

**Wolfeboro Police Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
COVID-19 Meeting - GoToMeeting  
August 27, 2020**

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

**Staff present:** Chief Dean Rondeau, Captain Mark Livie, Recording Secretary Sherri Moore, and Selectman Liaison Dave Senecal.

Chairman Wood called the GoToMeeting to order at 4:01 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 at his house, Dave Senecal – present and at home with his wife, Sherri Moore – present and alone in her office at the Police Department.**

**Consideration of Minutes**

**Chairman Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to postpone approving the July 16, 2020 public minutes until the next meeting in September. 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 July:

**Incidents:** He reported that there were 55 incidents, which was an increase from June.

**Offenses by month:** He reported 66 offenses last month.

**Arrest status report:** He reported a total of 26 arrests.

**Collisions YTD and Accidents by street name:** He reported 16 accidents during the month of July.

**Traffic stops YTD and location breakdown report:** He reported 106 traffic stops and 4 tickets were issued out of those stops.

**Personnel Analysis report:** The report is a synopsis of each officer's reporting for the month. Noted this report includes the Animal Control officer and you will note we track his activity.

**Detectives Report:** Chief read the report. Please see attached.

Chairman Wood added that he found it irresponsible in the press release from the Attorney General's office that only half of the report was given, and the half that was given left a lot of questions. He went on to say that there is some misconception of missteps taken by officers from the Wolfeboro Police Department. That is not remotely true. That has been looked into and there is no merit to those accusations, and everything was done correctly. The Attorney General's office would have questioned the department immediately.

Chief Rondeau added that he is glad that Chairman Wood brought that up. He has heard disturbing rumors and they could not be any further from the truth. He could not be prouder. He believes Staff Sergeant Maloney did an outstanding job. The Officers did everything they were told to do by the Medical Examiner's Office.

Chief Rondeau went on to say that When people don't know information or the full story they manufacture or make things up. He believes Wolfeboro Police Department did everything to make sure the crime scene was secure.

**School Resource Officer (SRO):** Nothing to report school closed for the summer.

### **Chief's Items**

Chief Rondeau read his report. Please see attached.

Chairman Wood asked Chief Rondeau about a needed vote.

Chief Rondeau responded that he attended a CIP Meeting to present Dispatch Console CIP. The CIP Committee voted near unanimously to approve the \$152,000 CIP. However, a vote from the Commission

is needed to authorize Chief Rondeau to speak on behalf of the Commission to present and ask for the Dispatch Console CIP.

Chairman Wood entertained a motion for a vote to approve the CIP Dispatch Console request for 2021 and to authorize Chief Rondeau to present the CIP.

**Commissioner Balboni moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to approve the CIP Dispatch Console request for 2021 and to authorize Chief Rondeau to present the CIP. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Roll Call vote: Joe Balboni Jr. yes – Bob O'Brien-yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.**

#### **Captain's Items**

None

#### **Questions from the Press**

None

#### **Commissioner's Items**

None

#### **DISCUSSION**

None

#### **Board of Selectmen's Representative**

None.

#### **Public Comment**

Noreen McDonald and Paul Demaris, Board Members from the Cotton Valley Rail Trail Committee, were in attendance virtually. They joined the meeting to address some needs related to dogs and bicyclists on the trail. They had voiced their concerns initially in a letter to the Commission dated July 29, 2020.

Noreen McDonald shared that since the letter to the Commission the NH Trails Bureau authorized the Rail Trail to post some signs related to NH RSA's regarding bicycle stop signs and yielding to pedestrians on the trail. Since posting the signs many have been defaced and/or are being removed. Concerned for citizens safety crossing roads. Would appreciate any and all help on the trail.

Chairman Wood asked if they have seen any changes in regard to dog issues?

Noreen McDonald responded "no".

Chairman Wood replied that he would have to refer to Chief for resources. He went on to say that this year we have been positioned, not created by us (and separate from COVID-19 issues), that a rather large amount of money was removed from our budget. Then with Article 14 not being funded – because of that we took another substantial cut. We also had two officers retire and had a plan in place to bring them back as part timers. One of which would have been on the bike to cover the trail. At this time, I'd like to refer to the Chief.

Chief Rondeau responded that we took a hit in our budget at the beginning of the year. However, he has authorized overtime funds to help with some of the Rail Trail issues. He went on to say that we can not address all of your problems, but he has authorized extra patrols.

