

**Wolfeboro Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2017**

Members present: Chairman Steve Wood, Vice-Chair Joe Balboni Jr (via phone) and Ron Goodgame.

Staff present: Chief Rondeau, Captain Livie and Recording Secretary Amelia Capone-Muccio.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 4:00PM and introduced the Commissioners, staff in attendance and noted a quorum was present.

➤ ***Pledge of Allegiance***

Chairman Wood entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Minutes

• ***Public minutes of December 15, 2016 meeting***

Commissioner Goodgame noted two corrections to the minutes, page one the first motion should reflect it was seconded by Joe Balboni Jr. and page 3, first paragraph, line two, change attrition to addition.

Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public minutes of December 15, 2016 as amended. Commissioner Ron Goodgame seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

Chief Rondeau reported on the following activity reports for last month:

Offenses (State Law) by month: He reported 39 offenses for the month which is a 42% decrease from the previous month.

Arrest status report: He reported 18 arrests for last month, which is a 21% increase from the previous month.

Personnel Analysis report: The report is a synopsis of each officer's reporting for the month.

Accidents by street name: He reported 11 accidents last month, which is a 21% decrease from the previous month.

Prosecutor's report: He stated the Prosecutor's report has been provided for review.

School Resource Officer (SRO): The SRO provided his monthly report noting numerous investigations for the month and he referred to his narrative on the report.

Motor Vehicle Traffic Report: He reported 133 stops last month, which is a 44% increase from the previous month. He noted out of those stops there were 7 summons resulting in fines and those funds are not revenue of the town but are collected as revenue to the State of NH.

Detectives Report: He reviewed the Detective's report noting that 90% of the cases have been closed, which is great work by Detective Maloney.

Chief's Items

Chief Rondeau reported the following:

- He reviewed the crimes against persons, crimes against society and crimes against property reports as year-end information comparing the statistics to the previous year.
- He noted that both he and Captain Livie were promoted to their new positions effect January 4th, 2017 and he thanked Brewster Academy for sponsoring a reception at the Brewster Boathouse at no cost to the Town.
- The Wolfeboro Children's Christmas Fund under the direction of Mia Lyons served 29 families and 79 children this past Christmas season and he thanked all those who donated to that worthy cause.
- He stated the Department is accepting resumes for an open patrol position until February 15th, 2017.
- He and Captain Livie held their first staff meeting on January 12th, which was well received by the staff.
- He attended two budget hearings and reported that the Budget Committee reduced the overtime line by \$4,000 which will impact the budget, but he will provide a further update on how the department plans to address that at a future meeting.
- He attended a Chief's of Police Association meeting on January 11th.
- Captain Livie attended a BOSS meeting.
- He reported that several grant applications were submitted on January 13th.

DISCUSSION:

➤ Activity reports

Commissioner Goodgame questioned the reduction in burglaries from the previous year.

Chief Rondeau noted he would need to get further detail to speak to specific events, but noted over all that street crime is driven by drug activity and fraudulent/swindling crimes, that they are seeing more of, is typically an indicator of a poor economy.

Commissioner Goodgame noted that with regards to percentages they really are not indicative of anything unless they are compared to another jurisdiction.

Commissioner's Items

Chairman Wood stated that last month resident Joe Melanson made some inquiries to the Police Commission and he has prepared a response to some concerns he presented at that meeting. (See attached three page statement dated January 19, 2017)

Questions from the Press

None.

Board of Selectmen's Representative

Luke Freudenberg noted he has nothing to report from the Board except that they congratulate both Chief Rondeau and Captain Livie on their promotions.

Public Comment

None.

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

Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission enter non-public session RSA 91 A: 3 to discuss personnel and ongoing litigation at 4:42 PM. Ron Goodgame seconded. Roll call vote: Ron Goodgame- yes, Joe Balboni Jr.-yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 4:57 PM.

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

Commissioner Ron Goodgame moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 4:58 PM. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio



1-19-17
attachment

Wolfeboro Police Commission

*Town of
Wolfeboro*

19 January 2017

Wolfeboro Police Commission
251 South Main Street
Wolfeboro New Hampshire, 03894

Subject: Open Letter to the Citizens of Wolfeboro New Hampshire.

