

Rutland City Police Commission
January 10, 2022

Present: Chairman Sean Sargeant, Commissioners Luther Brown and Tom Calcagni.
Commissioner Tony Romeo was present on the phone.

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Sam Delpha, Dave LaChance and Greg Sheldon, Sgt. Keith Lorman, Crime Analyst Nathan Thibodeau, Pat Hunter and Mayor Allaire.

Call to order by Chairman Sargeant at 6:03 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2021.
Commissioner Calcagni seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Commanders' Report

Commander Delpha thanked Commander LaChance for his 31 years of service saying he will be retiring as of January 23. Mayor Allaire also thanked Commander LaChance for his dedication to the City. Commander Delpha said there were 22 applicants for the dispatch position of which eight were interviewed and four or five, who were dispatch certified, were forwarded to the Chief. Commander Delpha discussed the success of the active threat drill on Jan. 4 in the new building of the hospital with some issues being identified. He also thanked Commander LaChance for the smooth transition into his position. It was suggested that Commander LaChance come back in May to emcee the BCI award ceremony as he had done a great job for the December ceremony.

Commander Sheldon said he continues to work with the Community Policing Sub Committee to review the CRO position. He distributed copies of the draft responsibilities and duties for the CRO that reflect the changes discussed in today's meeting. He suggested the Commission review the document for a future discussion. Commander Sheldon said he is working on the Citizens Academy with Mark Stockton and his lieutenant Chris who will assist with the Neighborhood Watch training.

Chairman Sargeant asked about the timeline for filling the CRO position. Chief Kilcullen said once the position is finalized, over the next few weeks, it will be advertised internally. If there is no interest, then it will be advertised externally. Commissioner Calcagni asked if the CRO would be unbadged instead of similar to Tim Jones. Chief Kilcullen said it is important not to give a false impression of who is responding to a call.

Mapping Update

Nate Thibodeau presented the Rutland City Police Department December YTD comparison. The total calls for service were 11,470, with the 5-year average 11,220, directed patrols 635, with the five-year average 888. The most increases were in Motor Vehicle Larceny, Burglary and vandalism. The top 30 observed codes compared for 2016-2021 compared are Robbery 5-year average 6 and 18 current, Aggravated Assault 52/43, Burglary with Force 49/82, Burglary No Force 23/11, Shoplifting 109/125, Larceny Motor Vehicle 65/136, Forceable Rape 6/3 and Theft from Automobile 15/41. Chairman Sargeant said it looks like property crimes are up and crimes against individuals are down except for robbery. Chief Kilcullen said this will be the focus for the Thursday meeting with Project Vision and other agencies. Chief Kilcullen discussed the role of the court system which have essentially been shut down during COVID.

Nate continued discussing the top 10 locations for 2021 with 203 N. Main Street 65 calls and 5 overdoses 1 fatal, 115 Woodstock Avenue 66 calls 3 overdoses, 22 Stratton Rd. 72 calls, 212 South Main Street 78 calls, 138 N. Main Street 94 calls, Howe Center 95 calls, 125 Woodstock Avenue 96 calls and 4 overdoses 1 fatal, 238 S. Main Street 105 calls, 253 S. Main Street 204 calls and 7 overdoses, and Shopping Plaza 298 calls at Wal-Mart and 523 calls total.

Nate reported on quality-of-life calls and criminal calls in each Sector and the busiest streets. The busiest day in Sector 1 is Friday from 4 to 7 pm and the second busiest day is Wednesday from Noon to 3 pm. In Sector 2 the busiest day is Wednesday from 1 to 4 pm and the second busiest day is Thursday from 5 to 8 pm. Mayor Allaire asked if the new CRO position would be responding to the quality-of-life calls. Chief Kilcullen said it is a mixture but it will be a good portion of those that will be handled by the CRO. Nate continued with the busiest day in Sector 3 being Friday from Noon to 3 pm and the second busiest day is Wednesday from 4 to 7 pm. In Sector 4 the busiest day is Wednesday from 9 am to Noon and the second busiest day is Friday from 1 to 4 pm.

