

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

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

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

Chairman Wood called the GoToMeeting to order at 4:02 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 – present and alone in a room in his house, Sherri Moore – present and alone at her house.

Consideration of Minutes

Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to approve the October 15, 2020 public minutes amended. 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 October:

Incidents: He reported that there were 57 incidents, which was an increase from September.

Offenses by month: He reported 95 offenses last month.

Arrest status report: He reported a total of 30 arrests.

Collisions YTD and Accidents by street name: He reported 13 accidents during the month of October.

Traffic stops YTD and location breakdown report: He reported 221 traffic stops and 18 tickets were issued out of those stops.

Personnel Analysis report: Submitted to Commissioners.

Detectives Report: 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.

Chief Rondeau reviewed the budget through the 3rd quarter of the year with the Commission.

Captain's Items

None

Questions from the Press

None

Commissioner's Items

Chairman Wood asked if since COVID are we seeing an increase in traffic and population because of people staying in their seasonal residence.

Chief Rondeau said yes. He then went on to say he has seen many out-of-state plates throughout the week and that not just the weekend traffic volume has increased. He also said that homes are occupied that would typically be closed up for the winter. There has been an influx in the town population.

DISCUSSION

None

Board of Selectmen's Representative

None

Public Comment

None

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 4:31 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 5:32 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 5:32 PM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Moore

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 5:32 PM. Chairman Wood seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Moore

WOLFEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEVINE MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 2020

The month of October was Officer Devine's second month as the SRO. This month was busier with children reporting past tense sexual assault crimes which had occurred out of Wolfeboro. Officer Devine worked with several police departments within the jurisdictions in regards to those specific cases as well as DCYF. Officer Devine assisted the OPD with a sexual assault investigation as a student in the high school was a suspect.

Officer Devine took two sexual assault reports that happened in Wolfeboro. Officer Devine reported the incidents to DCYF as well as set up an interview for one of the cases at the Child Advocacy Center. Officer Devine went to the interview and the case is still on-going with the assistance of Detective Emerson.

Officer Devine assisted the school with several truancy issues working along with the truant officer. Officer Devine had Ossipee PD conduct several welfare checks due to truant students and some that the school had yet to make contact with. All children and parents were contacted.

Officer Devine also assisted the administration at the high school regarding several students skipping classes and leaving campus.

Monthly Activity for October 2020

16 cases were carried over from September 2020. For the month of October 2020, Det. Emerson investigated 25 new cases. The cases below represent all the incidents and arrests for the month of October.

7 cases were investigated as felonies and 18 cases were investigated as misdemeanor level. At the end of October, Det. Emerson has 23 cases still under investigation.

Detective Emerson's work schedule was also altered this month to cover patrol shifts and shift coverage for the Department. That has resulted in a significant increase in Detective Emerson's case load. The 25 new cases are a result of not only his usual assigned cases but also cases developed while he covered patrol shifts. Detective Emerson also assisted Sgts. and Patrol Officers with investigations in felony fraud, theft and Identity theft cases. Those cases are not reflected in Detective Emerson's case load numbers.

Detective Emerson took care of the Drug Take Back Day which resulted in approximately 350 lbs. of unused and unwanted medication.

Detective Emerson had to process, secure, weigh and label all of the medication turned in which, as you can imagine, was time consuming.

Detective Emerson responded to the attempted Bank robbery and based on the limited information given by the witness, Detective Emerson was able to locate the suspect at a residence and he was placed under arrest within 30 minutes of his attempted Bank Robbery. This arrest also ultimately allowed Rochester PD to solve three completed Bank Robberies that had occurred earlier in the year (it was

the same suspect.) This was well done, and represents some good old fashioned Police Work!

Detective Emerson has been also assisting the Internet Crimes Against Children task force, a.k.a. ICAC with information pertaining to child sexual images believed to be sourced somewhere in southern Carroll County.

Also not reflected in Detective Emerson's case load numbers is the follow up he has been requested to do by the County Attorney for previous cases that are due to start trial.