Captain Livie shared that with Officer Shanks on FTO and our new officer going to the Police Academy we are short on Officers, but the Overtime should help with some of the concerns.

Chief Rondeau added that he will address this issue in the 2021 Budget and look to get a Bike Patrol Officer down on the path and that will help alleviate some of the concerns.

Captain Livie added that regarding the Animal Control Officer, he is not designed for patrols. He gets called out for calls that have specific animal issues (if he is available).

Noreen McDonald mentioned that she is concerned for the Mass Landing area. We live in a small town and giving out a few tickets may impact the problems knowing there are consequences. Any help this year or next year would be appreciated. She knows that the activity has grown so much because of Covid-19. It is, has been awesome to see everyone out there and probably four times the amount of activity than what they have seen and that is probably impacting the issues.

Paul Desmaris spoke that cause way is one of the biggest issues that they have seen with both dogs and bikes. The cause ways are narrow and then it opens up and is wider, so it's the cause ways that they are seeing most of the problems.

Norreen McDonald mentioned that they are also having some issues between Cotton Mountain and Cotton Valley.

Chief Rondeau said that he has been on foot patrolling from the Albee Beach to the Railroad Station. Perhaps with education and some insights we can gain compliance with the public. As well as, adding some patrols.

Paul Desmaris responded that just having the presence would be helpful.

Captain Livie replied that just presence that the Chief has mentioned will be seen out there and maybe if they see us out there it will stop the behavior.

Noreen McDonald responded that that is terrific and thank you.

Commissioner O'Brien asked if the Rail Trail Committee has contacted the Nordic Bike Shop and asked if they have notified cyclist of the rules?

Paul Desmaris shared that they have brochures that they hand out. However, he doesn't know if they are going to read them.

Noreen McDonald replied that that was a good point and they will speak with Nordic to have them talk about it.

Chairman Wood encouraged the committee to continue to reach out for help and stay in communication. He thanked them for joining the meeting today.

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

**Commissioner Bob O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission enter into non-public session RSA 91 A: 3, a to discuss personnel items at 4:52 PM. Joe Balboni, Jr. 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 5:57 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 5:10 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 July 2020

Eight (8) cases were carried over from July 2020. For the month of July 2020, Det. Emerson investigated four (4) new cases. The cases below represent all the incident reports and arrest reports for the month of July.

Of the four new cases, three (3) cases were investigated as felonies and one (1) case was investigated as a misdemeanor. At the end of July, Det. Emerson has twelve total (12) cases which are still under investigation.

Additionally, Detective Emerson worked with New Hampshire State Police Major Crimes Unit on a suspicious death case at the Pine Hill Road Cemetery which is still under investigation. Detective Emerson was asked by the Lieutenant of the Major Crimes Unit to assist with interviews regarding this case. Detective Emerson worked hand and hand with the New Hampshire State Police/Major Crimes Unit for the a week and a half after the initial finding of the deceased gathering video surveillance footage of the area, and doing follow up regarding tips and evidence collection for the Major Crimes Unit. Detective Emerson also attended the autopsy for the deceased in this case.

#### New Cases Assigned/Investigated

2 Fraud

1 Suspicious Death

1 Theft

Percentage of cases closed this month 88%

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

Percentage of entire case load closed 68%

TO: Wolfeboro Police Commission

FROM: Dean J. Rondeau  
Chief of Police

SUBJ: Chief's Items (July 2020) for 27 August 2020 Police Commission meeting

DATE: 19 August 2020

**Non- Public: I have one item for Non-public Session under personnel and pending litigation.**

**GENERAL BUDGET ITEMS:**

Our recent Budget review (as of Aug 17<sup>th</sup>) showed the PD was approximately 1.5 percent underspent-which is good news considering the tailspin that COVID-19 restrictions have placed upon the Town. However, we are forecasted to spend some of that down due to the fact that we have Officer Shanks now graduated from the Police Academy, and shift coverage due to Officer vacations. Though I am forecasting a small unexpended appropriation in this year's budget-it will not be as great as it was last year and may only be a few thousand dollars-if that.

**PERSONNEL:**

As you all know-Officer Shanks has graduated from the NH Police Academy on 21 August. It was a long 16 weeks-now he enters our FTO (Filed Training) program for what is likely to be another 12-16 weeks. We wish him good luck.

