

**Wolfeboro Police Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
COVID-19 Meeting - GoToMeeting  
January 21, 2020**

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

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

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, Chief Dean Rondeau – present and alone in a room in his house, Captain Mark Livie – alone in a room in his house, Sherri Moore – present and alone at her house, Tom Bell – alone in home office.**

**Consideration of Minutes**

**Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the December 22, 2020 public minutes as written. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: 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 December:

**Incidents:** He reported that there were 28 incidents, which was a decrease from November.

**Offenses by month:** He reported 43 offenses last month.

**Arrest status report:** He reported a total of 14 arrests. Decrease was due to officers handing out hand summons.

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

**Traffic stops YTD and location breakdown report:** He reported 91 traffic stops and 10 tickets were issued out of those stops.

**Personnel Analysis report:** Submitted to Commissioners.

Commissioner O'Brien mentioned that he noticed the Animal Control Officer (ACO) had a higher amount of incidents but no citations. Is that normal?

Chief Rondeau responded yes; it is normal because of many different types of calls. The ACO tries to handle some of the calls that Fish and Game can't come out for.

**Detectives Report:** He is doing fantastic. Read Report into record. Please see attached.

**School Resource Officer (SRO):** Read Report into record. Please see attached.

## **Chief's Items**

Chief Rondeau read his report. Please see attached.

## **Captain's Items**

None

## **Questions from the Press**

None

## **Commissioner's Items**

Commissioner Wood asked that the next meeting be scheduled for February 25, 2021.

## **DISCUSSION**

Chairman Wood asked that with the Detective's carryover cases into January, does the Chief know the number of cases that were not closed because of the Detective helping fill shifts due to the staff shortage?

Chief Rondeau responded that due to cut in the 2020 Budget it impacted us all year due to staff shortage. The money that was cut from the budget did not save money because of what was paid out in overtime pay and part time for open shifts. The Detective was pulled into some of those open shifts and he does not have the know the number of cases that could have been closed.

Commissioner O'Brien replied that it is a shame the amount of overtime overage could have bought a cruiser.

Chairman Wood stated that it is important for the public to know we have a line-item budget. It's a "best guess" approach for spending over the year. If for overtime, if \$100,000 is programmed for the year and there was a \$40,000 overage, the amount of overage gets pulled from other lines. Which then impacts services and other things.

Commissioner O'Brien added that when you have expenses that are over expended it gives the impression that money/budget was handled poorly.

Chief Rondeau responded that the Captain and himself, had to look at the budget and make sure that the Chief comes in under budget. With unforecasted expenses, to include Covid-19. They had to put solutions in place.

Commissioner O'Brien inquired about gas prices and mentioned they were way below what was budgeted for last year and now it looks like the price is going up.

Chief Rondeau replied yes, it's going up. In June we had to take look at the budget. There were unforecasted budget expenses being: Budget cuts, Covid-19, Retirement buyouts (that are by contract) ...those things put the department in a real bind. As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, we were overspent by 1%. Holding off on new hires and gas prices made a huge difference in our budget.

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

None

### **Public Comment**

Tom Bell asked if there is a way to lock in gas prices?

Chief Rondeau answered that that is handled by the Town and they have a clause that if the price drops, they will get the lower price.

Tom Bell thanked the Chief, Captain and Commission for the support they gave to himself and Matthew Planche during this budget process. He was thankful for the Asset Management Plan, transparency and the availability to answer questions was appreciated.

Chairman Wood replied that the Commission and Department greatly appreciate Tom and Matt as liaisons for the Budget Committee.

Chief Rondeau responded with a thank you (Tom) and Matthew. We really appreciate the sanity you brought to the process. Especially with the Covid piece and concerns of which way we should go. Can't thank you enough. All Warrant Articles got a lot of questions and dialogue...and they were excellent questions asked.

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

**Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission enter into non-public session RSA 91 A: 3, a to discuss personnel items at 5:00 PM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.**

The Commission re-entered public session at 5:19 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 5:19 PM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Sherri Moore**

### **Monthly Activity for December 2020**

Twenty-four cases were carried over from November 2020 into Dec. For the month of December 2020, Det. Emerson investigated twenty new cases. The cases below represent all the incident and arrest for the month of December.