Fellow Citizens:

At last month's Police Commission meeting held on December 15th, Mr. Joseph Melanson came into the meeting to share with us some thoughts he had, and to bring forth some observations. Although we weren't clear on Joe's intent as he refused to provide the Commission with the subject matter he wished to discuss in advance, he did make the request to be placed on our agenda within the specified time frame. We feel it is important to amplify the Wolfeboro Police Commission's position on a few of the items discussed.

Community Policing:

The Commission is dedicated to community policing. We acknowledge that the effectiveness of our Police Department can be and is affected by the involvement of our citizens. We believe that the police and the community should act in concert to solve community based issues and problems. We also acknowledge that the first mission of any government is the protection of its citizens, and to this end, we believe that one of the fundamental duties of any Wolfeboro Police Commissioner is as a liaison between the citizenry and the Police Department, to insure that with our oversight, the Wolfeboro Police Department not only enforce the law, it shall abide by and operate with the confines of the law as prescribed for the performance of their duties, roles, and responsibilities.



Meeting with the Commission:

The Wolfeboro Police Commission wants every citizen to know that there are rules and regulations governing administration of the Police Department which even the Commission cannot violate. Matters dealing with privacy, personnel files and officer discipline are typically not dealt with in open forums, but in non-public session. This is true in most boards and committees in the State of New Hampshire and the Wolfeboro Police Commission is no exception to this rule and is indeed subject to the same State laws which govern those boards.

The Wolfeboro Police Commission wants every citizen to know that the Commission, and indeed, each Police Commissioner, would like to hear from our citizens regarding how our Police Department is performing, good or bad. The Police Commission holds meetings each month on the third Thursday starting at 4:00 P.M. at the meeting room of the public library-it is ADA accessible.

If those meeting times are inconvenient, then a special meeting may be arranged between the Commission and a citizen, or an individual Commission member at the person's choosing. Additionally, Commission members, as well as the Chief of Police are also available by email and phone as needed.

Should a member of the public wish to address the Police Commission at a regular meeting and discuss an issue, the Commission requires that they be notified in writing 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting so that the item may be placed on the agenda as required by law, and that the topic be made known at the time of the request so that the Commission can determine if the item(s) should be addressed in public or in non-public session. The Police Commission and/or the Police Department can then gather the requisite documents needed to discuss the matter(s) intelligently.

Fiscal Responsibility:

One of the core tasks of the Wolfeboro Police Commission rests with the creation and administration of the Police Department's budget. Within town government here in the Granite State, there are various committees and boards all set up to provide a set of checks and balances for municipal budgeting. These governing boards all work with one another to achieve financial plans which are appropriate for a department's needs and based upon fiscal sense for those demonstrated needs. Achieving a balanced budget is difficult, and at times can be quite a tedious process but it is necessary for successful budgetary control. For the last several years the Town of Wolfeboro has been following a set of directives aimed at zero growth in discretionary spending. These directives are taken very seriously by the Wolfeboro Police Commission; this year was no exception. Adding new equipment to the Department is indeed a process which starts with justification and a "needs statement." It is simply not enough to add equipment without

identifying a problem and a requirement. Joe's statement that "body cams" would be "a good idea" is simply that, "his good idea," and would be "a want" and not "a need." We realize that other law enforcement agencies within the state have adopted the use of body cameras; however it is the position of your Police Commission that before implementing the use of body cameras here in Wolfeboro, the NH Attorney General's Office shall have adopted uniform policies and procedures regarding their use.

Conclusion:

The Wolfeboro Police Commission is dedicated to the highest standards of administration and policing of and for the Town of Wolfeboro. We are committed to ensuring that the concepts of Community Policing are used in municipal law enforcement here in our community. The recent promotion of Chief Dean Rondeau and Captain Mark Livie to their current positions speaks to that commitment and positions the Wolfeboro Police Department for continued success under their leadership.

The Wolfeboro Police Commission is a liaison between the public and the Police Department. Any comments, concerns, suggestions, or grievances may be addressed at any time with any member of the Commission or the Chief of Police. We are always interested in the ideas and thoughts of the community on how, together, we can make Wolfeboro safer for everyone. So please, attend a meeting, express an interest, get on the agenda and speak if you wish. We want to hear from you.

Sincerely
The Wolfeboro Police Commission
Stephen Wood, Chairman
Ronald Goodgame, Commissioner
Joe Balboni, Commissioner