

Police Commission Minutes

January 12, 2015

Present: Chairman Jensen, Vice Chairman Tom Calcagni, Commissioners Sean Sargeant, Luther Brown, Acting Chief David Covell

Others Present: Commander Scott Tucker, Commander Kevin Geno

Not Present: Michelle Fairbrother

Chairman Jensen calls meeting to order at 6:00pm

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Sargeant to accept the minutes of December 15, 2014. Motion passed.

Acting Chief Covell swears in Sgt. Sam Delpha, who was promoted on 12/15/14 from Corporal to Sergeant. He will be covering Nightshift II. Chairman indicates he is excited for the promotion, as he brings in professionalism and knowledge to the night shift.

Public Comment

None

Communication from the Union

None

Sergeant's Report

None to report this evening

Budget Report

Acting Chief David Covell indicates that they are half way through the fiscal year and just over 51% of the budget. They are just over the budget due in part to the buy outs for the years retirements, as well as the adjustments of the salary increase. Acting Chief Covell will look into the \$110,000 buyout as Chairman Jensen vaguely remembers that there may be money tucked away for that.

Acting Chief's Report

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Calcagni to approve the following outside employment requests: Communications Operator Emily Leinoff, to continue with Hartford Police Department for 16 hours a week; Communications Operator Ryan Brady, to continue with Rutland County Sheriff's Department as Deputy Sheriff for an average of 20 hours a week; Communications Operator Lynn Gallipo, continue dispatching with the Vermont State Police for an anticipated 20 hours per week; Sgt. Kevin Stevens continue his self employment of snow plowing and sanding, hours according to the weather; Officer Craig Hunt to continue self employment of gun smithing, hours by appointment; Brad GoodHale continue self employment with the Emergency Management counseling for 20 hours a week; Officer Kevin Blongy, continue with the Town of Proctor as Emergency Management Coordination, with hours varying each week and continue infrequent travel for the Rutland County Sheriff's Department; Evidence Clerk Laurie Walters, continue with self employment of her photography and florist business for 4 hours per week; PO Ed Dumas, to continue with Rutland Town Police Department for 26 hours or less a week. Motion made by Commissioner Calcagni and seconded by Commissioner Brown to accept the outside employment of ACO Tim Jones, self employment with his cleaning company and coaching, average 10 to 20 hours per week with Commissioner Sargeant abstaining from the vote. All have approval of their supervisors and Acting Chief Covell. After discussions, motions passed.

Personnel updates

Officer Tobin has retired after 30 years of service at the end of December.

Officer Blongy has taken over the beat patrol position transferring from the shift line to project vision under Sgt. Prouty making directed patrols more effective. Cpl. Mosher has begun in BCI, leaving a vacant Corporal position on night shift. Officer Ed Dumas is next on the Cpl. list, who is at CFAC with BCI and will accept the Corporals positions and will be transferred to nightshift II at a later date, to be determined. Officer Whitehead has retired his canine Braden. Officers Cleveland and Barrell have passed the physical assessment for the academy and will begin the VT Police Academy on 2/2/15. Officer Nate Harvey has completed his FTO. Sgt. Prouty has identified each officer on each shift re: community compliance to be Officers Sorrell, Anderson and Lucia. Officers Meytin and Clemmons are on FTO and continue to make progress. A retirement luncheon is being planned for Sgt. Sly during the week of January 19.

The Sergeant promotion process continues with the written exam complete and the oral boards are done. Acting Chief Covell will hold interviews with each applicant this week and a list will follow. Discussions held. There are no sergeants in vacancies, hoping to make Sgt. Prouty's position permanent with Vision. Sgt. Sheldon has taken over Sgt. Sly's position; Sgt. Delpha to Sheldon's spot. They are both adapting well.

There are two applicants in the background process. The final chief's interviews will be completed within the next couple of weeks. There are an additional four applicants off the list to come in for interviews with Sgt. Sheldon, Commander Geno and Sgt. Prouty. All four are good candidates with two already part time certified.

Due to retirements, they will probably not reach the full staffing number of 40.

Trainings

Field Training is set from 1/26/15 to 1/30/15 with Officers Dickerson, Lucia, Sorrell and Alger attending along with the Sergeants and Colonels. An offer, of one to two slots, has been made for the fair and impartial training with the Sgts. and Corporals to attend. The leadership summit that was scheduled for February has been moved to July due to the availability of instructors.

Sgt. Sheldon is in the process of body camera research and is looking at companies for possible trials. Discussions held.

Discussions held as to the space in the Project Vision area with the moves of Commander Tucker, Sgt. Prouty, ACO Jones, Corrections and Federal partners. They are now working to free up space or potential none traditional partners.

The monies from the old cruisers will be put in the equipment replacement fund to pay the lease on the new vehicles when due. There are two new cruisers to being outfitted.

The Spanos trial began today. There is going to be presence at the trial during the week for support, to include Det. Sgt. David Lachance, Commander Tucker and Chief Covell for Case Officer Dumas, Attorney Alton Doyle and Evan from the AGs office.

While waiting for Skype connection with David Harrington re: the mapping, discussions held as to the time period and information the commissioners would like reviewed at the meetings. Commissioners Sargeant and Calcagni agree that the value add to them is to hear the Captain and Sgts. telling what the police have done.

Mapping

Dave Harrington of the crime research group gives the year end incident review to find out where the department is at. Overall, the calls for service are down 8.6% for 2014. He indicates that a lot of the calls have been knocked off, due to the initiative that they are working with.

The top 20 calls for service show that thefts are down 18%, family fights and domestic assaults are down, burglar alarms are up by 30%. He continues to give the comparative numbers from 2013 to 2014 as to the calls for service by sector. All the numbers are down across the board for calls for service by sector. Discussions held. Crime statistics from 2013 to 2014 are down 7.8%. Of the top 10 actual incidents, by the observed code, citizen disputes, family disturbances, noise disturbances, and disorderly conducts are all down. Quality of life incidents are significantly down. Chairman Jensen inquires what the difference is between incidents and calls for service. Dave Harrington explains the cases being coded at the time of the call and the actual response code that the officer notes, it could change. They are seeing a decrease of calls from the plaza since they have hired their own security. The larcenies are moving on a downward trend from the period of 2013 to 2014. There was a team combined effort that has helped between with Cpl. Lorman and Security Officer Stockton. Burglaries were down 35% from 199 in 2013 and 129 in 2014; Drug Incidents from 99 in 2013 and 93 in 2014, which is a 6% decrease; non reportable traffic crashes are up 31%, property damage crashes are down 9 1/2%, injury crashes down 14.1%, no fatals in 2014.

Dave Harrington reports that they have made a change in reporting Google fusion table, which is a mapping of the accidents within the city. They can review the injury crashes separately from non reportable crashes.

Commissioner Sargeant has made a suggestion that the mapping presentation should go to the Board of Aldermen and to the public to show what a good job is being done. Chairman Jensen to contact Board President Allaire.

The department is in the process of doing a security compliance by having professional pictures taken of everyone for new ids.

Rutland City has been chosen for a bicycle assessment by the National Highway Safety Administration.

Discussions held as to what is happening in project vision and Commander Tucker gives a rundown to include: discussions with John Casella of Goodwill, a potential new partner with reference to job connections.

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Brown to go into executive session for personnel issues.

Executive session

The executive session began, present with police commission members, Chief Baker, Commanders Tucker, Geno and Covell to discuss matters that if disclosed publicly at this time, could place the City, the Department or an employee of the department at risk.

Submitted by:

Nancy Manning

cc: Police Commission
City Clerk Henry Heck
Board of Aldermen
Union President Lynn Gallipo