpl. Morgano for coordinating the program, Ryan Brady for his help, and DPW putting together the equipment. There were 35 participants and 32 passed and everyone had a good time. Commissioner Headlam was in attendance and said it was wonderful and she was impressed with the officers. She was concerned that the women be better prepared so that they could get through the course. Cpl. Morgano said there were some adjustments made and all but one woman was able to come back and retake the test and passed. Commissioner Headlam said she will be back in the fall to cheer on the participants. Chief Kilcullen said the test being voluntary increased participation than in the past when it was mandatory.

Chief Kilcullen reported on recent vehicle crashes; one involving Sgt. Dickerson who was stopped on South Main and rear-ended and pushed into a second vehicle resulting in the police car being unofficially totaled. The second incident involved a police vehicle that rolled into a building with \$7,000 damage to the car. The insurance will cover both the vehicle damage and the damage to the building. A claim will be filed with the other driver's insurance in the first crash. Chief Kilcullen said the Board of Finance approved using the proceeds from the insurance claim to replace the "totaled" vehicle and the balance will come out of the vehicle repair line of the operating budget.

Chief Kilcullen said the Board of Aldermen Finance Committee approved access to the Opioid Settlement money, which will have 1.2 million by 2038, to support Treatment Court with gift cards, replace the former RV with a van for the Outreach Care Team, and construction for the room upstairs for the Situation Table. The total is about \$200,000 of the \$370,00 currently available.

Chief Kilcullen said they will be participating in some of the Rec Dept summer programs, a Rise-up for kids going into kindergarten, the PBA held a memorial service at City Hall adding

three names to the wall, John Molaski, Bob Emerick and John Tuepker, Officer Kiefer-Cioffi will be added next year. Commissioner Romeo asked about Officer John Roberts who died in January. Chief Kilcullen said he will check with the PBA. On June 1 Commander Delpha officially retired, on June 3 Chief Kilcullen attended a treatment court meeting with Judge Griffin, on June 4 was the Law Enforcement Torch Run Special Olympics with Bill Gaiotti leading, on June 5 internal interviews for BCI detective, and on June 9 new hire Coleman Shum who is attending Level 2 training followed by FTO and full-time academy in February. Chairperson Brougham asked what is the number of officers now. Chief Kilcullen said 32, but they are confident there is another officer expected in the next few weeks. The budget supports 35. There has been discussion of funding 39 positions.

Trainings

Commanders Whitehead and Williams attended a Management Conducting Internal Affairs Investigation week-long training in Montpelier.

Upcoming Trainings

Background Investigations Training for Detective Jax and Sgt. Rose
Tactical Training for Detective Cpl. Lucia in September in Milford, NH

Issues and Comments from the Commissioners

Commissioner Headlam asked about the status of the fingerprint results as she would like to do a ride-along with Detective Cpl. Lucia, but she isn't sure if it can be scheduled. Chief Kilcullen said the fingerprints are taking longer. He hasn't heard that anything has come back yet. Commissioner Headlam asked about a required training. Chief Kilcullen said once the fingerprints come back there is a training required for unescorted access to the building, but not the ride-along. When the results come back the Commissioners should get a call.

Commissioner Headlam said she was glad to hear that progress is being made on the award ceremony.

Commissioner Flory stated for the record that we will be discussing 133 Grove Street in executive session with any decision coming out of executive session being stated in open session.

Executive Session

At 7:05 pm Commissioner Headlam moved to go into Executive Session under I VSA 313 to discuss personnel and contract discussions that prior public knowledge would put the department at a disadvantage and invited the Chief, Commanders and City Attorney Megan LaChance to attend. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Commissioner Flory moved to exit Executive Session. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 5-0. Executive session ended at 8:36 pm.

Commissioner Flory moved to approve the proposed contract for Chief Kilcullen's continued employment with RCPD with typos corrected and an additional statement regarding Chief Kilcullen's assistance with recruitment and transition of a replacement prior to the end of the

contract period. The city attorney will add the statement. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion was approved 5-0.

Adjournment

Commissioner Flory moved to adjourn. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting called to close at 8:39 pm.

Submitted by Barbara Spaulding

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