

Rutland City Police Commission

May 11, 2015

Present: Chairman Larry Jensen, Vice Chairman Tom Calcagni, Commissioners Sean Sargeant, Luther Brown, Michelle Fairbrother
Others Present: Acting Chief Dave Covell, Commander Kevin Geno

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

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Sargeant to accept the minutes of April 13, 2015. Motion passed.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Chief Covell swears in Probationary Police Officer Jeffrey Warfle.

Public Comment

None

Communication from the Union

None

Commander's Report

None

Chairman Jensen indicates he has spoken to Captain Tucker with reference to his Washington DC trip to the White House for the 21st Policing Report Initiative going on in the country as to sharing data sets with the public for transparencies. Rutland VT is the smallest city to be leveraging knowledge and transparencies out to the public on a quarterly basis to include crimes, stats, arrests and use of force. The Rutland Police Department will be revamping the web page and creating a new one to post this information on a quarterly basis.

Mapping Update

David Harrington present via Skype and gives a comparison for calls for service for both, the two week period and the period of Jan to April of 2014 compared to Jan to April of 2015. There was an 8.3% increase for the two week period. There was a drop of 8.6% of the top 50 calls for service. When showing the top 25 calls for service all calls for service are down 10.9% from year to date 2014 and YTD 2015. Intoxicated persons are down 31.3% from 83 to 57; Thefts are down 18.5% from 256 to 210; motor vehicle complaints are up 69.8% from 96 to 163; DUI alcohol or DUIs are up 1400% from 2 to 30.

Next David compares the Sectors 1, 2, 3 and 4 for calls for service indicating that Sector 1 is the busiest of the four for the two week period comparison showing a slight increase from 147 to 150, Sector 2 with an increase of 87 to 94; Sector 3 increased from 81 to 96 and Sector 4 increased 10 to 12.

Next reviewed is the MV Enforcement for the 2 weeks period showing anything from parking, speeding, etc. Commissioner Sargeant inquires of the geographic bias he sees and after discussions Acting Chief Covell indicates he will get together with Dave Harrington to get a different kind of breakdown to see what the drivers are and to adhere to the component of the department's strategy of reducing accidents from where they are happening for the most part. Non reportable traffic crashes are up 29.4%.

Comparison of the 4 months of 2014 to the last 4 months of 2015, larceny tends to be a significant category and they are down. Other major categories are significantly down across the board at 30.5%. Commissioner Calcagni requests that the 2013 numbers also show in this report and agreed by the commissioners. Burglaries are down 59% as compared to the same time period in 2014 and Dave Harrington will include 2013 in this report as well. Simple Assaults and Aggravated Assaults have gone from 71 in the year of 2014 to date they are down to 25, which is a significant drop of 39.4%. There is an increase in under the influence of alcohol and drugs from 2 to 34 which is a 1600% increase. Dave Harrington will be looking into the old codes with Brad GoodHale. Because of the strategy the RPD has adopted doing more directed patrols, the numbers are going down.

Chief's Report

Chief Covell indicates Sgt. Sheldon has been working on body cam manufacturers and Chief Covell shows a trial body cam by Taser that they are trying out. A temporary policy will be created with a couple of officers on different shifts wearing the body cam to create a best practice policy. Discussions held. Chief Covell indicates they thought that these would be purchased with the JAG grant monies; however, he was recently made aware that there is a special grant for departments for body cams and that Sgt. Sheldon will be working on his first grant application.

Chief Covell indicates that the paperwork has been filed on the properties that have been seized by the federal government. Discussions held. NeighborWorks is getting involved to try to eliminate the same kind of out of state owners for those properties.

Chief Covell, Commander Tucker and Officer Greene will be attending the DARE graduation. Sgt. Delpha will be speaking at the next community meeting. There is another IACP initiative on universal consent forms and Captain Tucker to return the last week of June to speak about our universal consent form. Discussions held. Commander Tucker, Sgt. Prouty and Analyst Goodhale have been accepted to do a presentation under the smaller agency groups with reference to collaboration, innovations and research.

They will be participating in Green Up Day the first week of May. Representatives of the Department went to the Dream Center party on Traverse Street a couple of weekends ago. 27 to 29 participants will be attending the Special Olympics Torch Run at the end of the month.

The Town of Swanton is interested in a Project Vision type model and Commander Tucker has spoken with their Substance Abuse Committee and they have been invited to attend our meetings.

The PBA Memorial Service is scheduled for Friday at 4:00pm off Washington St.

Vermont Police Academy graduation is scheduled for May 22 and Brian Cleveland will be graduating at 10:00am.

Chief Covell will be participating in a :30 segment with Gina Bullard from WCAX on how the department is doing since Chief Baker left.

The Neighborhood park walk and talks will be shifted to the Southwest streets. There has been positive feedback from the community with reference to the walk and talks.

Commander Geno, through the Traffic Safety Committee, will be reviewing accidents on Washington and Strongs Avenue and setting up a trial run on the traffic lights/walk lights with no right hand turn on red signal.

Personnel

As of April 27, Sgt. Prouty's position as supervisor of the Community Team in Project Vision has been made a permanent position, leaving a Sgts. position available and that will be filled by Cpl Mosher being promoted to Sergeant and will go to Nightshift 1, and Sgt. Delpha has been put in the Dayshift 1 spot. There will be a decision next week on the available BCI position; there are six candidates for that position. Officer Adam Lucia has put in for the drug recognition expert.

Upcoming Training

Jasmin Marino from Boston will be doing a presentation on Human Trafficking Training on May 28. Cpl. Dumas and Cpl. Sousa to attend an alert activation training. Best practice on active shooter tactical response has been updated. Officer Czachor and Canine Jaguar will be attending an Urban Canine Tracking Training in June. Commander Geno, Analyst GoodHale and Sgt. Prouty attended a training that will help to direct resources to traffic locations and crime locations that need more attention.

Chairman Jensen indicates that they would like to discuss scheduling a public meeting with the RUN organization, as it has been some time since they have held one. Discussions held as to the best location for one and what they can do differently with the meetings to include discussions on whether the meeting should just be on a specific topic, an outlet for the community to see what is going on in the department, mapping to name a few ideas. The commissioners find these meetings valuable and necessary to hold.

Budget Report

They are at 80% of the budget. Commissioner Calcagni inquires about the special events monies from the summer service details. Those details were federally funded last time and won't be able to do them this year.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Fairbrother to go into executive session. Motion passed.

Executive Session

The executive session began, present with police commission members, Chief Covell and Commander Geno 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
Mayor Louras