

**Wolfeboro Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
COVID-19 Meeting - GoToMeeting
October 15, 2020**

Members present: Chairman Steve Wood, Bob O'Brien, and Vice-Chair Joe Balboni Jr.

Staff present: Chief Dean Rondeau, Captain Mark Livie, and Recording Secretary Sherri Moore

Chairman Wood called the GoToMeeting to order at 4:09 PM.

Chairman Wood read the following Preamble into the record:

MEETING PREAMBLE DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY

Good Evening, as Chairman of the Wolfeboro Police Commission, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, state, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID- 19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of town government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner under unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum apply. Any person found to be disrupting this meeting will be asked to cease the disruption. Should the disruptive behavior continue thereafter, that person will be removed from this meeting.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by Roll Call vote.

Let 's start the meeting by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their name please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

The Commission Members gave a Roll Call vote, Chairman Steve Wood – alone in a room in his house, Commissioner Bob O'Brien – present and alone in a room in his house, Commissioner Joe Balboni, Jr. – present and alone in a room in his house, Chief Dean Rondeau – present and alone in a room in his house, Captain Mark Livie – present and alone in a room in his house, Sherri Moore – present and alone at her house.

Consideration of Minutes

Commissioner Balboni moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to approve the September 17, 2020 public minutes as written. Commissioner Bob O'Brien seconded. Roll call vote: Joe Balboni Jr. – yes, Bob O'Brien – yes, and Steve Wood – yes, Members voted, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

Chief Rondeau reported on the following activity reports for the month of September:

Incidents: He reported that there were 50 incidents, which was an increase from August.

Offenses by month: He reported 80 offenses last month.

Arrest status report: He reported a total of 36 arrests.

Collisions YTD and Accidents by street name: He reported 7 accidents during the month of September.

Traffic stops YTD and location breakdown report: He reported 197 traffic stops and 18 tickets were issued out of those stops.

Personnel Analysis report: No Report

Detectives Report: Read Report into record. Please see attached.

School Resource Officer (SRO): Nothing to report as school just began in September.

Chief's Items

Chief Rondeau read his report. Please see attached.

Commissioner Balboni voiced his concern with Jay Walkers in the downtown area. Wondered what can be done about that. He said he would like to see signage posted.

Chief Rondeau responded that he would connect with Dave Ford about putting up signs.

Captain's Items

None

Questions from the Press

None

Commissioner's Items

Chairman Wood shared that the Commission would like to recommend to the Select Board to do a Warrant Article for the new cruiser. Asking voters to approve the purchase of a cruiser and to use monies from the Police Revolving Fund Account to help offset the cost of the cruiser.

Chief Rondeau agreed with Commissioner Wood. Putting the cruiser in a Warrant Article is the way to go. At this time, we do not know how much money is in the Revolving account. The Police Department awaits that information from the Selectmen.

Chairman Wood suggested that the Commission take a vote and that they would draft a letter to the Selectmen to share their recommendation of the Warrant Article.

Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to recommend to the Select Board to place a cruiser in a warrant article, to be reviewed by the citizens and use any monies in the Police Revolving Fund Account to offset the cost. Commissioner Balboni seconded. Roll Call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, Joe Balboni Jr. yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

Captain Mark Livie explained the status of our current cruisers that are in the Police Department fleet. Currently there is a new cruiser being outfitted. He went on to list out mileage on the cruisers with many having 70,000 miles or more. The new cruiser is a hybrid model, and he is excited to see how that will work for the department.

Chief Rondeau went on to explain that the issue of only having seven, eight or nine cruisers is that the vehicles are not getting a break. Last year the Department got rid of three cruisers and then one this year. The issues with the cruisers are the undercarriage rot. We see this when they hit 110,000 miles or to 10 years old. The patrolling vehicles are getting between 20,000 and 30,000 miles a year.

Chief Rondeau continued saying earlier this year we had two attempted homicides and the Captain could not respond to a crime scene due to not having an available cruiser. We need to get the fleet up to eleven cruisers. We need to get on a replacement cycle.

Chairman Wood replied that the public needs to be made aware of the length of time to get the cruisers once they are ordered.

Chief Rondeau responded that it takes nine to ten months.

