

**Wolfeboro Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2022**

Members present: Chairman Steve Wood, Vice-Chair Bob O'Brien and Commissioner Shawn Coope

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

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Wood entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Minutes

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to approve the December 16, 2021, and the January 5, 2022, public minutes.

Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the December 16, 2021 and January 5, 2022, public minutes as written. Commissioner Coope 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 37 incidents, a decrease from the previous month.

Offenses by month: He reported 58 offenses for the month.

Arrest status report: He reported an increase from the previous month, a total of 26. He went on to report there were 361 arrests for the year. Chairman Wood inquired about the backup format being listed by officer number. Chief Rondeau offered to print the report off for the Commissioners by officer name.

Collisions YTD report: He reported no changes in the number of accidents that occurred last month. There were 130 collisions for the year, which the Chief feels is a reasonably low number.

Traffic stops YTD report: He reported 223 traffic stops last month and 8 tickets were issued out of those stops. Resulting in an 3.58% chance of getting a ticket. Most stops are educational in nature. There were 2,929 traffic stops made for the year.

Personnel Analysis report: The report is a synopsis of each officer's reporting for the month. Report included in the Commissioners report only.

Detectives Report: Report attached

School Resource Officer (SRO): Report attached. The Chief discussed the importance of what is posted on the internet or social media. Threats to the schools will not be tolerated.

Chief's Items

Chief Rondeau read his report. Please see attached.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Coope shared that issues have been discussed in the last several meetings and asked if the Chief could review one of the decisions that was voted on regarding keeping Central Dispatch in the Police Department.

Chief Rondeau shared that over the years Central Dispatch has become an integral part of the Police Department. Having Dispatch allows to keep the doors open and a place of refuge. There is a lot of behind-the-scenes work that takes place while the officers are out on the road. To not have the Dispatch at the Police Building would be counterproductive.

Chairman Wood reviewed what was important from the January 5th Commission meeting regarding the discussion of keeping Dispatch with the Police Department. The proposed new Police Department building has been designed by an architect. At one of the building planning meetings, it was presented to reduce the size of the building by 1,000 feet and then at another meeting the Town Manager suggested to keep the Dispatch in the Public Safety building to save the 1,000 sq. feet and cost. It was because of this suggestion that we recognize the importance of Dispatch remaining with the Police Department.

Commissioner Coope shared that the Commission voted at the January 5, 2022, meeting to keep Dispatch with the Police. He also went on to share a story from his experience from when he worked as a Police Officer and was investigating a case down in Florida. He had to go to a very large police department in Florida and there was no one at the building. He had to wait outside for some time for an officer to arrive.

Chief Rondeau stated that he wouldn't want that. We practice very strong community policing. If a dispatcher can solve an issue then the Chief wants them to be able to do that...it creates efficiency. He also went on to point out that the changing the geometry of the new building design is a critical point. Taxpayer money has already been spent on the design plans. When we start changing the geometry of the building you are talking about a whole new design. That would also affect the Fire Department building design plans too. We achieved shrinking down the building by 800 sq. ft and there are not major cost savings in shrinking it down by another 200 sq ft.

Chairman Wood also pointed out that the design of the building is looking out 50 years. To lessen the building, we are changing the longevity of the building and every time we make changes it costs money.

Commission Coope asked about what kind of responsibilities does the police department have to other towns in the area? The Wolfeboro Police Department is a 24 hr, 7 day a week agency, correct?

Chief Rondeau answered that the department does have to respond to other towns because of mutual aid agreements. There are moral and ethical obligations to respond to towns.

Commission Coope asked what other towns in the area are 24/7 departments?

Chief Rondeau listed out departments: Wakefield – not sure; Alton is 24 hr; Moultonborough – not sure; State Police – off the road between 12-2 am; Sheriff's Department – off the road at 11 pm.

Chairman Coope asked if it comes up at Chief's meetings?

Chief Rondeau responded that it does come up. State Police are short on personnel. As well as, Rochester. There is not a lot of help on the horizon.

Commissioner O'Brien shared that it takes a lot of time for an off-duty officer to respond to a call.

