

**Wolfeboro Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
COVID-19 Meeting - GoToMeeting
December 22, 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 – 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 November 19, 2020 public minutes as presented. 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 November:

Incidents: He reported that there were 50 incidents, which was a decrease from October.

Offenses by month: He reported 76 offenses last month.

Arrest status report: He reported a total of 20 arrests.

Collisions YTD and Accidents by street name: He reported 11 accidents during the month of November.

Traffic stops YTD and location breakdown report: He reported 83 traffic stops and 8 tickets were issued out of those stops.

Personnel Analysis report: Submitted to Commissioners.

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

School Resource Officer (SRO): Read Report into record. From the summary report it shows she is quite busy between the Middle and High School. 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

Chairman Wood mentioned that Commissioner Balboni is out with a medical issue. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Chief Wood asked if the SRO left the Kingswood campus to go to a call at Carpenter is that still considered part of the Kingswood campus?

Chief Rondeau responded that that is a great question. If Officer Devine is called to the Carpenter School, it is still considered campus. If she is called to court or training that is on the Department. If it is directly related to a SAU function they will reimburse for her time. She is the protection for the campus.

Chief Rondeau also shared that he has a lot of passion for the SRO position. We have a great partnership with SAU 49 and Brewster Academy.

DISCUSSION

Chairman O'Brien asked the Chief if he has any indication on when the vaccine will be available for the department.

Chief Rondeau responded that he does not.

Captain Livie also answered that he filled out a form that is required by the State. He is just waiting to hear back from the State.

Chief Rondeau mentioned that he knows the military was tasked with getting out the vaccines.

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 4:43 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 6:06 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 6:06 PM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Moore

TO: Wolfeboro Police Commission

FROM: Dean J. Rondeau
Chief of Police

SUBJ: Chief's Items (November 2020) for 17 December 2020 Police Commission meeting

DATE: 8 December 2020

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

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 100K. Next is the Stipend increase for the Commissioners at \$1,600 dollars, lastly is the Cruiser Warrant for approximately 57k. Some of that should be offset 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 Jason Peaslee is now finishing the NH Police Academy. He will graduate on 18 December. It is now a closed ceremony due to COVID-19 concerns. Once he is finished with the academy, he will start FTO training with the PD for the next 12-16 weeks. The next hire is Jacob Boucher, who is already certified, he will report to the PD on or about 4 January 2021.

Operations (Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions):

In terms of Police investigations, November 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 being investigated by Shane Emerson and myself as a Technical Crash Reconstructionist. The property damage from this crash was tremendous. We are in the process of looking at every aspect of this crash, 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 investigations to take upwards of 90 days or more-they are very complex. I will continue to keep the Commission informed of the status of this

investigation. Moving on-as the Commission knows, we prevailed in Ms. Fay's NH Supreme Court Challenge to her convictions of animal cruelty charges brought by this Department almost two years ago. The next phase in this criminal process will be to have the Superior Court schedule and conduct a hearing on portions of her sentence (Financial) which were held in abeyance while she plead her case to the NH Supreme Court. There is still a Civil matter to be scheduled and heard in the Washington D.C. District Court. I will keep the Commission informed as this last case moves forward.

In terms of Police Prosecutions, this past month was slow due to the Nov Holidays. This part of the year its typical for the Courts to move even slower than usual because of the Holidays and annual training requirements inherent in State government. Additionally, the Courts are still seeing significant delays and backlogs due to COVID-19 precautions. This past month we had nine (9) defendants eighteen respond to nine (9) charges. Of those charges, eight (8) were found or plead guilty, one (1) was placed on file pending good behavior.,

The conviction rate is this past month is one hundred percent (100%) with \$1,504.00 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 ahead for needs, cancel non-important appointments or events, lease be safe. Lastly, as a reminder, there is, what may prove to be, a significant winter storm scheduled for this weekend (19-20 Dec 2020)-so please stay informed and take precautions now-thank-you.

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!

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:

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.

WOLFEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEVINE

MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER 2020

The month of November was Officer Devine's third month as the SRO. Ofc. Devine was busy dealing with 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, truancties, criminal mischief complaints and restraining orders. Officer Devine also worked closely regarding those specific cases with DCYF. A student reported crimes that he was aware of to Officer Devine which led Officer Devine interviewing three students regarding a criminal mischief complaint for Officer Church. Each student admitted their part in the offense. Officer Devine interviewed a student for the New Durham Police Department and was able to close their case.

A teacher asked for help from Officer Devine in reference to a student whom Officer Devine has a rapport with. The teacher believed the student was under the influence during each time she was in her class. Administration and the school nurse was called to interview the student whom they believed was not under the influence. The student's bags were searched with nothing found. Officer Devine reviewed the surveillance from the last four times the student was in school to see what the student was doing and with whom. Found that the student would leave her class for nine minutes and walk all around the school and hide in bathrooms but never met with anyone else. Officer Devine assisted Sgt. Strauch with downloading surveillance for a stalking investigation. Officer Devine downloaded surveillance from a pickup truck that caused a multi vehicle accident on South Main St. and gave it to Detective Emerson.

Officer Devine also assisted the administration at the High School regarding several students skipping classes and leaving campus. Officer Devine assisted with the removal of two students who had gone into the school twice during their non-cohort days. Officer Devine seized a vape pen which the administration asked for it to be destroyed after two female students were caught vaping in a bathroom. Warning for each student but would result in an arrest if a second offense. The students were placed on suspension.

Officer Devine assisted the Middle School Principal with delivering Thanksgiving Turkey Baskets to families within the district. Officer Devine was able to set-up a Google meet with a student counselor for a student whom was apprehensive about going to school. Since then, the student has been going to school.

Monthly Activity for November 2020

23 cases were carried over from October 2020. For the month of November 2020, Det. Emerson investigated 16 new cases. The cases below represent all the incident and arrest for the month of November.

7 cases were investigated as felonies and 9 cases were investigated as misdemeanor level. At the end of November, Det. Emerson has 24 cases still under investigation.

I tasked Detective Emerson with the investigation of the major motor vehicle crash that happened on November 30th. The crash covered over a quarter mile from start to finish which totaled 1,390 ft in total length. As a result of the crash, 4 drivers were transported to hospitals for what appeared to be major injuries. A standard accident report with just two vehicles involved is quite time consuming, never mind a crash that involves 5 vehicles, passengers, multiple witness statements, property damage, personal injury, and a coverage area of over a quarter mile in length. Detective Emerson spent almost an entire week on completing the accident report alone. The possible criminal aspect to this crash is still under investigation.

Detective Emerson continued his trusted and strong relationship with the County Attorney and her staff. Detective Emerson was tasked by the County Attorney in gathering additional information on cases turned in by other Officers at this Department that did not have adequate information for prosecution purposes. These were cases that Detective Emerson did not have a part in originally, but Detective Emerson was asked to complete. These assignments are not noted in Detective Emerson's case load numbers and are extremely time consuming.

Detective Emerson is also tasked with logging and securing all the evidence that comes in for cases. All of these items are logged into the evidence room and recorded log is kept. Detective Emerson ran into some challenges as certain items, such as drugs, are secured in the drug lockers which are currently full. The evidence room is reaching max capacity and a length purging of the evidence room is in the forceable future.

In addition to his Detective duties, Detective Emerson also covered Patrol shifts which results in Detective Emerson's case load being put aside. Detective Emerson continued to assist other Officers with there case's and case load. Those cases are also not reflected in his case load numbers.

Cases Assigned/Investigated

- 1 Possession of Narcotics
- 2 Theft
- 1 Sexual Assault
- 1 Minor on Minor Sexual Assault
- 1 Scam
- 1 Felony Level Assault
- 1 Criminal Threatening
- 1 Harassment
- 1 Willful Concealment (arrest)
- 1 RO violation (arrest)
- 2 minor Motor Vehicle Accidents
- 1 Major MV Crash
- 1 Negligent Driving

1 Reckless Operation

Percentage of cases closed this month 56%

Percentage of new cases closed by arrest during the month 19%

Percentage of entire case load closed 72%