Chairman Wood responded that that is the problem because the department is down a cruiser while waiting for a new cruiser. We can not just go to the car dealer and buy a cruiser – it's a lengthy process.

DISCUSSION

None

Board of Selectmen's Representative

None

Public Comment

None

Being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Wood entertained a motion to enter non-public session to discuss personnel.

Commissioner Joe Balboni moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission enter into non-public session RSA 91 A: 3, a to discuss personnel items at 4:58 PM. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, Joe Balboni Jr. - yes, and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 5:14 PM.

Being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Bob O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 5:14 PM. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, Joe Balboni Jr. - yes, and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Moore

Monthly Activity for September 2020

10 cases were carried over from August 2020. For the month of September 2020, Det. Emerson investigated 11 new cases. The cases below represent all the incident and arrest for the month of September.

4 cases were investigated as felonies and 7 cases were investigated as misdemeanor level offenses. At the end of September, Det. Emerson has 16 cases still under investigation.

Detective Emerson has been working an altered schedule to cover patrol shifts and shift coverage for the Department. That has resulted in a significant increase in Detective Emerson's case load.

Specifically, Detective Emerson has been working Patrol shifts Saturday and Sunday and is only focusing on Detective duties Monday and Tuesdays-this is due to the Officer shortage we had this year, and due in large part to the fact that we have hired three new officers who are either in the Academy, FTO, or have recently completed basic certification training and are now out on their own.

In addition to Patrol duties and Detective duties, Detective Emerson also oversees processing of all PD evidence that other Officers log in, which can be quite time consuming as it requires frequent trips to the State Lab in Concord.

Detective Emerson continues to maintain a strong relationship with the County Attorney's Office and is tasked by them to do follow up on cases and other pretrial assignments.

Cases Assigned/Investigated

- 1 Fraud
- 1 Animal Cruelty
- 1 Theft
- 1 Identity Fraud
- 1 Almost Overdose
- 2 Motor Vehicle related
- 1 Drug Diversion
- 1 Neighbor dispute
- 2 Criminal Mischief

Percentage of cases closed this month 65%

Percentage of new cases closed by arrest during the month 9%

Percentage of entire case load closed 67%

Monthly Activity for August 2020

9 cases were carried over from July 2020. For the month of August 2020, Det. Emerson investigated 3 new cases. The cases below represent all the incident reports and arrest reports for the month of August.

2 cases were investigated as felonies and 1 case was investigated as misdemeanor level. At the end of August, Det. Emerson has 10 cases still under investigation.

Detective Emerson worked and has been working on a case with New Hampshire State Police involving sex crimes and sexual images involving children.

The investigation started by Detective Emerson, went far beyond the Wolfeboro Town limits. With the help of the New Hampshire State Police and the Tennessee State Police, the suspect was arrested down in Tennessee. As a result of the arrest by the Tennessee State Police, the Tennessee State Police discovered hundreds of sex crimes and images on the suspects cell phone, lap-top and gaming device.

Cases Assigned/Investigated

1 Fraud

1 Internet Crime Against a Child (ICAC)

1 Criminal Trespass

Percentage of cases closed this month 67%

Percentage of new cases closed by arrest during the month 0%

Percentage of entire case load closed 76%

TO: Wolfeboro Police Commission

FROM: Dean J. Rondeau
Chief of Police

SUBJ: Chief's Items (September 2020) for 15 October 2020 Police Commission meeting

DATE: 06 October 2020

Non- Public: I have one item for Non-public Session under personnel.

GENERAL BUDGET ITEMS:

As you gentlemen know, we have presented our Budget to the BOS on 13 October, more to follow on this-I will keep you all posted. We are awaiting our next hearing with the Budget Committee. Once that is scheduled, I will let the team know. Stay tuned.

PERSONNEL:

As you all know-Officer Shanks is completing his final week of FTO-it's been a long time. He is now out on his own and under supervision. Officer Peaslee is in the first QTR of the Police Academy. We have extended an offer to a candidate for our remaining full time slot. We are waiting to hear back from him. I will keep the Commission informed.

Operations (Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions):

In terms of Police investigations, September remained a busy month for investigations and follow-up on major cases. This is reflected in the arrest and incident status reports. Included in this report are two Detective reports, a make-up from last month which was delayed due to Detective Emerson being on vacation. I will brief that only by exception if you gentlemen have a question.