Chief Rondeau shared that the midnight shift is the most dangerous shift. Officer Shannon in Epping was ambushed because no back up was available. The Chief feels what we need to sit down with the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee to discuss when we can get another person on midnights. He would like to see two officers on. However, this doesn't need to happen tomorrow, but it does need to be addressed. He is not talking about one officer but two and half officers being added to the department.

Captain's Items

None

Questions from the Press

None

Commissioner's Items

Chairman Wood stated that he had one item for Non-Public under Litigation.

Next Police Commission Meeting will be January 20, 2022, at the Wolfeboro Public Library in the Bradley Room at 4:00 p.m.

Board of Selectmen's Representative

None

Budget Committee's Representative

Tom Bell inquired about the mention of revenue during the reading of the Detective's report.

Chief Rondeau shared that revenue that comes back to the Town such as Title 13 money (alcohol related fines) and parking ticket money goes to the Town's general fund.

Public Comment

None

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

Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to enter into non-public session RSA 91 A: 3, a to discuss litigation at 5:09 PM. Commissioner Coope seconded. Roll call vote: Bob O'Brien – yes, Shawn Coope – yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 5:53 PM.

Chairman Wood entertained a motion to seal the Non-Public Minutes.

Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to seal the Non-Public Minutes. Commissioner Coope seconded. Roll Call vote: Bob O'Brien-yes, Shawn Coope –yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

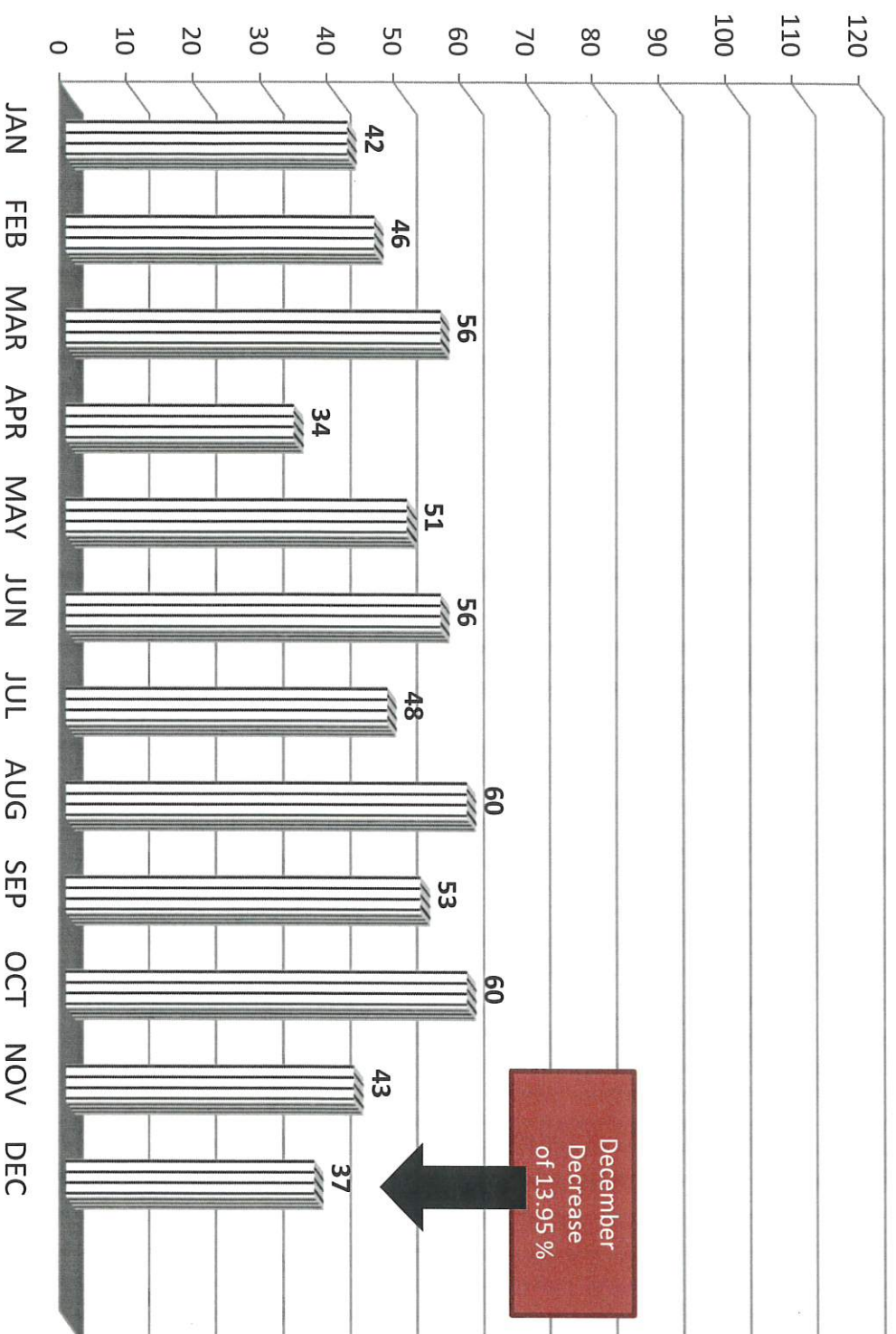
Being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Wood entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner O'Brien moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 5:54 PM. Commissioner Wood seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

