

***Rutland Police Commission
September 8, 2014***

Present: Chairman Larry Jensen, Commissioners Sean Sargeant, Michelle Fairbrother,
Dr. Luther Brown and Chief James Baker

Not Present: Vice Chairman Tom Calcagni

Others Present: Commanders Kevin Geno and David Covell

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

Motion made by Commissioner Fairbrother and seconded by Commissioner Sargeant to approve the minutes of August 11, 2014. Motion passed.

Chief Baker performs a swearing in ceremony for Det. David Lachance and his family promoting him to Detective Sgt. for BCI. Chief Baker indicates he has dedicated his life to criminal investigations and is striving to get better. He is one of the best interviewers and interrogators and is a part of the leadership team. Chief Baker introduces Bryant Cleveland, who will be attending the basic training at the VPA for a part time position and will be in field training from now to February, until he goes to the academy. Chief Baker indicates it is a very good find for the City of Rutland. Chief Baker reports including dispatch hires, this makes his 25th hire since he began with the department.

Mapping

Dave Harrington present via Skype to give the latest numbers to the Board showing calls for service between 8/24/14 to 9/6/14, comparing them to the previous two weeks. Overall, he indicates top 25 calls for service including disorderly conduct, stray animals and wanted person calls are up 14.8%, which is a pretty significant jump. Discussions held as to the 5.8% calls for service that were generated by the fair. Overall the top 20 incident reports are up 17.2%, including animal problems, citizen disputes, intoxicated person, family disturbances are on top of the list. Lt. Geno indicates that people are calling in all animals in vehicles, including the ones that the windows are down and not so hot days. David Harrington breaks down the numbers with each sector with the heat chart. Sector 1 up 8.2%, the historically busiest sector. Sector 2 includes fairground with spike of 38.6%. Sector 3, no change from last time period. Sector 4 shows a 37.5% increase. Traffic crashes are down 6.3% and the department will take a look at traffic enforcement more strongly. DUI checkpoints are being done as part of the strategy to lower activities in the neighborhoods. Working on a demonstration for social media with reference to the mapping. Discussions held.

Public Comment

Bill indicates that he had called dispatch to find out where the meeting was and they were not aware. Chief Baker will inform them about the meetings so that if the public needs to know, they will have that information.

Communication from the union

None

Sgts. Report

Sgt. Stevens relayed to Sgt. Sheldon that the fair went well and they came in under budget. Sgt. Sheldon oversees Nightshift II. Officer Murphy is now on his shift. Sgt. Prouty has moved to project vision and his shift is now covered by Acting Cpl. Dumas and Acting Sgt. Lorman. Officer Czachor is doing very well at the academy. Officer Harvey is still at the academy and is doing very well and he is one of the highest candidates. Sgt. Bartlett is Nightshift I and Officer Rosario is on that shift. Cpl. Mosher is in training for Team 2, the mental health response work place safety. Sgt. Prouty is helping with the canine at the VT Police Academy. Sgt. Sheldon reports that the foot traffic is one at 129 River St; there have not been any calls from 77 School Street, the Youth Center. Discussions held.

Budget

The department is two months into the yearly budget. Chief Baker indicates that there is not a lot to report and indicates they are right on target. Discussions held as to the encumbered monies in the uniforms and canine lines. They are well below the overtime number right now as they are conscious of calling in employees to cover shifts for overtime. Corporals are being asked to step up and cover shifts. A couple of the old cars have been kept around and they have generated \$12,000 in revenue and will generate approximately \$25,000 from outside services to year 3 on the cars. Discussions held on Commissioner Sargeant's inquiry of next year's budget as to the staffing.

Chief's report

Newest dispatch hire Emily Leinoff will be brought into the next meeting for introductions to the Commissioners next month. Dispatch is now fully staffed. Sworn officers are down to 36 with 4 vacancies, due to retirement of Sgt. Tarbell at the beginning of the month, sworn officers are down to 36, with 4 vacancies. They are working with four viable candidates for possible hire. A new Corporals list has been established. There is one person left, Cpl. Sam Delpha, on the Sergeants list and are talking internally about a new Sergeants list. Lt. Geno has created a new personnel form for Administrative Assistant Zambon to use to help clean up personnel files. Chief Baker indicates he wants to make changes to the way awards are presented as he no longer wants them presented at the Policeman's Ball and wants to the honor officer of the year in a formal ceremony. Discussions held. Chief Baker wants ideas, so he can settle on a new process within the next month.

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the outside employee request of Bryant Cleveland to work at Enterprise Rental Service. Motion passed.

Training

Sgt. Prouty and Chief Baker attended a results based accountability training with Vision in Northfield on Friday. Chief Baker indicates it will fit nicely with data stuff and strategic planning; yearly firearms training is complete; Ken Mosher and Advocate Jen Firpo to complete the mandatory domestic violence training; Evidence Clerk Laurie Walters will be headed to an Evidence Room Training in Maine with possible crime scene photography down the road; Brad GoodHale has been attending VT and NY trainings, explaining contacts and opportunities; Animal Control Officer Tim Jones is in Animal Control

Officer training and working on backup to Sam Delpha on the physical fitness training. Mayor Louras has put out the protocol effective next week with reference to all city employees banning hand held cell phones while driving. Besides the watch guard car cameras, they department is looking into body cameras as another enhancement to raise the professionalism of the department. Sgt. Sly is looking into this.

Discussions held with reference to the update of the 26 federal defendants that have been charged since 2012 of cases that fit the DMI model. There will be a public meeting to be held at the Paramount at 5:00 on 10/20/14 with Consultant David Kennedy present with reference to our DMI model. A write up will be presented to the public where we are in the DMI process and strategy.

Three new cars are ordered. Construction season is very challenging for the department. DUI numbers are going up and Sgt. Bartlett and Sgt. Sheldon are focusing on DUIs for the nightshifts. Letters are going out to bars owners upon arrests that come out of their establishments.

Neighborhood meetings to start soon. Chief Baker wants to give a shout out to Resource Officer Green for the push in the schools of BCI people in uniform, probation and parole and corrections to be out with the kids at the different locations.

As of 9/1/14, we will be collecting race data on tickets and written warnings.

Motion made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Sargeant to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters and contracts at 7:20pm. Motion passed.

Executive session

The executive session began, present are police commission members, 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.

Motion made by Commissioner Fairbrother and seconded by Commissioner Brown to come out of executive session. Motion passed.

Submitted by:

Nancy Manning

Cc: Rutland Police Commission
Chief James Baker
Captain Scott Tucker
Lt. Kevin Geno
Mayor Chris Louras
City Clerk Henry Heck
Board of Aldermen
Union President Lynn Gallipo