

Wolfeboro Police Commission Meeting Minutes February 20, 2020

Members present: Chairman Steve Wood, Bob O'Brien and Vice-Chair Joe Balboni Jr. (on the phone)

Staff present: Chief Dean Rondeau, Captain Livie, and Sherri Moore Recording Secretary, SRO Peter Llewellyn

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM and introduced the Commissioners, staff in attendance and noted a quorum was present.

➤ Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Wood entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner's Item

Chairman Wood read a Letter to our Citizens written from the Wolfeboro Police Commission.

See attached letter.

➤ January 16, 2020 regular meeting.

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to approve the public minutes of and January 16, 2020 as amended. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Members voted, all others in favor, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

Chief Rondeau reported on the following activity reports for the month of January with no ytd comparison:

Incidents: He reported 47 incidents.

Offenses by month: He reported 60 offenses last month.

Arrest status report: He reported a total of 29 arrests.

Collisions YTD and Accidents by street name: He reported 5 accidents during the month of January.

Traffic stops YTD and location breakdown report: He reported 158 traffic stops and 19 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'll note we track his activity.

Detectives Report: He provided the Detective's report for review, 8 cases carried over from December, with 7 new cases in the month of January. Detective also taught at the Drivers Education Class at Brewster Academy and focused on driving while under the influence laws and the risk and consequences that it holds.

School Resource Officer (SRO): The report summarizes the activity at the Governor Wentworth School complex; he noted that this is a very busy facility with 29 investigations -that is a very heavy case load.

Chief's Items

Chief Rondeau went over his Wolfeboro Crime Data sheet that compares 2018 to 2019 (attached with memo). He noted that we have less officers on the road and increases in every area and that the Town is getting busier. The good news is that we have new officers in the pipeline that will be filling vacant positions.

See attached memo of the Chief's Items.

DISCUSSION:

Captain Livie noted that the Detective has been covering shifts and that has led to cases being carried over.

Chief Rondeau noted that juvenile cases are on the rise by a lot. The education that SRO Llewellyn is offering to the students at the school is top notch and will help to save students from making poor choices. Great work to SRO Llewellyn.

Chairman Wood stated that we have been spoiled over the last few years by being able to hire certified Police Officers. The new hires that we have in the pipeline are not certified so they will need to attend the Police Academy.

Captain Livie explained that from hiring an officer, to sending him/her to the Police Academy and then putting him/her on the road is about nine months. Officer Church was hired in July and will get on the road the beginning of March.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that he has officer safety concerns on the midnight shift when back up is not around or immediately accessible.

Chief Rondeau stated that with the most recent call involving a gun, Officer LaRoche did a phenomenal job. However, with the call coming in at 4:50 am there were limited surrounding towns that are staffed. Alton and Wakefield each had an officer on and came over to assist. This leaves their towns unattended so as soon as the call gets cleared, they have to get back to their respective towns.

Commissioner Bob O'Brien noted that conversely, when our officers assist with a mutual aid call then that leaves our town without coverage.

Captain's Items

The Captain updated the Commission on the following:

- Looking at the 5-year averages from 2017, 2018, 2019 in the categories of:
 - Incidents – 2017 5-year Average: 471.00
2018 5-year Average: 501.40
2019 5-year Average: 542.20
 - Arrests – 2017 5-year Average: 317.00
2018 5-year Average: 316.40
2019 5-year Average: 328.40

- Crashes – 2017 5-year Average: 147.20
2018 5-year Average: 148.80
2019 5-year Average: 151.20
- the numbers show that overall there is an increase in each of the categories. One contributing factor may be that more people are coming to town.

Questions from the Press

None

Commissioner's Items

Chairman Wood stated that the Commissioners held a Non-Public Work Session on February 14, 2020 and Sr. Patrolman Spera has been promoted to Sergeant as of April 1, 2020 and Officer Jared Beaulieu has been promoted to Sergeant beginning September 1, 2020. The Commissioners are very happy make the promotions to those two officers.

Board of Selectmen's Representative

None.

Public Comment

John Ross addressed the Commission to publicly say what a great job the Wolfeboro Police Department is doing. He has seen negative comments on social media, directed at the Wolfeboro Police Department, and wanted the Commission to know that he and members in the community believe the Department is doing a great job. John is concerned with officer safety and asked if the Department has considered using body cams.

