

Rutland City Police Department

October 13, 2014

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

Others Present: Commanders Scott Tucker, Kevin Geno, David Covell

Call to Order by Chairman Jensen at 6:00pm

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the minutes for September 8, 2014 with no additions or corrections. Motion passed.

Introductions are made of the commissioners and the public present.

Chief Baker makes introductions: Emily Leinoff, who has been hired as a civilian dispatcher, making her the 6th and final dispatcher. Chief Baker indicates she is a quality hire and looks forward to the energy that she brings; two officers are sworn in recognizing them from Probationary Police Officers to Police Officers, Officers Elias Anderson and Charles Whitehead with his canine; Probationary Police Officer Bryant Cleveland, who is headed to the VT Police Academy.

Sergeant's report

Sgt. Prouty is now assigned to the Drug Market Intervention Program (DMI) in the VISION Center and off his regular shift. He explains the program and what he has been doing upstairs. He indicates they have seven people in the program. His focus is to keep track of conditions of release and treatment court conditions of the participants and to follow the participants and make sure that they are doing what they need to do and if not, then sanctions are imposed. He, along with probation and parole have been out checking on the top 25 probationers that probation and parole have identified as high risk offenders. He follows up on tips that come into the department and is responding to assist the patrol officers whenever he can. Chief Baker indicates he is proud of the work that Sgt. Prouty is doing and indicates that none of the participants have been charged with new offenses since they have been in the program. The goal of the program is for the participants not to reoffend. With the help of Brad GoodHale, and creating a data base, they are able to do a better job of tracking and sharing information with other law enforcement agencies.

Mapping

David Harrington is present via power point demonstration. He is reporting from the period of 9/21/14 to 10/4/14. He indicates that the top 25 calls for service are up 18 1/2 % from the previous 2 week period. He reports that suspicious circumstances are up, but that is not a bad thing as that is showing that the community is making calls to the department when they see something going on and Chief Baker indicates that is what they want them to do. Discussions held. Chief Baker indicates that they will step back and re-look at what is driving the numbers, if they continue to go up.

He then shows the progress report and the changes from 2013 to 2014 showing the first 3 quarters from the period of January through September and indicates that they are down 10 1/2 %. All Sectors are down with the biggest decrease in Sector 2, which is encouraging. They are still on track for the year to see the numbers down across the board. He then does the comparison of the top 50 calls for service to include: suspicious persons/circumstances, theft, family fight/domestics, burglary alarms, animal problems. Discussions held.

Numbers for the top 10 calls for service from Quarter 1 to Quarter 3 show that: suspicious persons -1.3%, theft -20.2%, citizen dispute 3.5%, family fight/domestic -24.3%, burglary alarm 35.8%, animal problem 34.9%, controlled substance problem 8.5%, intoxicated person 40.8%, motor vehicle complaint 1.6%, juvenile problem 16.0%

Chief Baker indicates that it is a huge difference having different partners in the VISION Center as they have the help in the same building and they will be focusing on intoxicated persons as they are up 40.8% showing that there is a huge alcohol problem in the city and they will be looking for monies inside Rutland Mental Health to work on the problem.

David Harrington next does a recap on the top 10 officer response from Quarters 1, 2, and 3. Discussions held and Chief Baker indicates as moving into 2015, the focus is how to drive those numbers down.

David Harrington then reports by Sectors showing the top incidents along with the heat charts. Reporting on Sector 1, Sector 2 top 15 incidents, 53 compared to 50, up 6%, Sector 3, top 20 incidents up, 2.0%; Sector 4, top 4 incident reports (12/9 +33%).

Traffic crashes are up 16% for the period, Chief Baker indicates that they are still working on the crash data. David indicates that the plaza calls for service has dropped off the radar screen and that the numbers are going in the right direction.

Chairman Jensen inquires about a joint meeting with RUN and Commander Geno will look into that.

Chairman Jensen indicates he would like to look into the possibility of moving the meeting 2 hours earlier or 1 hour later than the current scheduled time. Discussions held and this discussion has been put on hold.

Public comment

None

Communication from union

None

Budget report

Chief Baker indicates he has started working on the numbers personnel, health insurance, worker's compensation, oil and fuel for FY16 and he will be meeting with the Mayor in the next two weeks and indicates it will be a very challenging year. He is looking for feedback from the

Police Commission. Discussions held. He indicates that the fleet is in good shape as they have received the last three new cars.

Commander Tucker speaks about Project VISION and gives an update of the central point of management and the great influence on what is happening in the community. He goes over 19 points that he feels are important, to include the crime analysis unit, information sharing within and outside the department, the relationships that have been created, visual data, RUTSTAT and others. He indicates that the Dream Center has adopted School St.; weekly luncheons with different topics discussed, last week Curtiss Reed was present and they discussed race relations with regard to use of force; there was a benefit at Table 24 and \$16,000 was raised with half of that being donated; trying to put together a meeting with the Attorney Generals with partners to discuss the strategy for the State of VT with reference to opiates. Accomplishments include the Cleveland Ave. curb appeal program, the efforts of Mayor Louras with the removal of the house on Pine St. being taken down, relocating half of the employees that were affected by the fire. Discussions continue on the focus of high risk offenders coming out of the jails and transitioning them into the community. Fund raiser of the Michael O'Malley road race may bring in \$3,500 with 100-120 participants. Discussions held with reference to the DMI program indicating that Sam Capogrossi is supervising 14 participants and are moving Rutland Version of the Drug Market Intervention based on VT drug Task Force and the Assistant Attorney General's office is handling the offers with reference to the 7 people that Sgt. Prouty talked about. They are continuing to move forward.

Chief's report

Chief Baker indicates that they are at 36 sworn positions. He says that they are struggling with staffing due to illnesses and are modifying duty. There are two out in the background phase and two are out of the process. Interviews are scheduled. Officers Lorman and Mosher are in Acting Sergeant roles. There are two dispatchers out on medical leave and Emily and Russ have picked up the slack. They are in the interview process for the BCI position and the focus is to bring it back to where they ought to be. Officer Dumas to fill the SFAC at the SIU and Mosher to the General Investigation position upstairs. Sgt. LaChance is in BCI and he is doing an incredible job.

Chief Baker indicates that he has scheduled December 10 at 10:00am to hold the first citizen department awards ceremony at the Paramount to give out yearly awards, to include any recognitions for citizen awards.

The PT testing is complete and will have a full report by next month on the results. Officer Tim Jones is mentoring with people that have failed in the past.

Jody Breault is pushing wellness and has something going on once a month.

Professor Kennedy, who was just selected by AG Holder to work on community building nationally, comes to town next Monday and will attend a breakfast at the Innovation Center for the downtown people and will be at the Paramount at 5:30pm. Discussions held.

Chief Baker has been doing neighborhood walks with another one scheduled for tomorrow on Library Avenue.

Commander Tucker has been invited to do a presentation at the New England Health Conference on Project VISION.

Chief Baker has received an appointment to a National Law Enforcement Review Project.

Motion made by Commissioner Sergeant and seconded by Commissioner Brown to go into executive session to address personnel issues and contract matters.

Executive session

The executive session began, present with police commission members, Chief Baker, Commanders Tucker, Geno and 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, City Clerk Henry Heck, Board of Aldermen,
Union President Lynn Gallipo