

RUTLAND POLICE COMMISSION

August 11, 2014

Present: Chairman Larry Jensen, Vice Chairman Thomas Calcagni, Commissioners Sean Sargeant, Dr. Luther Brown and Michelle Fairbrother

Not Present: Chief James Baker

Others Present: Captain Scott Tucker, Lt. Kevin Geno and Commander David Covell

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Jensen

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Brown to accept the minutes of July 14, 2014. Motion passed. Commissioner Fairbrother abstains, as she was not present at the last meeting.

Chairman Jensen congratulates Sgt. Jamie Tarbell for the contribution he has made to the department for the last 34 years, as he is retiring at the end of the month. He is recognized by Chairman Jensen for the work with the highway safety program. One of the very significant contributions is that he was a firearm instructor. Chairman Jensen thanks him for the help and support he had given the department upon the change to the new Chief three years ago.

Public Comment

Cam Johnston inquires if the traffic safety committee answers to the Police Commissioners and would like to know about the number of accidents on Woodstock Avenue. Chairman Jensen responds and indicates that the traffic safety committee does not report to the commissioners. Lt. Geno keeps the commission up to date with information from the Traffic Safety Committee. Discussions held as to the accidents for the last month on Woodstock Avenue. Cam Johnston inquires if he can get the statistics of the Woodstock Avenue accidents on a regular basis and Lt. Geno indicates that he can do that for him.

Sergeant's Report

Sgt. Sheldon reports on the southwest section of the city. He indicates they have been doing knock and talks in the neighborhood and have had calls at 129 River St, which they have spoken to the homeowner about, 17 Pine St and 34 Forest St. and are watching these locations. The Southwest sector has been holding meetings once a month on the last Thursday of the month at the Dream Center and addressing issues including adopting neighborhoods and expanding in the Southwest sector. They are trying to pull more of the community into the monthly meetings. The officers are stressing to the public that when something is going on in the neighborhood, to give the Police Department a call at the time, otherwise the issues can't be addressed. There is a block party scheduled for Sunday at 3:00 on Cherry and Brown Streets. Canine Officer Jen Czachor is going full time to the academy for canine patrol until November 7, 2014. Officer Nathan Harvey is at the academy, making the shift down three officers, including the SIU position. Help is being given for the Northwest sector of the city, as Sgt. Prouty's sector is the main focus as there is more going on in those neighborhoods. Discussions held.

City Attorney Charles Romeo does a power point presentation belonging to the VT Leagues of Cities and Town on "Open Meeting Law" and the changes that have been made. Information gone over includes: the open meeting law definition, except for executive sessions, applied to a

public body of municipality; definition of a meeting; explanation of what is not a meeting; public document and open meeting laws; public notice; electronic participation guidelines posting of and agenda rules; the difference between a meeting in the public vs. a meeting for the public; changes in the minutes; quasi deliberative bodies; giving reasons to go into executive sessions; premature release of information; exemptions and penalties and enforcement. Discussions held.

A flyer had been handed out for a Benefit concert, "Vermonters for Vermonters" with various performances including Joey Leone. All proceeds benefit Project Vision; Vermont Recovery Network and Dismas House.

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Fairbrother at 6:50pm, to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. Motion passed.

Executive session

The executive session began, present are police commission members, Captain Tucker, Lt. Geno and Commander 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. 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