

Rutland City Police Commission
August 10, 2020

Present: Virtual Meeting - Chairman Sean Sargeant, Commissioners Tony Romeo, Tom Calcagni and Chris Siliski.

Absent: Commissioner Luther Brown.

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen and Commander Greg Sheldon.

Call to order by Chairman Sargeant at 6:00 pm with a modified agenda. The missing minutes from July were brought up by Commissioner Calcagni. Chairman Sargeant addressed the minutes saying that with Nancy Manning's resignation she is working on completing the minutes in a timely fashion. He introduced Barbara Spaulding as the new recording secretary for the Police Commission.

Chief Kilcullen gave a report regarding the Emergency Operations Center.

Chairman Sargeant discussed returning to in-person meeting in September and he is looking for a prospective location that will satisfy the State's requirements. He received information from Judy and Atty. Bloomer regarding in-person meetings and the requirements for masks and social distancing and thanked both Judy and Matt.

Chairman Sargeant announced that Commissioner Siliski has tendered his resignation from the Police Commission. This will be his last meeting. Commissioner Siliski discussed a need for a break from community work to spend time on personal matters. He has been inspired by staff and management and has been incredibly proud to work with the Police Force and Project Vision. He was thanked for his service to the Police Commission.

Chairman Sargeant discussed the Mayor's process for new appointments. Any candidates should be sent to the attention of Mayor Allaire or Attorney Bloomer.

Public Comment

No one present. Chairman Sargeant said the 5-year contract with Chief Kilcullen expires in November and a draft 5 year contract through 2025 has been shared with both the Chief and Atty. Bloomer. Atty. Bloomer's prospective comments and edits have been received and Chairman Sargeant expects the Police Commission to respond in early September so the Board of Aldermen can discuss at its mid-September meeting.

Chair Sargeant said a 30 person committee from the City of Vergennes reached out to discuss the process for establishing a police commission. Currently the City has no functioning government at this time. The National Daily Beast also reached out to Chair Sargeant for comments on oversight of a Police Commission.

Commanders' Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that Commander Prouty attended National Guard training. He also reported on Project Vision's youth engagement with events at local parks that included ladder ball and corn hole. He expects youth engagement to pay dividends by familiarizing youth with local law enforcement. The event was held July 22 in Main Street Park.

Chief Kilcullen discussed Walk/Talk Neighborhoods which was held Saturday August 3 on East and Terrill Streets. The program is to familiarize neighborhoods with Project Vision and provide brochures that highlight services to people in need.

A Community Policing Subcommittee meeting was held Thursday Aug 5 to discuss the 21st century policy which identified 6 pillars including the need for community involvement. Next Thursday volunteers from Project Vision will implement strategies of the 6 pillars on a more formal basis.

Commander Sheldon attended a 10 hour survival training class. Corp Williams attended firearms training. There will be a separate case log day at the range in Oct. Members of the Police Department are interested in reinstating the Police Cadet Force.

Chairman Sargeant said he received a formal email from Capt. Scott of the Vermont State Police regarding roadside stop data this week. The data collected doesn't cover Rutland City Police. Chief Kilcullen said there are two traffic data websites and discussed the differences. He reached out to Chris Louras who recommended the VSP site has Rutland data. Brad has posted the raw data to the City website and is working on analysis. Capt. Scott said the Fair Vermont Policing Committee will have access to the raw data in the fall.

Commissioner Siliski asked if data is broken down by race. Chief Kilcullen responded that the category breakdown is White, African American, Asian, Hispanic and Other and is based on perception of officer.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen discussed Project Visions youth energy with virtual meetings every week. The Chief's Association and Attorney General have provided guidance with masking individuals arrested. Chief Kilcullen reported on the 3 public hearings set up by the Legislature to receive public comment regarding police reform. The first hearing was held Thursday August 6 with 15 speakers. He believed two speakers were in law enforcement from Burlington. The discussion ran the spectrum from law enforcement perspective to abolishing the police. He hopes the next two hearings are more balanced.

On August 14 Proctor Gas plans to honor the Rutland Police Department with an Employee Appreciation Day barbecue.

Kiwanis donated a treadmill and the community has reached out with support.

Training

Commander Sheldon reported that Corporal Plemmons participated in de-escalation training.

Commission Siliski asked about the drive-by shooting. Chief Kilcullen said he is pleased with the investigation and believes there will be no arrest resulting.

Meeting called to a close at 6:28 pm

Submitted by:

Barbara Spaulding

cc: Chief Brian Kilcullen
Mayor David Allaire
Police Commission
City Clerk Henry Heck
Board of Aldermen
Union President Jeff Warfle