

RUTLAND CITY POLICE COMMISSION
JUNE 2, 2014

Present: Chairman Larry Jensen, Vice Chairman Tom Calcagni,
Commissioners Michelle Fairbrother, Dr. Luther Brown, Sean Sargeant
Others Present: Captain Scott Tucker, Lt. Kevin Geno, Commander David
Covell

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

Chief Baker calls up city resident, Mike Jones to recognize him for his bravery and saving the life of a distraught women on March 20, as he holds her head out of the water until fire and rescue could retrieve her from the cold water. He is given a certificate of appreciation from Rutland City Police in recognition to his selfless actions. Chief Baker would like to publicly recognize the shift on a job well done also.

David Harrington is present via net meeting and goes over the repeat incidents with graphs. Addresses to include: 1 Scale Ave, 3 incidents; 1 Shopping Plaza, 6 incidents, including more animal calls from animals in cars. Directed patrols are now being done all the time in the plaza; 102 West St, parking deck and doing extra watches to see what the traffic is. There is a lot of loitering and the department is keeping an eye on it and putting it on the radar screen. Brad will look into the mapping on a different level with looking at the bus schedule to figure out the towns where the people are coming from. Discussions held as to setting the norm and looking at the environment. Issues continue on Park Ave, 114, 115 and 117 and civil fines are being written to the landlord. Neighbors are being onlookers and giving tips on activity. Discussions held as to the lighting on that street and Chief Baker will follow up with that. 127 South St, 3 incidents, Chief to get feedback from the Sgts at the meeting tomorrow as to the domestics going on there. Other addresses of repeat incidents include: 127 Strongs Ave, 135 Grove St, 14 Hopkins, 160 Allen St, 21 Curtis Ave, 238 S Main St, Cramton Ave, 38 Forest St, 411 West St, 43 Summer St, 60/67 Library Ave, 78 Harrison Ave, all these locations will be addressed at the Rutstat meeting and strategize.

A breakdown of sectors for citizen disputes, family disturbances and domestic abuse order violations were requested at the last meeting and Dave Harrington shows a 12 month breakdown of such incidents. There were

450 citizen disputes, 275 family disturbances and 25 Domestic Abuse Violations.

Discussions held with reference to the heat chart with all three sectors for the time frame of June through labor day. Warm weather patterns are discussed along with the hot spots in the city. Chief Baker indicates they will audit with Brad at the Rutstat meeting tomorrow the numbers for domestic order violations. Cleaning up the date has been an ongoing process and overall, it looks pretty good.

May minutes approved, as no additions or corrections are addressed.

Public comments

Park Avenue residents address the fact that they are seeing a change on their street as the patrols have stepped up.

Communication from the Union

None

Sergeants report

Sgt. Prouty indicates he is on Daywatch Shift 1 and indicates that Officer Lorman is back from the task force and still getting settled and will be a great asset to bring to the table. FTO school is completed. Officer Ed Dumas, who is a great leader for young officers, was FTO for Officer Ashe. Officer Alger is through FTO and is doing a great job. Officer Klementowski took the lead as the coordinator with the torch run and did an excellent job getting everyone involved this year, including the fire department, police and others. Lt. Geno indicates that it was the biggest turnout ever.

Sgt. Prouty indicates that the streets are busy and saturating areas is a challenge. They are setting up directed patrols and keeping officers on their assignments. The department is trying to reenergize themselves. Trying to refocus to get motivation back. There is a lot of intel being fed to Brad GoodHale and he is passing along information. Looking for feedback from managers of downtown buildings and the railroad. Since a year and a half ago, there have been several positive changes in the neighborhoods. In the northwest neighborhoods, people are now out and walking the neighborhoods.

Budget report

As of the end of May, the budget was at 89.16%, being a total expenditure of the budget at 91.7%. A lot of loose ends were taken care of this year.