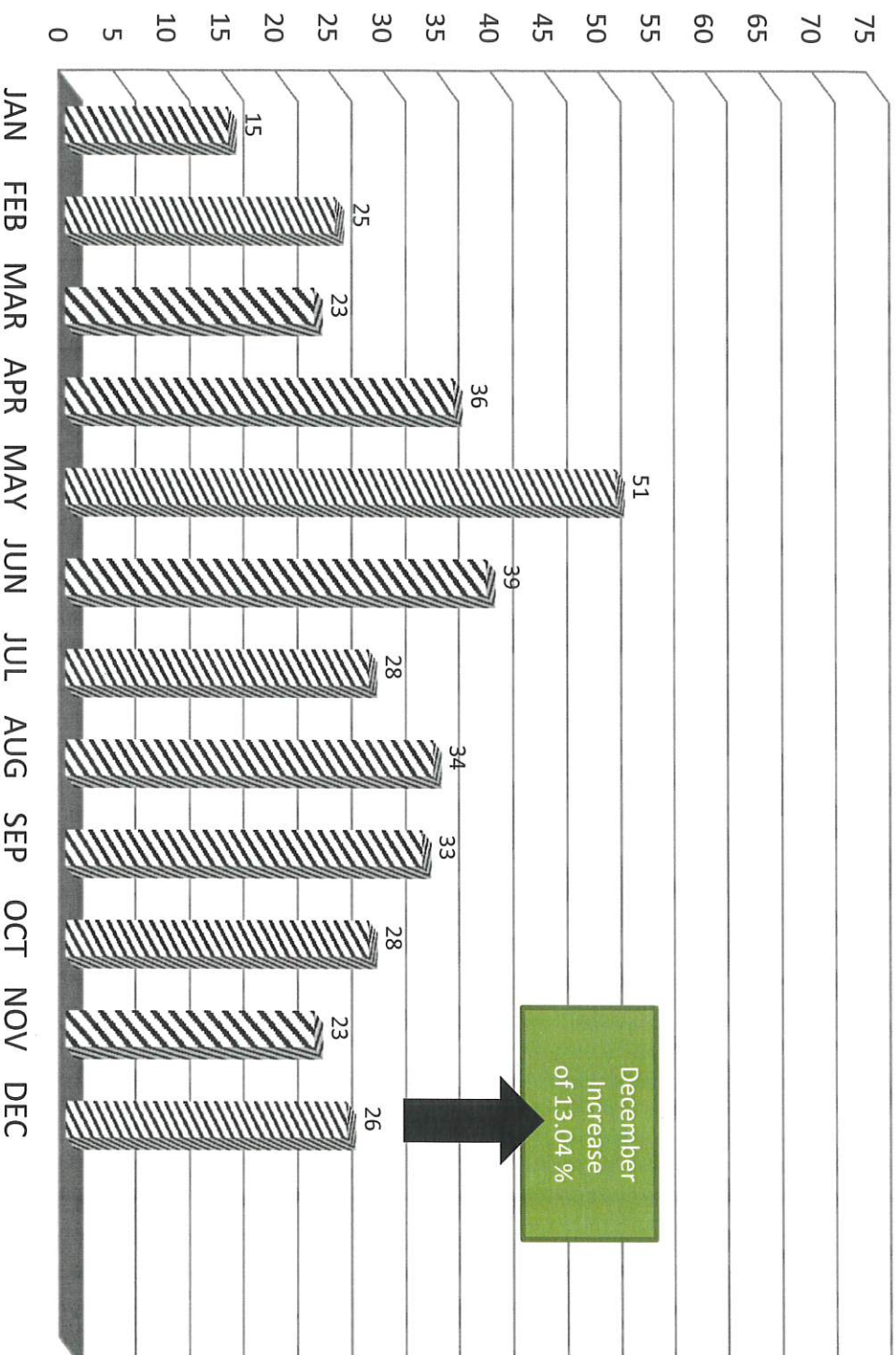
Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Moore