Chief Rondeau responded and said that the Department has researched body cams and found them to be very costly. He also doesn't feel that the types of "problems" the Police Department is dealing with necessities getting body cams at this time. Chief Rondeau also went into what it takes for manpower when it comes to collecting video data. He is going to hold off until body cams are deemed absolutely necessary.

John Ross also asked with the increase the Department is seeing with Juvenile matters is there a correlation between increased crimes involving drugs and alcohol.

Chief Rondeau commented hat he doesn't have a way of measuring that statistic properly.

SRO Llewellyn stated that with the boarding states having legalized marijuana it is easier for juveniles to acquire THC/marijuana cartridges. However, it has become harder to detect the THC because it does not give off an odor.

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 at 5:25 PM. Joe Balboni, Jr. seconded. Roll call vote: Joe Balboni Jr. - yes, Bob O'Brien-yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 6:46 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 6:47 PM.
Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Moore

A Letter to our Citizens from the Wolfeboro Police Commission

Approximately two weeks ago, in the short span of five days, the Wolfeboro Police Department responded to two critical incidents involving handguns. In both instances, shots were fired with one victim receiving a non-life-threatening gunshot wound to the leg. Due to a quick response to both of these incidents, the assailants were arrested by Wolfeboro Police officers within minutes of the initial calls being placed to Wolfeboro Central Dispatch via 9-1-1.

These types of events cause our community to be shaken, and troubled. Our citizens are looking for answers, a quick return to normalcy, and to be reassured that they are safe. No one understands that better than the Wolfeboro Police Commission, Chief Rondeau and the Wolfeboro Police Department.

Although these incidents occurred in Wolfeboro, both cases were assumed by the Carroll County Attorney's Office once determined to be felony level offenses. Established protocol dictates that it then becomes the responsibility of that agency to release information to the public as they deem necessary. These protocols were also in place at the time of the October 2018 double homicide on Lakeview Drive. When there is a death or deaths resulting from a criminal act, the case is then within the purview of the NH Attorney General's Office and it is they who determine what information they will release to the public and when.

Two days into the Lakeview Drive incident and there had not been an utterance of any type from the Attorney General's Office. Our citizens were shaken to their very core and most understandably so. I called Chief Rondeau expressing my anger with the absence of a simple statement from the Attorney General that the situation was under control and that our citizens were safe. I then advised the Chief that one of us must call the A.G.'s office and demand such a release. Chief Rondeau, in full agreement of my position on the matter made that call. The requested release was subsequently issued.

Two days after the February 4th shooting in the Orchards neighborhood, nothing at all had been released from the County Attorney's Office. The Town Manager and the Board of Selectmen were seeking an update as both were receiving a number of inquiries of concern from citizens, but even they are not entitled to privileged information in ongoing investigations. Fortunately, a diligent reporter from the Laconia Daily Sun legally obtained the related affidavits and wrote an article based on their content. That information, now public, was briefed to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen. We are now over two weeks removed from that incident and still no release of any information from the County Attorney.

Although these two incidents detailed above had significantly different outcomes, there is a common theme to both. There was no timely release by the agencies leading those investigations that our citizens were safe, and that is most definitely not acceptable.

Does the public have the right to know details of ongoing investigations? Absolutely not. No law enforcement agency is compelled to release information that may compromise the integrity of an ongoing investigation or tip off a person or persons of interest in that investigation. Do our citizens have the right to know they are safe, and all potential danger has been mitigated? Absolutely yes! And you will.

As we move forward, I am pleased to announce that the Wolfeboro Police Commission, Police Department, and Central Dispatch will be working jointly in releasing "timely" statements that an event has occurred, and what if any actions need to be taken if there is concern for the public's safety. If it has been determined that no danger exists, the public will be advised that all are safe to continue in their normal activities.

To illustrate our commitment to this new initiative, I am pleased to report that it has already been employed. Following the shooting on Keewaydin Road on Saturday evening, February 8th, Chief Dean Rondeau issued a very detailed press release of the incident within the first 15 hours. Although the public should not expect such an all-inclusive statement in every situation, here is the key information you will receive: if the situation is under control, if you need to be vigilant and take recommended safety precautions, if there is no cause for concern as any potential danger had been mitigated, and if there will be a presence of law enforce in the area as the investigation is ongoing.

