

# Wolfeboro Police Commission

## Meeting Minutes

### August 31, 2017

**Members present:** Chairman Steve Wood, Ron Goodgame and Vice-Chair Joe Balboni Jr.

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

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM 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 the July 20, 2017 regular meeting.***

**Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public minutes of July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 as submitted. Commissioner Steve Wood seconded. Members voted, Ron Goodgame-abstained and being none opposed, the motion passed.**

### Activity Reports

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

**Offenses (State Law) by month:** He reported 56 offenses for the month a slight decrease from last month.

**Arrest status report:** He reported 27 arrests for the month which was the same reporting 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 12 accidents last month, which is a 45% decrease from the previous month.

**School Resource Officer (SRO):** The SRO provided his monthly report noting numerous investigations for the month.

**Motor Vehicle Traffic Report:** He reported 288 stops last month at 41% increase, only 15 resulted in tickets.

**Detectives Report:** He reviewed the Detective's report, noting he took on 8 new cases for the month and updated the public that Officer Shane Emerson is the new Detective as of August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Chief's Items

Chief Rondeau reported the following:

- He noted that he and the Captain continue to receive many accolades about the officers including a very special heartfelt thank you from a mother about Senior Patrolman Pat Spera. He appreciates hearing the comments whether good or bad so he can reward good behavior and correct deficiencies.
- He and the Captain have completed an internal review of the budgets the 2018 budget has been submitted to the Town Manager and he plans to review all three proposed budgets at the September Police Commission meeting.
- The operational grants are winding down and reimbursements will continue through November 2017, this will reflect the current budgets reporting figures.
- Governor Sununu and staff were on hand at the Department to pledge support on strengthening animal cruelty laws and reestablishing the Governor's Council on Animal Rights.
- This month 25 defendants responded to 26 charges; of those 11 were found guilty, 11 were pending good behavior, two complaints were withdrawn and one subject was found incompetent to stand trial. He noted that \$3,971.82 in fines, penalties and restitution were meted out to the state of NH.
- On July 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> the Department conducted a document exploitation of the documents seized as part of the June 16<sup>th</sup> Great Dane rescue at 149 Warran Sands Road, these documents will be used in the various court hearings and cases.
- Sgt. Maloney attended training at the Municipal Police Institute.
- Both he and the Captain continue to speak to Wolfeboro Community TV on Coffee and Connections.
- The Police Department reports both the Independence Day Parade and Fireworks events were very successful and there 240 calls for service on July 4<sup>th</sup> alone.
- Both he and the Captain continue to be a presence at the Board of Selectmen meetings.
- He noted the July 1<sup>st</sup> open house was a success and reported many visitors to the station as reported last month.
- He provided a brief overview of the recent motion made by Tina Fay's attorneys and that he was pleased with the Superior Courts decision that this still remains in the District Court. He noted this is separate from the criminal case scheduled for the district court on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

### ***DISCUSSION:***

Commissioner Goodgame noted that he has also received great feedback from the other Officers under his command which is nice to hear as there was a time when moral was an issue and changed when Chief Chase came aboard and he is happy to know that Chief Rondeau has stepped into Chief Chase's shoes quite well.

Chief Rondeau replied that Chief Chase was a great teacher.

### **Captain's Items**

Chief Rondeau provided an update on a few of the Captain's items as he could not make this meeting as follows:

- He noted School starts September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The Fire antennae broke and will cost about \$3,000 for the repair out of the Central Dispatch Budget.



- Warrant Article #23 address the revolving fund.

### **Commissioner's Items**

Commissioner Balboni questioned a grant for a second radar trailer.

Chief Rondeau replied that he would be happy to apply for one, the trailer is about \$22,000 and the current trailer has a waiting list for locations to clock speed.

Commissioner Balboni also questioned the cross walk at Kingswood Golf?

Chief Rondeau replied that road is a state road and the Board of Selectmen have petition the state to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph there, once that happens they will be able to petition for a crosswalk. He explained that you can't have a crosswalk on a roadway of over 30 mph, there is not enough time to stop.

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

Commissioner Goodgame requested the Secretary check to see if Luke Freudenberg is still the liaison as he hasn't been to any meetings in a while.

### **Questions from the Press**

Elissa Paquette of the Granite State News questioned Tina Fay's court process.

Chief Rondeau explained the process of the court and that Ms. Fay's attorneys' filed the motion as the dogs are Ms. Fay's property, they are, but the dogs were seized as evidence of a crime because they were not in good health. He explained that the court has determined they need to get through the criminal process first and on September 6<sup>th</sup> the Judge will set the rules on how the case will go before the court in October. He explained that this case is in the district court because the charges are misdemeanors, not felonies.

### **Public Comment**

Kevin Llewelyn requested time to speak with the Commission about a recent incident involving his wife at the Smith River Bridge on Whitten Neck Road and some concerns he has about youths jumping off that Bridge. Please see Lt. Commander Llewelyn's attached statement he read for the record.