Additionally, Officer Joshua Peaslee was sworn in on 18 August 2020-this brings us up to 13 officers now-He is scheduled for the Police Academy on 24 August for the next 16 weeks. We wish him well. Officer Jason Boucher has completed his FTO and is filling shifts. We are getting back up to full staff. We have one last full-time position to fill, and will be making announcements for this open position to be filled and accepting applications, and scheduling interviews with the Commission.

**Operations (Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions):**

In terms of Police investigations, July-Aug provided us the opportunity to get caught up on several investigations and has handed us some major cases. This is reflected in the arrest and incident status reports. I know chiefly on everyone's mind is the suspicious death investigation presently being conducted by this agency in concert with the New Hampshire State Police Major Crime's Unit and the NH Attorney General's Office. Though I am not authorized to speak unilaterally on this investigation since these types



of matters are, by statute, handled and investigated by the NH Attorney General's Office, I can say with all certainty that the Wolfeboro PD and the Nh State Police have done yeoman's work on this case, and despite rumors to the contrary-everything is in order, and the public is safe.

In terms of Police Prosecutions, this past month was slow due to COVID-19 precautions. This past month we had twelve (12) Defendants respond to twelve (12) charges. Of those charges, nine (9) were found or plead guilty, and one of those convictions carried a seven-month sentence in the County House of Corrections! Additionally, three (3) were placed on file with good behavior, counseling, and restitution ordered to the victims. The conviction rate is one hundred percent this past month (100%) with \$4092.00 meted out in fines, restitution, and penalties. Crime does not pay!

**Safety and Security matters:** Summer is coming to a close. As we get into the coming fall months, please be mindful of the school children who are now trying to get in the last few vestiges of the warm summer and early fall and will be heading back to school. Some have already started-so please be mindful of them as you are traveling about doing your chores and heading to and from work. Please be mindful and drive slowly in Town and in our neighborhoods-thanks-you.

**Dispatch:** We have opened the lobby and access to the Dispatch window. We have taken and followed the State's and the Federal Government's CDC guidance in this regard and have placed a window microphone to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is a new addition to the Dispatch-lobby window.

**Motor Vehicle Enforcement:** In an effort to mitigate the traffic crashes we realize on a monthly basis-and we have seen increase this past month. 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 road. 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:** NSTR SGT Strauch K-9 training

**Dispatch:** NSTR

### **OUTREACH AND MATTERS OF INTEREST:**

Both the Captain and I met with concerned citizens regarding a wide range of issues and community involvement 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 and or I continue to attend all the BOS meetings.

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: Late** Summertime driving: Driving in the rain: As the fall is approaching, we experience a change of temperature quickly-this can lead to flash thunderstorms. These storms can produce strong down pours, high winds and down trees and powerlines. During these weather events a host of dangers can present themselves. Down trees and power lines represent significant hazards. Never cross downed lines -ever. During heavy rain events, drive slowly and give yourself enough time and distance to react to downed trees or limbs on the roadway. Incidentally, excess water can pond on the roadway's surface. When this occurs, it is easy for a vehicle to hydroplane (water builds up on the bottom of tires and reduces the tire's contact with the pavement.) When you feel this happen-and you will; take your foot of the accelerator-do not mash the breaks. Taking your foot of the accelerator will drop

the vehicle's center of mass slowly, but quickly enough for you to gain control of the vehicle. The dropping of the vehicle's center of mass will push the water out from the bottom of the tire's treads, causing the tire to contact the pavement. Conversely, hard breaking will cause the vehicle to go into an immediate skid and yaw-the vehicle rotating around its cent of mass-causing you to lose control of steering. This usually ends poorly.

#### **BUDGET ANALYSIS:**

Gentlemen, the next PD analysis will be in Oct for the 3<sup>rd</sup> QTR of the Town's FY. I will continue to keep the commission informed of any major muscle moves relative to the PD's budget in the meantime.

We have started construction of the PD's FY 2021 budget and all is moving well. We have a 28 Aug suspense to the town Manger. Once the FY 2021 budget has been finalized and I have an 85 percent solution-I will call for a meeting of our members of the Budget Committee, our BOS LNO-Dave Senecal, and the Commission to go over and discuss the finer points of the budget. That meeting has yet to be schedule. I will coordinate with all concerned once we have the data inputted into MUNI-Smart, our Town's Budgeting Software program. Stay Tuned!

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