

**Wolfeboro Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2018**

Members present: Chairman Steve Wood, Ron Goodgame and Joe Balboni Jr.

Staff present: Chief Rondeau and Amelia Capone-Muccio Recording Secretary

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 4:20 PM and introduced the Commissioners, staff in attendance and noted a quorum was present. He welcomed newly elected Selectmen Paul O'Brien who is the Police Commission's liaison to the Board of Selectmen.

➤ ***Pledge of Allegiance***

Chairman Wood entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Minutes

- ***Public minutes of the March 19, 2018 regular meeting.***

Commissioner Goodgame made some clerical amendments.

Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public minutes of March 18, 2018 as amended. Commissioner Ron Goodgame seconded. Members voted, all in favor, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

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

Incidents: He reported 39 incidents for the month, a 7% decrease from last month.

Offenses by month: He reported 61 offenses for the month, which is the same as last month.

Arrest status report: He reported 26 arrests for the month, which is a 4% increase from the previous month.

Collisions YTD and Accidents by street name: He reported 10 accidents last month, which is a same as the previous month.

Traffic stops YTD and location breakdown report: He reported 178 stops last month, which is a 13% increase. 8 tickets.

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

School Resource Officer (SRO): The SRO provided his monthly report.

Detectives Report: The Detective's reports he took on six new cases this month and noted he has been relieved of covering the school resource officer who was out on medical leave.

Chief's Items

Chief Rondeau reported the following:

- He read a letter of thanks from Lt. Baker of the Carroll County Department of Corrections for Sgt. Maloney participating in a hiring board. (See attached letter)
- He read a press release on the Senate Bill 569-FN regarding Animal Cruelty Laws. (See attached press release)
- The Command staff conducted two internal budget reviews this past month.
- He and the Captain continue to work with the Town Manager and Planning staff on the new Public Safety building plans.
- In March the jury found Tina Fay guilty of 17 out of 17 charges and the sentencing hearing is scheduled for May 11th.
- The Department is continuing speed enforcement in the area of North Line Rd, Beach Pond Rd, Pine Hill Rd, Center Street, North Main Street and 109 East.
- Officer LaRochelle received SPOTs training.
- A new trainee has started in Central Dispatch.
- Officer Swift and Officer Morrow from the Carroll County House of Corrections will be offering a women's self-defense class starting April 30th. It is a nine-hour class and costs \$25.
- He and the Captain continue to attend the Men's Breakfast Club meetings, Board of Selectmen meetings and Coffee and Connections on WCTV.
- He continues to sit on the Governor's Committee for Humane and Ethical Treatment of Animals and sit's on Senator Bradley's legislative committee to strengthen the State's animal cruelty laws. He and the Town Manager were invited to testify in front of Senator Avar's committee relative to Senate Bill 569-FN, an effort to close loop holes in the State's animal cruelty laws.
- He continues the pod cast with Jake on Lake Jake Quimby on WASR 1420 AM.
- He attended the Town's Emergency Operations Plan update on April 11th and the next meeting is scheduled for May 9th.

DISCUSSION:

Ron Goodgame questioned if they could discuss the Police Department providing security to private schools.

Chief Rondeau replied they have been providing some assistance to Brewster Academy with their campus security, but there is no long range plan at this time. He stated this topic is in the very early stages and he not prepared to discuss it further than that.

Commissioner Goodgame questioned if they should present it to the Board of Selectmen.

Chief Rondeau replied when they have more details, but it's not at that stage yet, they are still in the discussion stage with Brewster Academy.

Chairman Wood noted that once a proposal is in place then the Commission should have a discussion in Nonpublic session before they move forward with such.

Commissioner Goodgame questioned the status of Matt Plache's gator purchase with the Police Benevolent Association.

Chief Rondeau replied he believes Mr. Plache has been in touch with the NEPBA President, Officer Spera.

Captain's Items

N/A.

Quarterly Budget Review

The Chief reviewed the Police Department, Central Dispatch and Animal Control budgets with the Commission and noted they are all on target for expenditures to date.

Commissioner's Items

Chairman Wood noted he has made an announcement that he will be retiring from the Vista Program after 20 years to spend more time with his family. He noted it was a very hard decision, but has some great people to pick up where he left off. He also noted with regards to Social Media, that some comments were made about the speed on Bay Street and the Department responded to these comments and have learned the highest speed violation on the road was 7 mph over the limit.

Commissioner Goodgame stated this is a good reminder if you see something, say something, please call the Department with any concerns you have. He also noted that the job descriptions have been revised for the Executive Administrative Secretary, the Animal Control Officer, and the Communication Dispatch Supervisor and the Senior Dispatcher.

It was moved by Ron Goodgame and seconded by Joe Balboni Jr. to adopt the job descriptions for the Executive Administrative Assistant, Animal Control Officer, Communications Dispatch Supervisor and the Senior Dispatcher as presented at this meeting. Being all in favor, the motion passed.

