

Rutland City Police Commission

April 13, 2015

Present: Chairman Jensen, Vice Chairman Tom Calcagni, Commissioners Sean Sargeant, Michelle Fairbrother and Luther Brown

Others present: Chief Covell, Commander Kevin Geno

Chairman Jensen calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to accept the meeting minutes of March 9, 2015 with no additions or corrections.
Motion approved.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

None at this time

Public Comment

Commissioner Sargeant wants to address the board and indicates that he is very pleased with the use of Facebook by the department. He is happy with the details and facts being published. He indicates it is positive information and it removes all speculation and replaces it with fact. Chairman Jensen indicates Acting Chief Covell has been doing a good job on the press releases as they are very effective. The exposure of the walk and knocks has been good. Chief Covell indicates that Brad GoodHale has been spending a lot of time making the Facebook page what it has become.

Communication from the Union

None

Commander's Report

Commander Geno has been working on the pedestrian assessment and reports on the handout. He explains the presentation that was given with reference to the 2014 "Mayors" safety challenge, a bicycle and pedestrian safety assessment which is being held across the United States. A first meeting was held with 25 organizations at the table with the National Highway Traffic Safety present. Commander Geno reports as to what they have done to review the issues. He indicates that they had set up observation watches to include: West and Wales St., Pines St. to observe what is going on, if people are using crosswalks, walking with the lights, obeying signage, allowing the department to do groundwork as to what they needed to improve in the future. There is a good possibility that grant monies may be available to improve the crosswalk signage as the Highway committee was impressed with the presentation. Commander Geno indicates they are now working with another regional manager for New England and it is probable that if our presentation is accepted by the National Board in June, they will follow the department's guidelines. Discussions held.

Mapping Update

Dave Harrington, present via Skype, gives the same presentation that he gave at the RutStat meeting on April 7. Reporting from March 22 through April 4 on the repeat addresses showing 15 locations were in 3 or more calls, indicating that they were not all that bad this period; top calls for service were up 3 1/2%, citizen assists were down, controlled substances were up, service of abuse prevention orders are up 100% assaults stayed the same. With the exception of thefts, drugs and juvenile problems, overall they were up 3 1/2%.

The top 30 reported incidents were up 1.7%. Larceny from motor vehicles was up 5%. Overall, the numbers are trending up a little. Next, David reports on the top calls for service by sector; Sector 1 calls are down 3.9%, and Chief Covell indicates that the drug issue had the biggest increase in Sector 1 of all 4 sectors reporting that the increase was because more of the neighbors are calling in and directed patrols are being designated in that area; Sector 2, the big drive there is the juvenile problems increasing from 2 to 9; Sector 3 calls are down 1.3%, thefts went from 4 to 12 in that area. Sector 4 calls are up due to an increase from 4 to 15 animal calls.

Next David Harrington does a time analysis with a heat chart for each sector for this period; then shows the reported crash stats of the prior period and current period with 25 being reported last period and 24 being reported this period and breaks it down by Sector.

David Harrington reports that he has been working on a project to show Quarter 1 crash data of all of Rutland linking information to Google Fusion Map and shows what it looks like breaking down 8 injury accidents, 71 property damage accidents and 117 non reportable traffic crashes. He next wants to work on the traffic control data and merge it together to enable them to strategize how to deploy resources. Discussions held as to making this program work for the department for strategic planning.

Chief's Report

Commander Tucker attended a one day Presidents Task Force seminar in Washington DC on 21st Century Policing that focused on transparency and accountability. It was a great opportunity to get together and look at how we can better leverage technology to make the community aware of what is going on in the department. There are three or 4 different data sets that we will make public on a daily basis to include crimes, arrests, use of force and community meetings. They are working on getting information accessible to the public on a quarterly basis and Commander Tucker will be the point of contact.

There has been positive media coverage over the last several weeks. Kathleen did a sit down with Commander Tucker, Chief Covell and Brad GoodHale with reference to RutStat and Project Vision.

Besides the park walk and walks there have been a total of 43 directed patrols in the last 4 week period.

There has been a total of 48 DUI arrests since the start of the calendar year, compared to a total of 72 DUI arrests for last year, giving credit to the nightshift as they are out looking for DUIs.

Sgts. Prouty, Sheldon and Commander Geno are in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Understand (MOU) with mass casualty responses after attending a meeting several weeks ago to build a foundation in preparation of the table top scheduled for June 4.

Sgt. Prouty has been working with federal authorities with reference to human trafficking and drug cases and has one now proceeding through the court system and should be seeing a resolution within the next 3 to 4 weeks. He has been spending a lot of time and effort on those types of cases showing results. Acting Chief Covell indicates Sgt. Prouty has been doing an excellent job working with the feds with reference to witnesses, services and treatment along with places to live.

Acting Chief Covell indicates that they have sent letters to different businesses that qualify as special metal dealers indicating that they need to be certified. He indicates that there are at least 11 that are not on the list of qualified dealers and once they are they will be included in the email group of reported stolen property.

The US Attorney's Office has filed forfeitures for the properties at 114, 116 and 117 Park Avenue. Discussions held.

Personnel

There are two new hires, Full time Officer Jeffrey Warfle from Castleton will begin May 1, 2015 and Elizha Heter from Burlington will begin later in May. With the two new officers and one termination, we are at 37 with 2 applicants in the background phase. There are 4 applicants in the assessment center. There are 14 potential applicants testing tomorrow. Overall, Chief Covell is very impressed with the applicants. Once the additional two are hired, he would like to keep a ready to hire list. Officer Cleveland graduates May 22 at 10:00am from the Vermont Police Academy.

Training

Dispatcher Brady is in MA at Active Shooter Training for Dispatchers; Det. Sgt. LaChance and Acting Chief Covell will be attending the VT Chief Association at the Basin Harbor Club; Officer LaGuardia and Alger are at Advanced Evidence Training this week at the Forensic Lab at the VT State Police Headquarters on collecting and preserving evidence.

They are accepting bids to replace ACO Jones vehicle and Det. Sgt. LaChance's BCI vehicle. There are 5 old vehicles that still need to be sold.

Commissioner Sargeant indicates he feels that we are down a Sgt. since Sgt. Prouty moved upstairs after the retirement of Sgt. Sly. Acting Chief Covell indicates they are down one as Cpl. Lorman is still Acting Sgt. Discussions held as to the plan to add a Sergeant. Acting Chief Covell, Commanders Tucker and Geno will meet to discuss whether or not they will be making Sgt. Prouty's position permanent upstairs and backfilling the position, which would then leave a Corporals position vacant and would they would have to fill that as well.

Budget Report

Acting Chief Covell reports that at 41 weeks into the budget they are just under at 74 1/2% and should be at 79%. Overall they are in good shape and Chief Covell will watch as the expenditures come through at the end of the year.

Commissioner Sargeant makes a motion and seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve 421 as presented tonight after discussions held as to the Eye Witness Identification Policy and review of the written policy. The proposal for the new policy is to do sequential viewing of the lineup and not all on the same page. Motion passed.

Chairman Jensen indicates he would like all the new officers from last year to attend the Alderman's meeting a week from tonight at 7:00 for introductions.

Motion made to go into executive session. Motion passed.

Executive Session

The executive session began, present with police commission members, Chief Covell, Commander 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 Lynette Gallipo, Mayor Louras