Cases Assigned/Investigated

- 1 Theft
- 2 Shoplifting
- 1 DWI
- 1 Bank Robbery
- 1 Missing Person
- 1 Harassment
- 2 Criminal Mischief
- 1 Criminal Threatening
- 3 Hit and Run
- 1 Assault
- 1 Child Abuse
- 1 Child Sexual Assault
- 1 Child Abuse
- 1 Elder Abuse
- 1 Littering

1 Illegal Dumping
1 Abandoned Vehicle
1 Identity Fraud
1 Fraud
2 Motor Vehicle Crash

Percentage of cases closed this month 72%

Percentage of new cases closed by arrest during the month 24%

Percentage of entire case load closed 67%

TO: Wolfeboro Police Commission

FROM: Dean J. Rondeau
Chief of Police

SUBJ: Chief's Items (October 2020) for 19 November 2020 Police Commission meeting

DATE: 11 November 2020

Non- Public: I have one item for Non-public Session under personnel, hiring contract for new officer to be sworn in January 2021, and a new part-time Dispatch candidate.

GENERAL BUDGET ITEMS:

We have presented our Budget to the Budget Committee on 16 November 2020. Next, we will appear before the BOS for the three (3) warrant articles we have for the voters. The first is the Dispatch Console for approximately 154K. Next is the Stipend increase for the Commissioners at \$1,900 dollars, lastly is the Cruiser Warrant for approximately 57k. Some of that should be off set by the Police Special Detail revolving account-I am still waiting on the Town Manager and Town Finance Officer to let us know how much the "off set" will be; more to follow on this-I will keep you all posted. We are awaiting so stay tuned.

PERSONNEL:

Officer Shanks is now completed FTO-it's been a long time. He is now out on his own and under supervision. Officer Peaslee is in the second QTR of the Police Academy. We have extended an offer to a candidate for our remaining full time slot-I need to discuss his contract with the Commission in non-public session later. His projected hiring date is January 2021. Also, I have a new part-time dispatch candidate which the Commission needs to discuss in non-public as well.

Operations (Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions):

In terms of Police investigations, October 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, I just want to point out here Detective Emerson's quick and brilliant arrest of Christopher Kelley on bank Robbery Charges. This apprehension helped Rochester solve three of their unsolved Bank Robberies.

In terms of Police Prosecutions, this past month was a bit better in terms of cases disposed of; but the Courts are still seeing significant delays and backlogs due to

COVID-19 precautions. This past month we had eighteen (18) Defendants respond to eighteen (18) charges. Of those charges, twelve (12) were found or plead guilty, five (5) were placed on file pending restitution to the victims, and one case was Null proseed due to the victim filing a Richards Hearing. A Richards hearing is used to “excuse” testimony and grant immunity to a witness or victim when he or she may incriminate self-during examination or cross examination-it is the equivalent of and essentially the same as declaring Fifth Amendment protections unless the State grants immunity from prosecution-which is always a very risky move because the “pass” which may be given by the State to potentially heinous crimes. Considering this, the case and charges were withdrawn-which is the right thing to do in this matter and the State had no other alternative.

The conviction rate is this past month is ninety-eight-point zero two percent (98.02%) with \$5448.00 dollars meted out in fines, restitution, and penalties.

Safety and Security matters: The weather is turning. We are now getting into the winter months. Please allow extra time going to and from events and work. Slow down, the roads will soon be covered with snow and ice-let’s all be safe.

Dispatch: As 2-way Communications were doing some radio upgrades and repairs, we learned that one of our PD Dispatch Antennae needs to be replaced. The coast will be approximately \$3,000 dollars or so. This is an Unexpected Financial Requirement (UFR). I expect that I have this money in the budget, and we can make this repair. I would like the Commission to vote on this, and we can wait until the budget portion of this meeting if you like to discuss it-thanks

Motor Vehicle Enforcement: In an effort to mitigate the traffic crashes we realize monthly, 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 Roads. 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.

Lastly, as a precaution, all our road warning speed signs will be coming in for the winter. They will be re-deployed next spring.

Training:

Police

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: Under spent in all three 93) Budgets. See Budget sheets attached.

Gentlemen, there will be a 3rd QTR analysis for the PD's FY 2020 budget after the presentation of the Chief's items.

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