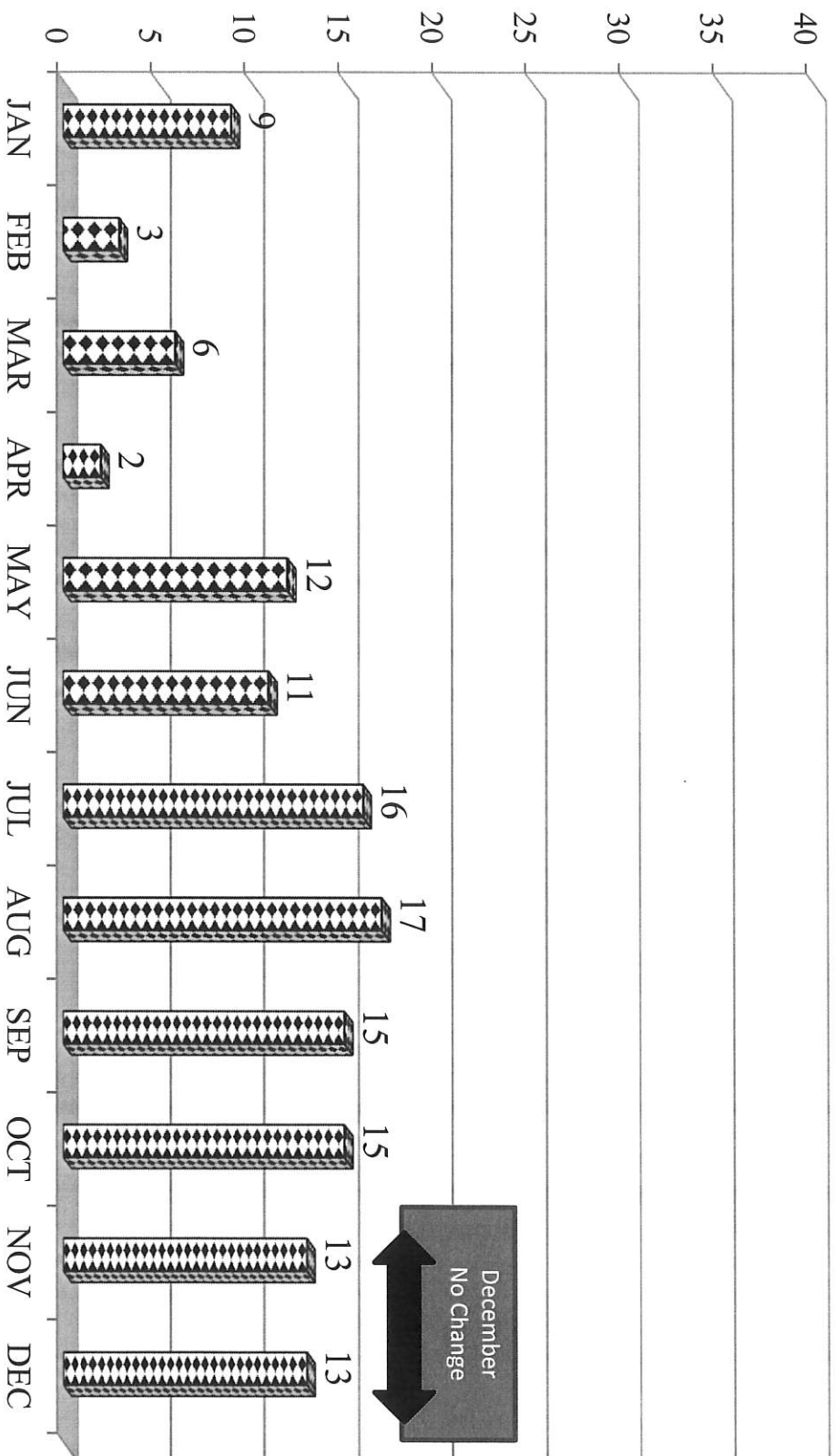
INCIDENTS (CASES) YTD 2021



ARRESTS YTD 2021



COLLISIONS YTD 2021



TRAFFIC STOPS YTD 2021

650

600

550

500

450

400

350

300

250

200

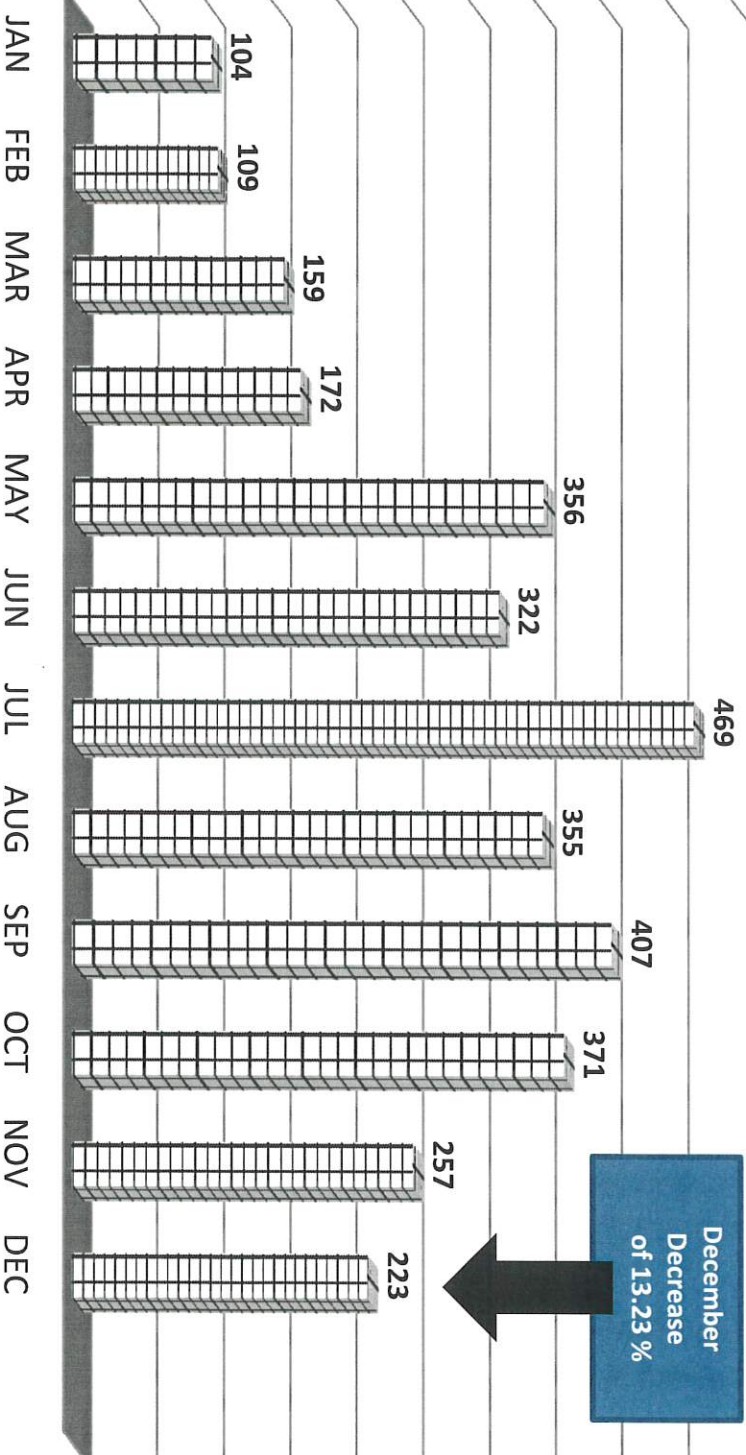
150

100

50

0

8 Tickets given out.
3.58 % chance of getting a ticket.



WOLFEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DEVINE MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 2021

December was the fourth month of school for SRO Devine with seventeen full days of school.

