

Rutland City Police Commission

December 8, 2014

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

Meeting called to order 6:00 by Chairman Jensen. Others present: Chief Baker, Commanders Geno and Covell

Chairman Jensen inquires if there are any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 10, 2014 meeting. Hearing none; minutes approved.

Chief Baker gives background information and makes introductions of the three new officers. Officers Daniel Meytin, full time certified; Andrew Clemmons, part time certified and Justin Barrell, full time certified.

Public comment

Tony Romeo asks that Sgt. Greg Sheldon and Chief Baker accept a donation from the Rutland Veterans Council of \$250 for the honor guard and Chief Baker indicates that this money will be put towards dress blouses. Tony also commends the Chief for the accomplishments he has made at the Rutland City Police Department.

Motion made by Commissioner Sargeant and seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve Commander Dave Covell as Acting Police Chief. Motion passed.

Motion made by Commissioner Fairbrother to nominate Joan Gamble as their representative to the Police Chief Search committee. With no other nominations, the motion passed. The committee is made up of: The five members of the Police Commission, the President of the Board of Aldermen, Art Crowley, Chairman of the Public Safety committee, Ed Larson, Mayor Louras, Sarah Gilbert, a member of the police union, Bob Gorruso and Greg Sheldon. Chairman Jensen indicates that the search for the police chief has begun with a good and timely start. The process is explained by Chairman Jensen and indicates they hope to find a Chief that will carry on in the direction that Chief Baker has made progress in the community policing as it is vital and hopes that the commission agrees to continue what Chief Baker has started to include the project vision, holding Sergeants responsible, walk and talks, holding events like the block parties, open meetings with the community. He also indicates that he is very comfortable and confident having Commander Dave Covell as Acting Chief. The voting process is explained, including that 3 of the 5 Police Commissioners must agree on the candidate. He indicates that they are fortunate to have Professor David Kennedy's offer to help in the search.

The budget has been reviewed by the Public Safety Committee and cut \$2,176 from it. A motion was made by the Board of Aldermen to cut two positions from the department and Chief Baker stresses the importance for the commissioners to attend the Board of Aldermen meeting on the 22nd or 23rd.

Thefts from vehicles are down 60%; burglaries, family fights, armed robberies are down. Discussions held as to the personnel needed to make the numbers go down.

Chief Baker reports that Sgt. John Sly has retired as of Saturday and Chief Baker has also received notification that Officer Gary Tobin expects to retire at the end of the year. Officer Nathan Harvey has graduated from the VT Police Academy on the 21st and had extremely good marks.

Chief Baker hands out the brochure for the awards ceremony, scheduled for Wednesday at 10:00am at the Paramount, to the Commissioners to review. Discussions held. Lineup of the program to include: Honor Guard with a bag piper; Mayor as the Master of Ceremony; Singing of the National Anthem. Ceremony to include: recognition of new employees; recognition of Sgt. Prouty for induction into the canine hall of fame; honoring retirees for their years of service; recognition of the work of the field training officers; Highway safety recognitions; police service awards; life saving awards along with a light lunch, affirmation of the oath of all police officers and photographs. Sgt. Mulcahey's family will be present. Chief Baker indicates that he is proud of the Department.

Chief Baker indicates that he is appreciative of the support that he has received from the police commission and that he has come to love this city. Chairman Jensen thanks Chief Baker for the job that he has done.

Motion made by Commissioner Calcagni and seconded by Commissioner Brown to go into executive session with Acting Chief Dave Covell to address personnel issues. Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

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