

Rutland City Police Commission
March 14, 2022

Present: Chairman Sean Sargeant, Commissioners Tony Romeo, Jeanette Langston, Luther Brown and Peg Flory.

Also attending: Chief Kilcullen, Commanders Sam Delpha and Greg Sheldon, Cpl. Richard Caravaggio and Crime Analyst Nathan Thibodeau.

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

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Romeo moved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2022.

Commissioner Langston seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Kilcullen recognized Cpl. Caravaggio who was complimented in an email regarding their interaction with him following several calls related to family issues. Chief Kilcullen also recognized Officer Rosario who was nominated and awarded the Frank Silfey Sr. Award by Team 2, a statewide training curriculum for mental health crisis. The award will be presented in the future. Commissioner Langston added that she was informed by a friend who interacted with Sgt. Jon Dickerson and found him to be warm, compassionate and able to de-escalate a neighbor dispute.

Communication from Union

Cpl. Caravaggio said there was nothing specific to report. Chairman Sargeant asked about the status of the uniform wear test. Cpl. Caravaggio said Emily had created a scoring system and they are waiting on a couple officers to respond. Chairman Sargeant shared that the current physical fitness standards policy has been suspended.

Mapping Update

Nate Thibodeau presented the Rutland City Police Department February 2017-2022 comparison. The 3peat call volume for February was 15%. The total call volume five-year average is 1572 with 1480 in 2022. Directed patrols five-year average is 168 with 9 in February. Robbery the five-year average is 2, 2022 3, Aggravated Assault five-year average is 7, 2022 3, Burglary average is 7, currently at 8. Automobile theft 5-year average is 2/currently 13 with all but 2 vehicles recovered, theft from buildings average 5/currently 12, theft from vehicle average is 8/currently 20 due to unlocked doors. Nate added that recently there have been more smashed windows but that is mainly due to items being in open view. Retail theft average is 18/currently 19. Commissioner Flory

asked about a report on the increase of gas theft with people using drills. Nate said he hasn't seen any of that locally. He added that only one store has reported gas drive offs. Chief Kilcullen said that is the only store that allows pumping of gas prior to payment.

Nate continued with total larcenies in January at 82 and February at 61 with most occurring at commercial areas followed by residential.

Nate provided overdose information for 2021 at 13 and currently at 11. There were 11 non-fatal in 2021 and 2 fatal in 2022. The age range is between 30 and 39 followed by 40-49. He said the most common drug is heroine. He added that catalytic converter thefts have declined. Commissioner Langston asked if anyone had been arrested in connection with the catalytic converter thefts. Chief Kilcullen said no arrests have been made.

Commanders' Report

Commander Delpha said there is one candidate starting at the Academy next Monday and another in background. He continues to interview for the dispatch position because the person hired declined the position.

Commander Sheldon said the VISION meetings will be held in-person beginning in April. He discussed the new system for warrants, VT Online Warrant System (VOWS). Commander Sheldon and the Chief attended a meeting with Stockton Security regarding the wrap around services provided at the Quality Inn, Cortina and Econo Lodge saying that the number of calls has dropped with the work being done by Karim Chapman and assisting agencies. He also reported that LAZ is locking the doors to the hallway from the parking deck to Center Street to reduce issues there. The parking ticket or permit is the only way to access the hallway. Commander Sheldon said Officer Tavares, who has been on light duty, has been assisting with recruitment efforts. There is a Castleton intern currently working upstairs and maybe another from Northeastern University to assist Nate. Commander Sheldon talked about a great DEI presentation that was held last week.

Budget Report

Chief Kilcullen reported that at 67% into the fiscal year, expenses are at 55% of the budget due to openings in the salary line. Chief Kilcullen discussed how the surplus is being spent knowing these funds will not be available next year. He discussed the status of the flooring installation and purchase of 18 desk top computers. Chief Kilcullen explained that IT infrastructure upgrades are needed and he has not heard whether his request for the ARPA funds has been approved. He has asked for a detailed scope of work regarding the servers and security to present to the Board of Finance on March 24.

Commissioner Langston asked about the status of the HVAC request from ARPA. Chief Kilcullen said Zoning Administrator Andrew Strniste has been tasked with contacting Efficiency Vermont for an assessment. Commissioner Romeo asked about the status of the ADA compliance for the station. Chief Kilcullen said the budget for the necessary upgrades was done 3 years ago with the cost of \$60,000. The consensus amongst the Commission was that the City's police building's ADA compliance should be a priority. Commissioner Langston asked about the status of the body cams. Chief Kilcullen said two vendors have made presentations and Sgt. Lorman is tasked with getting a third. Field testing will follow. He also discussed the cost of \$1,500 for Cloud storage that was not budgeted in FY23. Commissioner Langston asked about the status of the community resource officer and was told that the final details are being discussed with HR and the City Attorney.

Chief's Report

Chief Kilcullen said there have been ongoing discussions regarding regionalized dispatching. On Feb. 16 he attended a Chiefs' Association meeting regarding proposed legislation with some modifications to the qualified immunity. There was also a Parking Committee meeting on Feb. 16. The focus of the downtown parking analysis is on inventory and utilization with some discussion on solutions regarding paid parking. On March 3 Chief Kilcullen attended a meeting regarding changes to Depot Park. There was a scheduled meeting on March 16 with Sen. Leahy staff but it was cancelled and will be rescheduled in the future. Commissioner Langston asked if there has been any Diversity and Equity Inclusion training for the department. Chief Kilcullen said the DEI training will be rolled out to the rest of the department following the completion of the FIT training this month. Police and Fire Departments will compete on April 30 at the Real Rutland Feud at the Paramount Theater.

Trainings

Officer Rice attended a Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Training.

Commander Delpha completed a 4-week online Conducting Proper and Effective Investigations training.

Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) training will finish this month. Cpl. Caravaggio explained that the focus was a broad spectrum of the history of racial issues in the country and law enforcement's role systemically. The state requires this training every 2 years.

Officer Rice attended an Interacting with People Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis Training on Feb. 16.

March 28-April 1 - Officers Heter and Caravaggio will attend FBI LEEDA Supervisor Institute Training in Essex.

April 5-7 will be firearms training.

Commissioner Langston asked about the report provided by Officer Rice saying she thought it could be helpful in creating a survey of the officers. Chairman Sargeant said he would add it to the April agenda.

Commissioner Romeo asked about a gel instead of pepper spray and Chief Kilcullen explained that it is the propellant that makes a difference. Commissioner Romeo said he was told about a “peeping Tom” in the area of Forest and South Streets between the hours of 2 and 3 am. Commander Sheldon said he will ask the night shift officers.

Executive Session

At 7:04 pm Commissioner Flory 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 Romeo seconded. Commissioner Flory invited Chief Kilcullen and both Commanders to participate. Motion passed 5-0.

Executive session exited at 7:58 pm.

Adjournment

Commissioner Flory moved to adjourn. Commissioner Romeo seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Meeting called to a close at 7:58 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