During that time, SRO Devine responded to several incidents in the High School and Middle School and wrote three arrest reports and nine incident reports. Additionally, SRO Devine participated in meetings regarding the Kingswood Next Steps Team. The Next Steps Team is an intervention and support group for identified at risk students to increase overall positive behaviors and academic success.

To help educate our young students, SRO Devine participated in two class discussions regarding a typical traffic stop, official training and protocol for the use of firearms, alternative approaches to contain, control or prevent violence and the role of police in communities.

SRO Devine completed training to become a RENEW (resilience, empowerment, and natural supports for education and work) facilitator at the High School. A RENEW facilitator creates hope, builds futures, and changes lives of students. SRO Devine will be able to guide students to get on track through school, home, and work through a series of goals working as a team with teachers, administrators, and guardians.

SRO Devine had one truancy report which had been referred to DCYF and Juvenile Probation. SRO Devine took a report of an assault, which did not occur on campus nor in the town of Wolfeboro. SRO Devine took the initial report then forwarded it to the responsible agency for investigation.

SRO Devine took two reports of sexual assault that did not occur on campus. Notifications were made to the responsible investigating agencies. Additionally, SRO Devine took a student into detention for safety reasons and Protective Custody. Incidentally, in another incident, a student was released on a hand summons for possession of tobacco products-this was not a first offense for this individual.

In a case involving "Communicating a Threat" to the school-an adult student was arrested for Harassment and Disorderly Conduct for a social media post that was made and placed on the internet. The post was communicating violence directed at the school and did cause significant concern within the Wolfeboro and greater Wolfeboro Communities due to the regional nature of our SAU. That student is awaiting arraignment on 2 February 2022 in the District Court.

Monthly Activity for December 2021

For the month of December 2021, Det. Emerson investigated three (3) new cases.

Detective Emerson continued his investigation on last month's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) case. He also worked and attended meetings regarding the crime spree that was running through small towns in New Hampshire in November and December. These monthly detective meetings help coordinate police response to crime and help share information in a timely manner so that police and other investigative agencies can more thoroughly respond to criminal threats in our region.

In this matter, the crime spree spanned several States, including New Hampshire. The suspects were armed and reportedly dangerous.

In his investigative efforts, Detective Emerson worked with NH State Police, Madison PD, Conway PD, Maine State Police, and the FBI. Suspects were later identified and arrested by the FBI in Connecticut.

Lastly, Detective Emerson is still in the process of auditing our evidence room. As you know, this is a ministerial task, but is very important. It does not take long for an evidence room to become inundated with evidence and property. As part of this procedure, evidence is returned to rightful owners after consulting with the courts or destroyed pursuant to court order. A vast majority of the evidence in the room consists of drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, and other contraband items.

As an aside, and for example, he took close to 100lbs of old drug evidence to the Wheelabrator facility (Pembroke/Concord) where the items were destroyed.

Cases Assigned/Investigated

1 Scam

1 Harassment

1 Warrant Arrest for Forest and Lands

Percentage of cases closed this month 71%

Percentage of new cases closed by arrest during the month 33%

Percentage of entire case load closed 33%

TO: Wolfeboro Police Commission

FROM: Dean J. Rondeau
Chief of Police

SUBJ: Chief's Items (December 2021) for 20 January 2022 Wolfeboro Police
Commission meeting

DATE: 06 January 2022

Non- Public:

GENERAL BUDGET ITEMS:

There will be an end of Fourth QTR. Budget Presentation for the FY 21 Budget at the conclusion of the Chief's Items presentation in February 2022-this will close the books on the FY 21 Budget.

Presently the PD is executing the FY 22 Budget. At the time of the writing of this report, we have presented our PD FY 22 Budget to the Budget Committee on 04 January, and the Warrant Article Presentation was executed on 11 January 2022. The Town meeting (Deliberative Session) is scheduled for 8 February, and the Town Vote scheduled for 8 March 2022. The locations have yet to be announced.