Nate provided additional information regarding the total overdoses for 2021 at 80 with 63 non-fatal, 17 fatal and the average age between 30 and 39. He said the primary drug in overdoses is now fentanyl mixed with cocaine. Commander Sheldon said Narcan does not reverse a fentanyl/cocaine overdose, it only works on opioids. Additional information included the total catalytic converter thefts have been 46 in the City and in 2022 there were 6 cases with a total of 10 stolen catalytic converters. The primary target is service garages. Chairman Sargeant asked who is turning the converters into cash. Commander LaChance said not the local junk yards. Commander Sheldon said they go to NY and Commander LaChance agreed. Mayor Allaire asked if the city vehicles were included in the number. Nate said yes. Commissioner Calcagni discussed a conversation

he had regarding thefts from Home Depot and he imagines it is like the catalytic converters. Chief Kilcullen said it is a nationwide problem and the insurance industry is collecting the data.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that as of six months into the fiscal year, expenses are at 40.47% of the budget. They are underbudget due to the number of openings but the intention is to spend it all.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen shared letters of appreciation from the students and teachers at Northeast Primary School, Rutland Area Christian School, as well as the principal Robert Congdon thanking the police for their service. He will share the letters with patrol. He also thanked Pat Hunter and the Community Policing Subcommittee of Project Vision for the delivery of food to the department. Chief Kilcullen said he attended the Public Safety Committee meeting on Dec. 9 to discuss the FY23 budget with the Aldermen. Shop with a Cop was Dec. 14 and Dec. 15 was the Chiefs' Association training conference which led to conversations with liquor control and a follow-up meeting was held last Friday. The Award Ceremony was held on Dec. 16 with good attendance.

Chief Kilcullen discussed plans for the Department of Public Safety to end their dispatch services to police departments other than VSP. He said the City is in a good position because it is not dependent on the service. There was a meeting last March to discuss whether other agencies will reach out to Rutland to provide dispatch services. He is unaware of what infrastructure upgrades would be required for Rutland to assist. Chief Kilcullen said his preference would be to develop a county-wide centralized communication center that could be housed in Rutland. Preliminary discussions have mentioned seed money but it wouldn't be nearly enough to get this up and running. Commissioner Calcagni asked if this could turn into a profit center for Rutland. Chief Kilcullen said depending on what the infrastructure needs would be there might not be a return on investment for many years. He added that this happened in Schenectady, NY where the state gave them a million dollars to do the study over a 3-year period. Commissioner Calcagni said once the towns figure out what they will be paying for a service that was supported by state taxes they may be more interested. Chief Kilcullen said as our system ages the cost for upgrades is expensive and that is why he supports a centralized communication center with everyone's support. Chairman Sargeant asked the Chief to call Sheriff Fox this week to get his view on this and bring it to the next meeting.

Chief Kilcullen continued his report saying there is a department luncheon on Jan. 13 for Commander LaChance. He discussed the changes in response to Commander LaChance retiring including that Commander Delpha will assume the responsibilities of professional standards in BCI and Commander Sheldon will assume responsibility over patrol but retain his overall responsibility for the Community Outreach Team and executive director of Project VISION. The Chief congratulated Ryan Brady on the smooth transition to VALCOUR.

Trainings

VT State Internet Security Training – completed.

Officer Rice completed DUI Certification Training Dec. 13-17.

Chief Kilcullen discussed a parking issue on Royce Street saying that Atty. Bloomer got involved. There were changes in 2018 to the Parking Ordinance, specifically no parking between the roadway and the edge of sidewalk (greenbelt) for more than 4 hours, that did not make it to the online version. Atty. Bloomer had that taken care of and it was shared with the individual on Royce Street. The Board president is putting together a parking committee to study enforcement, the viability of the parking fund, process, meters, kiosks and plans going forward. The group will meet the end of January.

Outside Employment Requests

Chairman Sargeant suggested taking up all the request in bulk and approving at the end with a single vote provided there are no issues or abstentions.

Ryan Brady, repeat request, substitute school bus driver 12-15 hours weekly,
Tim Cornell, repeat request, custom woodworking, hours vary,
Tim Cornell, repeat request, volunteer firefighter Pittsford Fire Department,
Crystal Golden, waitressing, less than 10 hours weekly,
Emily Leinoff, repeat request, dispatcher Hartford, 8 hours weekly,
Keith Lorman, repeat request, snow removal and salting, 10 hours weekly,
Nora Moore, repeat request, consulting for Perfectly Posh, 4 hours weekly, and
Eric Morgano and Charles Whitehead, repeat request, seasonal lawncare, 6-10 hours weekly.

Commissioner Calcagni moved to approve the requests as presented and authorize the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Uniforms and Vests

Commissioner Calcagni asked for a status update regarding the vests. Chief Kilcullen said BLAUER provided samples that are being wear tested. Sgt. Lorman added that samples

are still pending from 511 and Flying Cross. Chief Kilcullen added that the flooring quotes will be opened before the Finance Committee on Thursday at 3 pm. The flooring will replace the carpet in the patrol room, offices and hallway perimeter.

Executive Session

At 7:08 pm Commissioner Brown moved to go into Executive Session citing Title 1 VSA Section 313 paragraph 4 - disciplinary or dismissal action against a public officer or employee. Commissioner Calcagni seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Executive session exited at 7:58 pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Calcagni moved to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting called to a close at 7:59 pm.

Submitted by: Barbara Spaulding

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