

Rutland City Police Commission Minutes
July 13, 2020

Present: Chairman Sean Sargeant; Commissioners Luther Brown, Tom Calcagni, Chris Siliski, Tony Romeo

Others present: Commander Matt Prouty, Analyst Brad Goodhale and Chief Kilcullen, Alderwoman Lisa Ryan, Aldermen Tom DePoy and Kevin Leifaber

Virtual meeting called to order by Chairman Sargeant according to the Stay Home Stay Safe orders with a modified agenda. Meeting opened with Chief Kilcullen giving a report of the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and the day to day issues. He has spoken to City Emergency Manager Lovett to get the status and it is indicated that they are in a Stand Down mode. There have been no regular briefings citywide within the last month or so. Chief Kilcullen indicates that they will keep the EOC in place for now and if the room needs to be used for another purpose, they can reset the room.

Public comment

Designated speaker, Jennie Gartner, addresses the commissioners as to community policing in reaction to the current situation or awareness in the USA. She indicates that they have created a group of community members to make sure that Rutland remain on the forefront with types of training and the kind of policing that they want to have and want more of and indicates that the group will be an asset to create a system. Chairman Sargeant responds and indicates that Rutland is in a good position and welcomes the help and would like more people involved with how they are policed. Chief Kilcullen indicates that much of the community outreach is done through Project Vision. Issues were raised and addressed to include: Policy and Oversight, which is done through the police commission with the opportunity for the public to offer any development; Software, to communicate with people that call for service; Community police and crime reduction, working with community and collaborate solutions with meaningful results for the community, as addressed in the strategic plan; Training and Education, a de-escalation training was completed by 5 officers to train the trainers and will roll out this summer or early September; Officer Wellness and Safety, not much community involvement in this pillar as there is a psychologist for that purpose. Discussions held as to: Are officers being educated to use for conduits and Chief Kilcullen responds that this is done through the Rutstat process and partly by Project Vision; Is data being collected as per the Senate S219 requirements, Chief Kilcullen responds that the traffic stop data is being collected as mandated and indicates no body cams yet as they are lacking IT capabilities.

Other issues addressed: crime and intelligence analysis; informing the community about the kind of system that the City Police have in place and positive things that they are doing, wants to know how they can move forward and expand on the great work that has already been done. Chairman Sargeant indicates that the commission is the ears and they want people involved. Commander Prouty indicates that he thinks adding neighborhood engagement in their strategic plan is something to be addressed.

Jennie would like to know how they can foster this environment and she is hopeful that the department can continue communication with her group and the police commission. She would like to expand on the great work that has already been done.

Chairman Sargeant addresses the previous complaints from Bardwell House resident Wallace Nolan and indicates that Mr. Wallace's first complaint with reference to the civil matter is that the police commission should not get involved with it. The second complaint Mr. Wallace had was related to a violation he received for a U turn that he didn't feel was justified. Commander Sheldon had responded in detail and finds no basis for the complaint. Mr. Wallace's third complaint was for a Hippa violation with the conclusion by Commander Sheldon that no member has ever violated Hippa and the fourth complaint that Mr. Wallace had was a traffic ticket for a crosswalk. Sgt. Lucia had written a ticket according to his training in law and how to act. All complaints have been closed.

Crime Research Group member, Chris Louras, addresses the police commission with a Zero Justice Statistics Grant Report project. He would like the departments in-put as to a series of reports that could be run every month and he addresses over a list of proposed research questions to include in the report.

One of the pieces of the grant proposal, what do we need to collect that we are not collecting now. He indicates there is a list of potential report questions or research questions that they recognize that there is no statewide effort to create year after year for police reports. Looking to three groups: law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Vermont, local legislative bodies and stakeholders at large are the public who are served by law enforcement agencies.

Chairman Sargeant responds to the presentation and indicates that it is very inciteful and indicates that the questions are broad, and he can't see the big picture. He indicates that he thinks there are three things missing or need to be considered to include: race data being reported as the officer's perception to comply with S219; talk about locations, havoc doesn't need to be addressed, but surrogates, day of week, time of day and heat maps; and social economics. Discussions held. Mr. Louras indicates that is great feedback. Chief Kilcullen indicates that the Commanders, Analyst and Chief can meet with Mr. Louras for a couple of hours and Mr. Louras welcomes the opportunity to spend time with them.

Chairman Sargeant addresses Directive Number 202 - Response to Resistance that has been distributed and indicates that the City Attorney is in the process of approving. He asks that they review that policy. He next addresses the Duty to Intervene in the action of another officer policy that is not in place and will want to take that up in the coming months. Freedom of Information Act, there not being a policy in place to include fees.

Commander updates

Commander Sheldon indicates that it has been a long month between the Covid explosion and the officer involved shooting. He indicates the department managed quite well. Back in

October, the Peer support Unit had three peer support members, which has now been increased to 9 and that may still not be enough.

They are working on the De-escalation class that they began in December/January and Covid pulled the rug up.

Officer Delehanty was going to do PSA (Public service announcements), however because of Covid, he has been doing traffic safety and he will begin PSAs again.

Commander Sheldon indicates that the officer injured in the shooting incident is waiting for the doctor to let him come back to work as he is being treated for his injuries.

Commander Prouty indicates they have been very busy. The Strategic plan has been finished and he is excited about it. We were struggling "building great neighborhoods" and have come up with Community Health, Youth Engagement and Neighborhood engagement. The grant process has been completed by Commander Prouty and Joe Kraus.

Finishing up Meghan Clark, human trafficking, funding for the next year. Sgt. Dickerson is learning about grants.

He indicates that Lisa has been helpful to him in the sub-committee and is looking to working together in the community policing portion and in the community engagement side.

An Americorp Vista volunteer has been found. Rene Buskey, Dept of Health was instrumental in making that happen and he is excited for that.

Commander Lachance indicates Ryan Brady, the new evidence tech is doing well. The audit has been complete. Everything is in order in the evidence room and they will be making some changes and things will be more sufficient

Chief's Report

6/25 – Chairman Sargeant and Chief Kilcullen sat in on the Fair and Impartial Policing

6/26 - Dave Wolk reached out and provided t-shirts and magnets showing appreciation of schools

7/5 – Project Vision meeting held virtually and partially in person

Chief Kilcullen participated in a Webinar of a National Group that develops state specific policy and has access to the recording and will forward it to get a sense of intervening before the policy comes out.

Eight officers who had been exposed to a positive Covid person, have all tested negative and have since returned to work. Chief Kilcullen will look into the fact that the testing was not covered by workman's compensation even though it was a work-related exposure.

Chairman Sargeant calls the meeting to a close at 7:26pm.

Submitted by:

Nancy Manning

Cc: Chief Brian Kilcullen
Board of Aldermen President
Henry Heck, City Clerk
Mayor David Allaire
Police Commission
Union President