Chief's report

There are 38 sworn positions filled. Interviews of 3 candidates, with no prior experience are scheduled over the next two weeks for the February class at the VT Police Academy with FTO up front.

Russell Schauer has been hired to fill one of the vacant dispatcher positions and begins 6/8, he comes with 15 years experience from the Barre City Police Department. There are interviews scheduled for the last dispatcher position on Wednesday with Commander Covell, Lt. Geno and Sgt. Prouty.

The Corporal test is being put together under the leadership of Sgt. Tarbell. There is one name left on the list. Graduation for Officers Murphy and Rosario will be held on the 23rd of July and will be finishing up with their field training after post basic and will be on their own in July. Officer Jen Czachor has graduated from Basic Canine Drug Detection School at the academy with patrol school scheduled for 2 days for 4 weeks and 12 weeks after beginning July 2.

Project Vision

Discussions held as to fundraisers for project vision including Steve Sawyer at Table 24 along with a golf tournament. We are working with Tracy Moore from United Way. The need to explore grants and non traditional grants. There will be a representative from Hoosick Falls NY at the next Vision meeting to focus on heroin problems. Discussions held as to Orla Dundas working on window boxes on Cleveland Avenue and donating her time, money and talents. Small independent donations have been received. Discussions held as to low level funding, fundraising. Chief Baker indicates that they are keeping on task with the financial piece.

There is a meeting scheduled with the US Attorney's office set for Thursday with Chief Baker and Captain Tucker to discuss strategies.

Discussions held as to focusing on DMI and wanting Brad to walk them through it next month.

Training

There is a training on Thursday with the Vermont State Police for the crisis negotiation unit. Chief Baker supports the 4 or 5 officers that have not gone yet, going to the 40 hour FBI school in July; Sgt. Sheldon will be attending this years annual Chief's Conference, as Sgt. Prouty did last year; The staff will be attending a human trafficking school on June 9, Cpl. Lachance is an active participant in human trafficking; Officer Klementowski will attend RAD school.

Motion made by Commissioner Fairbrother and seconded by Commissioner Brown to change the language of the expenditure plan to accept the amended equipment. Motion passed.

Discussions held as to equitable sharing, asset forfeiture, budget guiding principles and the Rutland City Police language.

A meeting is being scheduled with Jody Breault to facilitate the update strategic planning on the year end budget when Chairman Jensen is available.

Discussions held as to the disappointment of the verdict in the stabbing case of Officer Nguyen. Chief Baker indicates he is proud of the three commanders that spent three days in the courtroom and the support of the officers in and out of the courtroom. Captain Tucker indicates that Damon is not a victim, he is a survivor. Chief Baker indicates that he could not be more proud of his testimony as it was riveting. A meeting will be held with the State's Attorneys and will report back at the next meeting.

The domestic violence team is working hard on receiving the domestic violence grant. It has been reported that the Rutland City Police Department has reflected well with the process by the Federal Government. Phase 2 continues with a conference call with the team and they are trying to present the grant request to fit in with what has been built with the upstairs.

There is an opiate summit scheduled for June 16. Mayor Louras will be the keynote speaker and Captain Tucker has been invited to speak.

Motion made at 7:53pm to go into executive session. Motion passed.

Executive session

The executive session began, present are all police commission members, Chief Baker, Captain Tucker, Lt. Geno and Commander Covell to discuss

matters that if disclosed publicly at this time, could placed the City, the Department or an employee of the department at risk. Those matters include contract negotiations, pending litigations, criminal activity, budget issues and sensitive personnel issues.

Submitted by:

Nancy Manning

Cc: Rutland Police Commission

Chief James Baker

Captain Scott Tucker

Lt. Kevin E. Geno

Mayor Chris Louras

City Clerk Henry Heck

Board of Aldermen

Union President Lynn Gallipo

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July, 2014

Attending and typing meeting minutes for the Rutland City Police
Commission on 7/02/14

\$85.00