Six cases were investigated as felonies and thirteen cases were investigated as misdemeanor level and three were not criminal in nature. At the end of December, Det. Emerson has eleven cases still under investigation.

I tasked Detective Emerson with the investigation of the major motor vehicle crash that happened on November 30<sup>th</sup> which was mentioned in last month's Detective Report. In addition to the motor vehicle (AC) crash report, Detective Emerson is also investigating the crash for any criminal wrongdoing. That involves search warrants for blood, medical records, event data recorders and so on. Detective Emerson handled all of the phone calls that came from the victims in this investigation as well as their respective Attorneys. Detective Emerson is still waiting for results from the lab. I will keep the Wolfeboro Police Commission informed on this all too important case.

Detective Emerson also covered multiple patrol shifts which took him away once again from his investigative work. As a result, detective Emerson handled several minor motor vehicle collisions, welfare checks, vehicle identification (vin) checks and other minor motor vehicle complaints. All typical and necessary functions of a Patrol Officer, but time consuming for him as a Detective, and as a result gave Detective Emerson a much greater work load than all of the other Officers.

### **Cases Assigned/Investigated**

1 DWI  
3 Theft  
1 Sexual Assault  
1 Fraud  
1 Domestic Disturbance  
2 Harassment  
1 Landlord tenant issue  
2 Suspicious activity  
3 minor Motor Vehicle Accidents  
1 Medical assist  
2 DCYF child safety checks  
2 Trespassing issues

Percentage of cases closed this month 71%

Percentage of new cases closed by arrest during the month 25%

Percentage of entire case load closed 74%

# **WOLFEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEVINE MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 2020**

The month of December was Officer Devine's fourth month as the SRO. Ofc. Devine was busy dealing with the same truancy issues. A trend that has been consistent with the High School and Middle School is that students are not going to school and not reporting online remotely resulting in several welfare checks and DCYF notifications with the family. Officer Devine worked with other police departments within the jurisdictions in regards to criminal threatening, trancies, criminal mischief complaints and restraining orders. Officer Devine also worked closely regarding those specific cases with DCYF. The Middle School Principal and Officer Devine made a call to the Center of the Child Advocate after not believing we were getting two students the help they needed by DCYF. As of today, January 20, 2021 the Center of Child Advocate was able to advocate for the Kingswood Middle School to get assistance from an out of source agency to assist a family in need.

Officer Devine took a report from a walk-in student that he had been sexually assaulted in Ossipee. I took the initial report, reported it to DCYF intake and Ossipee PD. OPD took the report for investigation.

Officer Devine had the opportunity to make more of an appearance in the Middle School and was invited to play sports during several gym classes which she loved!

Officer Devine set up three interviews at the child advocacy center involving three students. Officer Devine went to the interviews and is working the case with Detective Shane Emerson. The case had involved after Officer Devine pulled over a vehicle on the Kingswood Campus (McManus Road) after observing motor vehicle violations. Officer Devine made contact with the operator, a twelve-year-old, who was driving a vehicle belonging to non-family member, a male subject who lived at the Hope House. The juvenile was sitting on a large kitchen pot in order to drive. Ofc. Devine arrested the adult male passenger and released him on a hand summons for allowing an improper person to operate and endangering the welfare of a child. From that motor vehicle stop, Ofc. Devine believed that the male subject was grooming the juvenile. This resulted in a large investigation with the Hope House and potential sexual abuse by the adult male passenger. The case is on-going.

Officer Devine assisted the High School/PD with delivering Christmas gifts to families in need.

Officer Devine worked closely with the school's special needs director about getting necessities for several students before the Christmas break and extra two weeks off for remote learning after Christmas.



TO: Wolfeboro Police Commission

FROM: Dean J. Rondeau  
Chief of Police

SUBJ: Chief's Items (December 2020) for 21 January 2021 Wolfeboro Police  
Commission meeting

DATE: 19 January 2021

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

**GENERAL BUDGET ITEMS:**

We have now completed all our presentations of the Budget to the Budget Committee. The last presentation occurred on 12 January 2021 with the final budget review. All our Warrant Articles passed muster, as did our operating budget. The Next hard date for the entire Town Budget will be 2 February 2021 at 1800 hours (6:00 P.M.) I will need one last final vote from the Police Commission on all three Police/Dispatch related articles just for the final record. The Town vote is scheduled for 9 March 2021 starting at 0800-1900 hours (8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.) I will keep you all posted on any changes-so stay tuned.