Chairman Wood thanked him for speaking to them about his concerns and noted that he is behind him 110% and they will do what they can to keep the area safe, including enforcing the fines and even increasing the fine for jumping from the Bridge. He also has seen the photos and videos of those jumping from the Bridge and if the problem persists they may even need to add a fence.

Wendy Hatton resident, also noted that when that bridge was updated, the channel went through some changes it is very narrow and dangerous.

Ron Goodgame questioned if he plans to file a lawsuit against the parents of the children.

Lt. Commander Llewelyn replied that he does not have any proof of the exact youths who did it even though everyone including the police are pretty sure they know who they are.

Chief Rondeau expressed his support of monitoring this area and expressed his sympathy for what happened to his wife and that if increasing the fines is the route they need to take, he will do that.

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

**Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission enter into non-public session RSA 91 A: 3, a to discuss personnel at 5:16 PM. Ron Goodgame 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 5:25 PM.

**Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to seal the minutes of the August 31, 2017 non-public meeting. Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Roll call vote, Chairman Wood– yes, Ron Goodgame 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 5:26 PM. Commissioner Ron Goodgame seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,  
**Amelia Capone-Muccio**

## **WOLFEBORO POLICE COMMISSIONER'S MEETING – 31 AUG 2017**

Ladies and gentlemen. For those who don't know me, I'm Lt Commander Kevin Llewelyn and I'm most grateful to be able to address you here, today.

1. Background – Incident 11 June 2017 – Smith River - Pontoon boat. Bridge at Whitten Neck Road. – 2 young boys jump immediately in front of bow. One disappears. I fear the worst and am expecting him to hit the propeller -- My wife thinks the same thing, reacts in shock, stands up, shouts OMG and BANG!!!

- Head Injury – ER - CAT Scan – confirmed Concussion – massive headaches, hearing loss and loss of vision.
- Filed Police Report
- ENT Specialist – Hearing Loss - Confirmed Tinnitus – Probably Permanent
- OPTHAMOLOGIST – Blurred Vision – Eyes are healthy, brain not interpreting the signal from the eyes.
- NEUROLOGY – next step – 12 September.

2. Treena's health is my primary concern – medical bills are mounting – I'm retired and my wife is self-employed and, as a result has lost income from inability to work. All because of stupidity of the youths concerned.

3. To highlight the potential danger of the act of jumping from the SR Bridge near any watercraft, I wrote a Letter to the Editor, that was published in the Granite State News. I actually believed that any tragedy would be along the lines of spinal injury to the bridge jumpers, rather than serious injury to a boater.

4. I met with Town Manager, David Owen to discuss the issue.

- He confirmed that the act of jumping from the bridge and swimming in that area IS IN CONTRAVENTION of Town Ordinance,
- He agreed that the signs posted at the bridge were inadequate and agreed to get them changed.
- MY SINCERE THANX to him for executing that so promptly. The signs are now clear and succinct.
- He stated that he would meet with the Police Chief, Dean Rhondo, to discuss what the town police could do about this matter.



5. During my follow up with David the following week, whilst delighted the signs had been replaced, I was disappointed to learn from David that the Town Police stance was limited funds in the budget and that the misdemeanour was not considered important enough to divert police cruisers.

6. I have heard that the newly appointed Police Captain is sympathetic and has informed his officers to take names, issue a 'first time' warning, then issue a fine of \$100 to the perpetrators or their parents, if under 18. I believe that hurting the pocket is the only effective solution. I have seen cruisers at the bridge, taking names. Long may that continue.

**SURELY A 400 YARD DIVERSION FOR CRUISERS ON ROUTE 28 IS NOT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR to enhance public safety?**

7. The trouble is, many parents of children in this town could care less about this Town Ordinance. They jumped from the bridge when they were young and see no reason for their offspring not to do likewise - preferring to ignore the potential dangers.

This was most evident in a recent FB video posted by one female Wolfeboro town resident encouraging all to come and jump off the SR Bridge, stating how much fun it was.

8. I am NOT a killjoy. Jumping from the bridge affects the safety of boating traffic and has resulted in severe injury but could result death to boaters and jumpers alike. There are plenty of beaches in and around town for these kids to swim. Moreover, I could be facing a manslaughter charge and have to live with the guilt of killing a child.

**Therefore, I am requesting that the Town Police consider this Ordinance important enough to enforce and that this information is disseminated to the town's populous so that when fines are levied, there will be no case for leniency or rebuttal. Perhaps an article in the Granite State News stating that the Town and its Police Commissioners are fully supportive of enhancing public safety at the SR bridge on WN Rd, reiterating the dangers of bridge jumping – to jumpers and boaters alike and making parents of minors aware of their responsibility for the actions of these kids and, ultimately, for the payment of Town fines and any consequential civil legal action by injured parties.**

Police Com.  
8-31-17  
Attachment