

Rutland City Police Commission

June 8, 2015

Present: Chairman Larry Jenson, Vice Chairman Tom Calcagni, Commissioners Michelle Fairbrother, Sean Sargeant and Luther Brown

Others present: Acting Chief Dave Covell, Commander Tucker and Commander Geno

Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Vice Chairman Calcagni

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Fairbrother to accept the minutes of May 11, 2015. Motion passed.

Introduction/Recognition of Police Department Members

Promotion of Officer Dumas to Corporal. Acting Chief Covell indicates Cpl. Dumas is a valuable member of the department in CFAC and has done a good job and will remain in the SIU position for the time being. Cpl. Dumas is sworn in.

Swearing in of new Probationary Officer Elizha Heter.

Chairman Jensen takes the meeting over and asks if there are any public comments, there being none.

Commander's Report

Commander Tucker reports to the commissioners an update on Project Vision and the open data initiative. He indicates that there was new news in April. The committee of the Project Vision had reported their accomplishments throughout 2014 and did an annual report with some of the numbers. One of the main outcomes is that burglaries are down of comparing the years 2013 and 2014 by 34%. There are two college interns that have been working with Brad GoodHale. First quarter records show a decrease of 51%.

Sgt. Prouty is working on the Drug Market Place Intervention with a recidivism goal of reducing it by 50%. The director from probation and parole oversees Rutland and Addison Counties. There are two re-entry teams with 6 people each and they have interviewed approximately 7 candidates that are being released from jail to see if they fit in the program. There are 6 or 8 in the program now and Sgt. Prouty communicates with them once a week and he attends treatment court to follow their success. In addition, this has grown into a focus with P&P of high risk offenders. Amy and Corey from P&P focus on domestic violence offenders with Amy and a team of 4 parole officers working with domestic offenders, focusing on those offenders by the Project Vision. There is interest from DCF investigators with working with us. Pastors Rogers and Mueley have accepted leadership positions. DEDACT has been implemented and headed by Chief Covell with Sgt. Prouty and Brad GoodHale. They are also working towards community awareness of human trafficking with Sgt. Prouty. Sgt. Prouty developed a training program and was well received with 70 people attending to include the support of the State's Attorney's office, Social Services, Corrections and Law Enforcement.

Sgt. Sam Delpha headed up a community neighborhood and housing program lead by Gail Johnson in the Southwest section of the city.

NeighborWorks is working on housing revitalization. Some of the homes to be torn down, have been identified. There are 29 to 32% of the homes are owner occupied in the northwest section of the City and are trying to increase that number to 50%.

Commander Tucker reports other things that are going on with Project Vision to include: a flower box program; Substance abuse awareness, implementing drug based programs; NeighborWorks working on a photo voice project; Turning Point center is doing more of the recovery movement through the state. Discussions held. Commander Tucker indicates he believes that the numbers look good as to people that were committing crimes, due to drugs are no longer committing the crimes.

Mapping Update

David Harrington reports on a different format, in addition to looking at the Rutland model to see how well it is or is not working. He reports on the projections based on the trend for the year end.

Larceny crimes for 2012 to 2013, 2014 - 594 in 2012, 614 in 2013 and down to 533 in 2014. The first five months were broken down to compare to 2015, 217, 247 234 and 152, will have 380 by year's end based on the projection on reported larceny crime which is down 38% from 2013 and 29% from 2014.

David did same analysis for shoplifting trends for the first 5 months totals of 150, 213 and 169 for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

64 burglaries by year's end, a decrease from 50% from 2014 and 60% from 2013.

Quality of life improvements in neighborhoods, citizen disputes, quarrels, disturbing the peace, disorderly conducts have been trending downward for 5 months 525, 483, 431 and 347 for years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Chairman Jensen indicates that you can't point to one thing as to what is making a difference to why Project Vision is working, and states that it is a combination of efforts to include directed patrols, visibility and community commitment.

Commander Tucker continues with the Project Vision Center encompassing the Rutland Women's Network, Rutland Mental Health, Attorney General's Office, Parent/Child Center, College interns, Probation & Parole, Crisis Network, all interfacing with the Police Department and feedback is good.