**PERSONNEL:**

Officer Jason Peaslee has finished the NH Police Academy. He graduated on 18 December. He is now onto the FTO portion of his training and is scheduled to finish sometime in April. Officer Jacob Boucher was sworn in on 4 January 2021 and is now into his FTO program as well. Though his FTO won't go nearly as long, we expect him to be finished sometime NLT March 2021. The PD is now at 100 % Percent strength-let's keep it that way!

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

In terms of Police investigations, December remained a busy month for investigations and follow-up on major cases. This is reflected in the arrest, and incident status reports. Along with our Detectives report. Additionally, as some of you were impacted by this, we had a five (5) car motor vehicle crash on South Main Street on Monday 1 Dec. This matter is still being investigated by Shane Emerson and myself as a Technical Crash Reconstructionist. On Friday, 8 January 2021, Detective Emerson, myself, and trooper Quantili, from the NH State Police executed a Search warrant on the offending vehicle in this case for data contained in the vehicle's Event Data Recorder, also known as the "Black Box." That retrieval was successful, and we will be conducting analysis on that



data, making conclusions on it relative to the evidence obtained at the crash site, and then letting that data guide us in our charging decisions. More to follow on this as we proceed. I will keep the Commission informed as we proceed in this investigation as this was one of the most significant and troubling crashes that has happened in Wolfeboro history, the property damage from this crash was tremendous. We are in the process of looking at every aspect of this case, and for those citizens that were affected by this terrible incident, be patient-these types of investigations take time, and it is not uncommon for these inquiries to take upwards of 90 days or more-they are very complex.

In terms of Police Prosecutions, this past month was slow due to the Dec Holidays. During this part of the year, it is typical for the Courts to move even slower than usual because of the Holidays and annual training requirements inherent in State government, and of course employee vacations and time off. Additionally, the Courts are still seeing significant delays and backlogs due to COVID-19 precautions. This past month we had six (6) defendants respond to eight (8) charges. Of those charges, six (6) were found or plead guilty, one (1) was placed on file pending good behavior, and one (1) was found incompetent to stand trial.

The conviction rate is this past month is eighty-seven and one-half (87.5%) with \$1,275.00 dollars meted out in fines, restitution, and penalties.

**Safety and Security matters:** We have already seen the weather turn. Winter, whether we like it or not, is here! Please allow extra time going to and from events and work. Slow down, the roads will shortly become covered with snow and ice. Lastly, during significant weather events if you don't have to go out-don't. A vast majority of our crashes occur during periods of inclement weather. Plan for needs, cancel non-important appointments or events, please be safe.

**Dispatch:** NSTR

**Motor Vehicle Enforcement:** In an effort to mitigate the traffic crashes we realize monthly, we will be continuing a 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 areas of Town-so please, if you are in a habit of speeding up there, don't! Lastly, we continue to deploy assets and patrols to our identified problem areas-Safety First!

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: There was mandatory de-escalation training scheduled for all department personnel. This was a mandatory four hour block of instruction. All Officers attended.**

**Police:**

**Jason Boucher – Firearms recert.**

**Michael Strauch – K-9 training**

**Department: Officers – mandatory Use of Force Training-everyone!**

**Department Training – 4 hours –everyone**

**DWI and Felony DWI (refresher)**

**MDT training (refresher)**

**Lastly, all the Officers had a four-hour block of instruction on DWI investigation and Felony level Blood draws.**

## **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: Winter is fast approaching, get your vehicle ready for the cold temps by checking your tire pressure, fluid levels, and winter tires added now.**

**BUDGET ANALYSIS: We Under spent in all three (3) Budgets.**

Gentlemen, there will be our last 2020 budget review in January after the presentation of the Chief's items. Presently, we are still underspent in all three budgets. The Executive team is now conducting weekly end of year budget reviews to ensure we don't overspend the PD's three budgets. I will continue to keep the Commission informed. I fully expect to come in just at or just below our bottom line.

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