Within the next two months, the Wolfeboro Police Department and Wolfeboro Central Dispatch will be going live with Code Red, an emergency alert system that will alert our citizens to critical events in near real time. This notification system is free and voluntary and will provide notifications via text, telephone, email and through social media. You will need to sign up for Code Red in order to receive notifications warning of known criminal activity, weather related emergencies, and other critical events in and around our community.

The safety and well being of our community is paramount to the Police Commission, the Police Department and Central Dispatch. We are diligently working on your behalf, continually seeking ways to improve how we can successfully accomplish that very task.

We are truly grateful for the never ending support from our citizens and please know that you are always welcome to reach out to one of your Police Commissioners, Chief Rondeau, or Captain Livie with any question, concern, or complaint. A call to Central Dispatch will guarantee a timely response.

On behalf of the Wolfeboro Police Commission,

Stephen Wood, Chairman

TO: Wolfeboro Police Commission

FROM: Dean J. Rondeau
Chief of Police

SUBJ: Chief's Items (January 2020) for Commission meeting 20 February 2020 meeting

DATE: 10 February 2020

Non- Public: I have one item for Non-public Session under Personnel for promotion, additionally, one under disciplinary, and another for compensation.

GENERAL BUDGET ITEMS:

The Command Staff conducted no budget reviews this past month and one in Feb for the FY 19 Budget and one in Feb for the FY 2020 Budget. Additionally, because it is the start of a new fiscal year, and the FY 2020 Budget as of January has yet to be fully loaded into the system;-only so no in depth analysis can be performed; so only a cursory review was done in Feb to ensure that the proper monies had at least been loaded in and allocated-so far only one error had been found and was reported to the Finance Department.

On 4 Feb the Town Departments heard the Budget Committee's Presentation for the 2020 Budgets-no changes were made to our submitted budget and we await the Town's vote scheduled for 10 March 2020 at the Great Hall starting at 0800 hours and continuing on into the evening ending at 2000 hours.

After this presentation I will conduct our final analysis of the FY 2019 Budget. Briefly, we came in at just under 1.7 percent underspent spent in the PD Budget and just over 3 percent underspent in the Dispatch Budget. Just like years past, we returned some unexpended appropriations back to the Town's General Fund. This is due to the various anomalies which occur throughout the year in which we save money. All-in-all, I think we executed a very good FY 19 Budget, and given some of the unexpected and un-forecasted financial obligations we experienced, we were able to put strong budgetary controls in place early on to ensure that we meet these demands without having to over expend the budget-which we all know is bad.

I am very pleased with the way things turned out relative to our execution of the FY 19 budget, and at this time I would like to thank the Wolfeboro Police Commission for their guidance and support during last year's budget execution-I know I "picked the brains" of each and every one of you throughout the year and the advice and guidance given to by you, and indeed, some other members of our honorable Town boards and committees such as the Wolfeboro Board of Selectman and Budget Committee, and especially Dave Senecal, Paul O'Brien, Tom Bell, Matthew Plache, Bob Loughnan, Bob Tougher,

John Burt, and even Commissioner emeritus Ronald Goodgame were always welcomed and very helpful.

PERSONNEL:

Benjamin Church is scheduled to complete his Field Training shortly and will be out on his own finally-29 weeks of training is a long time-but I want to emphasize that we take training very seriously here at the Wolfeboro PD, and even when we are short Officers, we still continue to run full length training course-this is a recipe for success. When we see Officer Church, please congratulate him on a job well done I am sure he will be happy to be finished with his training and out on his own.

Operations (Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions):

In terms of Police investigations, and prosecution, January busy for the Wolfeboro PD, and with the TWO shooting incidents two weeks ago-February is shaping up to be busy as well. In both these shooting cases, the shooters were arrested, and the cases forward to the County Attorney's Office for prosecution. During the month of January, the PD worked closely with another State Agencies including our State's ICAC (internet Crimes Against Children-Task Force.) of which the Wolfeboro PD is a partner-and we will continue to do so ensuring that our children are safe from sexual predators. This effort is lead by SSG Guy Maloney, Detective Shane Emerson, with assistance from both Officer Mary Swift, and Kristine Martineau. Both these two Officers are very experienced in these types of investigations and do an extremely fine job at building cases for successful prosecution-which is handled by our County Attorney's Office.