There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes with State and Federal Partners with the human trafficking piece by the Community Response team lead by AC Officer Tim Jones, Brad GoodHale, School Resource Officer Greene and Downtown Beat Officer Blongy.

Commander Tucker addresses the 21st Policing Data Reporting Initiative held in Washington, D.C. and reports what he took away from the meeting, to include three open data sets to share with the public: crimes/arrests, stats and Use of Force. Ways to publicize the information is through Community meetings, Rutland City website which is going to be redesigned with building transparencies and trust.

The city has been contacted by another producer Ester Goldman from Paris, France wanting to visit and three areas she wants to emphasize on to include work done by: volunteers, police agencies and health agencies.

Chairman Jensen indicates that everything that is going on upstairs, it is helping with the recruiting.

There is a Rutland's Rally for Recovery block party by Evergreen scheduled for July 11 from 1pm to 5pm with the support of Project Vision.

There are several communities interested in the way we are doing Project Vision and Swanton Police attended a RutStat meeting and Commander Tucker has been invited to attend the VT Counsel of Rural Development. In October a presentation will be given for Project Vision as a prelude to the ICAP.

Chief Covell, Commanders Tucker and Geno have met with Steve Costello of Green Mountain Power and are having talks about lighting and how to spruce up the Rutland Shopping Plaza.

Commander Tucker and Sgt. Prouty have accepted an invitation to participate in a panel discussion on community engagement on Terrorism by Chief James Baker at Rutger's Symposium.

There are ongoing discussions as to what to do with the properties that go into civil forfeiture as the Task Force, FBI and the Rutland City Police Department are working hard to having those cases brought to forfeiture.

Chairman Jensen indicates that Commander Tucker has been doing well as Executive Director of Project Vision.

Budget

Chief Covell indicates that they are at the 90% mark and he is confident that at the end of the fiscal year, they will be under budget. Expenditures include compensation time buyouts, however calculations will be 30% less than last year; and the Animal Control Vehicle will be replaced and trying to achieve that by the end of this month.

Chief's Report

Personnel

The staffing is at 38 with the new hire of Officer Heter. There is one good candidate who may be offered a position as there is a chief's interview tomorrow which will make the staffing 39. One officer is leaving for another department closer to his hometown. There are two applicants out to background and that is looking good.

This week Sgts. Delpha and Mosher have started their assignments and Det. Cpl. Souza has started in BCI. There are two open Corporals positions for Nighshift with 4 officers interested in those positions. The selection will be made this week.

Officer Warfle has completed his FTO assignment and is operating on his own. Officer Angelo is on FTO and will be on his own in a couple of weeks.

There was a proclamation of appreciation about the lights at the last Board of Aldermen meeting for Commander Geno and The Department of Public Works with reference to the commitment to traffic safety.

Cpl. Lorman received recognition by the New England Narcotic Enforcement Officer Association for his work with the drug task force on drug investigation work starting back in 2014 and 2015.

Chief Covell appeared on the WCAX :30 Update Program to provide information on the progress made in Rutland City.

The PBA memorial ceremony was well attended and there was positive feedback from family members.

The click it or ticket for Southern part of the state was led by Commander Geno with a great outcome.

Nora Moore, Emily Leinoff and Ryan Brady will be working on the alarm updates in CAD and sending out letters to in hopes of eliminating false alarms calls.

The Spanos sentencing is scheduled for June 16, in White River Junction and Cpl. Dumas will appear along with others from the department.

Upcoming Training

Det. Sgt. LaChance and Chief Covell will be attending the Chief's conference. Cpl. Lorman and Officer Klementowski attended an FBI training; Officer Czachor will be attending a canine urban tracking training at the VT Police Academy this week. Officer Hunt will be attending Glock Armor Training in July. Dispatchers will be attending a fair and impartial training in August. Animal Control Officer Jones will attend training covering animal cruelty in July, and in August Cpl. Souza will attend the VT State Police training on Death.

Motion made by Commissioner Luther and seconded by Commissioner Fairbrother to go into executive session at 7:20 p.m.

Executive Session

The executive session began, present with police commission members and Chief Covell, 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 members
City Clerk Henry Heck
Board of Aldermen
Union President Lynn Gallipo
Mayor Louras