Board of Selectmen's Representative

Paul O'Brien thanked the Commission for welcoming him and looks forward to working with them. He noted by now many know they have hired a new Town Manager, Becky Merrow. She starts on May 31st. She was chosen out of 33 candidates with two citizen panels. She has a small town background and they are very excited for her to start. He stated that David Owen's retirement reception is May 30th at the Great Hall. The next step is to interview for Finance Director Pete Chamberlin's position as his retirement is scheduled for the end of June.

Questions from the Press

Elissa Paquette of the Granite State News questioned the animal cruelty bill and how that will affect farmers.

Chief Rondeau replied it will not affect farmers, it is specific to kennels and breeders

Public Comment

N/A

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

Commissioner Ron Goodgame moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to enter into non-public session RSA 91 A: 3, a to discuss personnel and litigation at 5:00 PM. Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Roll call vote: Joe Balboni Jr. - yes, Ron Goodgame-yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 5:31 PM.

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to seal the minutes of the April 26, 2018 non-public meeting. Ron Goodgame seconded. Roll call vote, Chairman Wood– yes, Ron Goodgame-yes and Joe Balboni Jr. –yes. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

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

Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 5:32 PM. Commissioner Ron Goodgame seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio



**CARROLL COUNTY
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APR 26 2018

Date: 22 March 2018

Chief Rondeau,

The Carroll County Department of Corrections would like to thank you for allowing Sergeant Guy Maloney to participate in our Sergeant hiring board. Sergeant Maloney represented the Wolfeboro Police Department with the upmost respect and dignity. We could not have asked for a better board member as Sergeant Maloney was fair and consistent with all of the candidates.

Thank you again and if the Carroll County Department of Corrections can to assist you in any we can please not hesitate to ask.

Best Regards,

Lieutenant Michael Baker
Operations
Carroll County Dept. of Corrections

4-26-18
attachment

Post-Wolfeboro, House Committee Weakens Existing Animal Cruelty Laws

Ten months after 84 Great Danes were rescued from a home in Wolfeboro, the House Environment & Agriculture Committee voted to pass an amendment to Senate Bill 569-FN which not only removes protections for dogs in commercial breeding kennels but, even more alarming, weakens existing cruelty laws. Despite opposition to the amendment from non-profit animal shelters, rescue organizations, veterinarians, law enforcement and prosecutors, the committee has succumbed to special interests who believe they are above the law.

Police Chief Dean Rondeau of Wolfeboro stated, "I am so disappointed by the House Environment & Agriculture Committee's actions. This amendment completely guts all of the bipartisan work done by Senator Bradley and stakeholders, including the NH Association of Chiefs of Police, to address animal cruelty. This amendment is terrible, it weakens existing laws and facilitates animal cruelty. This puts none of the burden of cost of care on the responsible parties but holds the towns and taxpayers responsible for the bad acts of others. This is truly a sad day for the animals of the Granite State."

The Committee amendment prohibits citizens from making anonymous complaints of potential animal cruelty and requires that the name and description of the complaint be given to the accused facility, exposing whistleblowers simply for speaking up for animal mistreatment. Further, it removes penalties for cruelty that results in the death of an animal and eliminates the weak, but existing regulations, that ensure basic animal care at commercial breeding facilities by giving a carve out to every type of dog breeder. It creates harsh and ineffective criminal penalties for people suffering from a hoarding disorder, a mental health disease, while making it harder to prosecute cases in which animals have been neglected.

Representative Katherine Rogers (D-Concord) said, "After the extreme suffering these dogs endured at unregulated breeding facilities, responsible breeders and lawmakers should be strengthening the cruelty laws, not weakening them. Responsible breeders would not be impacted by the version passed by the Senate which makes you wonder what their real motives are in opposing these necessary protections."

The amendment removes a cost of animal care law, endorsed by the NH Municipal Association, to protect towns from the unpredictable and enormous costs to care for rescued animals while a criminal case is pending. The price tag on the care of the Great Danes is now over \$1.7 million dollars and the costs to care for the German Shepherds rescued from Alexandria and Bristol has exceeded \$85,000.

Ben Vihstadt, spokesman for Governor Chris Sununu said, "While the governor appreciates the effort the committee put into addressing inhumane hoarding, he is concerned with other aspects of the amendment."

After four separate animal cruelty cases involving unlicensed dog breeders over the past 18 months, citizens asked for a reform of New Hampshire's animal cruelty laws. However, what our citizens received today was legislation that leaves animals even more unprotected than they were in Wolfeboro, Berlin, Bristol and Croydon last year with the taxpayers footing the bill. We urge citizens to contact their Representative(s) asking them to defeat this unacceptable committee amendment when it reaches the House floor next week and then move forward with real reforms to protect NH's animals and taxpayers.

4-26-18
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