In terms of Police Prosecutions, this past month was slow due to COVID-19 precautions. This past month we had eleven (11) Defendants respond to twelve (12) charges. Of those charges, six (6) were found or plead guilty, six (6) were placed on file pending restitution to the victims. The conviction rate is this past month is one hundred percent (100%) with \$3118.00 meted out in fines, restitution, and penalties.

Safety and Security matters: As a repeat from last month-I thought this advice worthy of mention again: Ladies and Gentlemen, fall is now upon us, with that we take time to enjoy the cooler crisp air and all the goodness that Autumn brings, with-that please be

mindful of the school children who are now trying to get in the last few vestiges of the warm summer temps and early fall colors, and who have returned back to school and will be walking and biking, to and fro these few months before winter arrives. Please be mindful and drive slowly in Town and in our neighborhoods-thanks-you.

Dispatch: NSTR

Motor Vehicle Enforcement: In an effort to mitigate the traffic crashes we realize monthly, we will be continuing our strong proactive approach to motor vehicle enforcement, and traffic stops. As a warning to those residents in the North Wolfeboro Area, I have received complaints about speeders on College Road and Stoddard Roads. We will be conducting aggressive speed reduction patrols in those area of Town-so please, if you are in a habit of speeding up there, please don't! Lastly, we continue to deploy assets and patrols into our identified problem areas-Safety First!

More to the point, as I have said before, speed and traffic crash issues continue to be a problem in our community. Please pay attention to the posted speed limits on our Town roads, and please drive safely. Speed complaints represent some of the most common quality of life issues we receive at the PD. Please be courteous of your friends and neighbors and don't speed. We will be monitoring our roads very carefully, especially our high traffic roads such as North-South Main Streets, Center Street, and 109-East. If you speed-please slow-down, the life you save may be your own-thank-you!

That being said: The Department is continuing its enhanced speed enforcement operations in the following areas: Lehner Street, Forrest Road, Cotton Valley and College Road to Stoddard Road; Beach Pond Road with a focus on the area between Pine Hill Road and North Line Road, Center Street, North Main Street, 109 East, Bay Street and Sewell Road. The reason for these speed enforcement operations is due to citizen complaints and data collected and analyzed by our radar trailer. We will continue our efforts in these areas until we are sure that the speeds have come down. If you travel these roads, please be mindful of the posted speed limits.

Training:

Police

SSG Guy Maloney – Tactical consideration for supervisor course

SGT Mike Strauch – Tactical consideration for supervisor course

SGT Mike Strauch – K-9 Training and yearly certs

Chief Rondeau-Two classes on finance and Accounting (NHMA)

Executive Assistant Sherri Moore-Two classes on Finance and Accounting (NHMA)

Dispatch: NSTR

OUTREACH AND MATTERS OF INTEREST:

Both the Captain and I met with concerned citizens regarding a wide range of issues and community topics.

I am now conducting a weekly talk radio show with Erick Scot of WASR. The show is a one-hour feature with call in and we discuss relevant topics of interest. Please be our guest on this show each Monday at 12 Noon. Please call in and ask your questions and join in the discussion-let's get involved and solve community issues or simply have a good time! All are welcome!

Both the Captain and I attended a wide range of Budget meetings with various groups and committees as we proceed through the budget process.

The Both the Captain and I spoke on Wolfeboro Community TV this past month with a member of the public about topics of interest.

The Captain continues to be part of the Master Planning process, the Technical Review and Joint loss committees.

Lastly, please be our guest on Coffee and Connections with the Chief.

Safety Tip of the Month: With the arrival of fall, water temperatures are dropping. If you are boating or taking in the few remaining warm days left until winter arrives, please be mindful of hyperthermia. The waters and air can become chilly. Be mindful of overexposure, even in mild temperatures, the body's temp can drop quickly causing one to become a casualty-please be safe and dress and prepare for the activities and weather-thank-you.

BUDGET ANALYSIS:

Gentlemen, there will be a 3rd QTR analysis for the PD's FY 2020 budget after the presentation of the Chief's items.

Gentlemen, subject to your questions, that is all I have.