In terms of Police Prosecutions; this past month was light due to the Court being off for the first two weeks in January. This past month we had twelve (12) defendants responding to twelve (12) Charges; of those twelve (12) charges, nine (9) plead or were found Guilty at trial; and three (03) defendants agreed to have their cases Placed on File (POF) pending good behavior for six months or more, with diversion, education, and restitution component(s) added to their sentences. The conviction rate this past month is 100 % with approximately \$11,159.46 dollars in fines, penalties and restitution meted out-crime does not pay.

Safety and Security matters: As the winter wears on and the February school vacation weeks peak, please be mindful of a few things-when planning your trip, plan for what to do in the event of foul weather should it strike during the trip and have at least some alternate travel arrangements in mind, even if it means changing your departure date/time or staying or leaving early from your destination to return home to beat a potential nor'easter. The storms this season have already proven to be difficult to forecast-stay alert to the weather and stay alive-if you don't already, "like" our Wolfeboro PD Police page on Facebook, and watch for our weather forecasts which are posted as

quickly as time permits in advance of dangerous storms and stay informed. Also, sign up for "Code Red" if you have not already done so and stay informed and aware all sorts of news and events in and around your town or State-this is a free service offered right here through the Wolfeboro PD and is managed by our Wolfeboro Dispatch Center-it is a "near" real time emergency notification app which can receive information "near" real time alerting you and family to all sorts of events, notifications, weather and other potentially dangerous events and issued warnings-it is free, and is used throughout the State. Please see our Facebook page to find directions on how to sign up for this all too important emergency notification system.

Dispatch: Dispatch Supervisor Mia Lyons and her staff were busy with several high profile taskings this past month. We are working closely with the IMC developer and Two-Way Communications on important updates to our States MDT system and software after having discovered several significant software issues prevent the calculation of certain statistics and other data from being compiled properly. These fixes should be completed by march and I am glad WE found them and reported them to the State. Secondly, and along the same lines as the first-we have been compiling out data for our County Attorney's Office for her annual report to the NH Attorney general. And of course, Dispatch has been in the forefront of two major critical calls two weeks ago. As all major critical incidents-we will be conducting an After Action Review (AAR or Hot Wash) of the incidents as soon as we get past the investigatory aspects of these two major cases.

Motor Vehicle Enforcement: Speed issues continue to be a problem in our community. Please pay attention to the posted speed limits on our Town roads-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-if you are speeding-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 areas, 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:

Officers took part in Dispatch re-certification training-this is an annual requirement.
Sgt Strauch – K-9 Training X2
Officer Llewellyn NHJPOA Conference and training

Police
Sgt. Strauch – K-9 Training

County Attorney Training Session:
Eric LaRoche, Patrick Spera, Kristina Martineau, Ben Church, Officer Mary Swift.

Module 1: Interrogation Techniques:
Module 2: Domestic Violence/Strangulation Investigation: Officer Mary Swift
(Instructor)
Module 3: DUI Investigation-Enhanced Techniques:

Dispatch: None

OUTREACH AND MATTERS OF INTEREST:

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

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 I continue to be regulars at the Men's Breakfast meetings each month.

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: Winter Driving. Winter is fast approaching, please leave home with a few minutes to spare each day when traveling about. Remember, snow and ice will cause the roadways to be treacherous.

Captain's Items: Code Red

2019 Final Budget Analysis

Budget: As I said earlier, the PD, Dispatch and ACO departments all came in underspent. The combined total returned into the Town coffers was \$54,700.11/100. This amount is as of 12 February 2020 (See attached Financial Sheets).

This number is also exclusive of any and all revenues which have yet (as of the date of this meeting) to be credited back to the PD. This includes monies from the Attorney General's Office, Highway Safety Grants, the Courts, and from other sources from which the PD generates revenues. All these monies go directly back into the general fund and are managed by the Finance Officer and his team. Sometime at the end of the year the incoming revenues are off-set by a debit-credit process and will be reflected-most normally during the audit process. What does all this mean-the PD generates a considerable amount of revenue throughout the year-this all comes home to roost normally at the end of the year and is good news for our taxpayers and residents-it means that it most normally comes off their tax requirements the following year.

This closes my FY 2019 Budget book-subject to the Commission's Questions, I will entertain any questions you gentlemen have on the Budget-if any-thank-you.

WOLFEBORO CRIME DATA 2018 VS. 2019