At present, I am very happy with this past year's Budget process and the recommendations made by the Budget Committee. I think our proposed FY 22 Police Operations Budget (All three budgets) are very good, and I echo the sentiments made by the Vice Chair of the Wolfeboro Budget Committee Mr. Robert Tougher.

PERSONNEL: We have posted the Corporal's opening are awaiting applications. We will continue to keep the Commission informed. There will be both a written exam and oral board scheduled for this position.

Operations (Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions):

In terms of Police investigations and Operations, the month of December was reasonably busy for a Holiday month, and though our activity was down-it is still very active for this time of year.

Prosecutions:

The month of December too was busy in terms of prosecutions for a Holiday month. Seventeen (17) defendants responded to Seventeen (17) charges. Of those twelve (12)

were found guilty at trial or by plea, three (3) were Placed on File (POF) pending good behavior, restitution and other classes or counseling as part of their agreement; and one (1) defendant was Null Processed through an agreement.

The conviction rate is this past month is ninety-six percent (94.2%) with \$3122.00 dollars in fines, restitution, and penalties meted out by the Courts.

Safety and Security matters: December proved to be a busy month for traffic. We are still realizing significant increase in traffic volumes because of a variety of reasons. We believe that the population of Wolfeboro has grown a bit beyond the 2020 census mostly due to folks escaping the major population centers to ride out COVID-19. I dare say these volumes are at or near all-time highs. I suspect the traffic to our Town will continue to be heavy all season long, so please plan for this in advance and leave earlier for destinations! Remember it is winter in Wolfeboro and the roads are often covered by snow, slush, and ice, due to storms. Please be mindful of how you are driving, and as always, please be safe.

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 ahead of these storms, cancel non-important appointments or events if possible. Please be safe.

This past month the PD and other Town and State agencies responded to a tragic water incident on Lake Winnepesaukee. This event, as terrible as it was, could have been avoided. Please, unless risks are greatly mitigated, stay away from the lakes during the cold weather months, and if out on the water in small craft, please wear life vests and or other personal flotation devices. All our lakes right now are very cold, and that water can be paralyzing if you are not prepared for a cold-water entry. Lastly, if in full clothing, and especially in cold water, swimming is difficult at best, so-please be safe, stay off the ice until it is safe, and please, if planning activities near water, take all the necessary precautions to be safe, especially in cold water or during the winter months-please don't make yourself a victim!

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-this can be seen in our monthly briefing slides. We will be conducting aggressive speed reduction patrols in all through Town-so please if you are in a habit of speeding-don't! Lastly, we continue to deploy assets and patrols to our identified problem areas-Safety First!

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:

Police: Chief Rondeau and Ms. Sherri Moore attend our final NHGFOA (NH Government Finance Officers Association) class for our NH Government Finance and Accounting certification program. We both finished! In May a presentation of certificates is planned! Woohoo!

SGT Strauch attended K-9 Training.

Both Officer Shanks and Oswald completed the ARIDE training program (ARIDE: Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement.) This is a training program bridging the gap between SFST and DRE.

DISPATCH: Within the coming weeks, Dispatch, and Supervisor Mia Lyons will be in the process of “finalizing” and closing the records on our FY 21 logs and Calls for Service (CFS). This is an annual ministerial (housekeeping) event that we conduct at the end of each year. Specifically, the Department reviews, audits, and closes out all open calls for service, deletes any duplicate cases, and fixes administrative or clerical errors in our dispatch and run logs. As such it is an important time of year, because we use these finalized numbers in our annual reporting, and we use these numbers to measure activity, and track criminal trends.

Training note: **We do have on-line Training through Lexipol/Police One-it is available to all for training* Dispatch as well as Officers.

OUTREACH AND MATTERS OF INTEREST:

We are still engaged in a wide variety of TV, and talk shows along with Town of Wolfeboro committee programs.

Safety Tip of the Month: Winter is upon us. The temps have dropped! When planning outside activities, keep in mind that during the evening hours the temps will cool down quite a bit from the daytime temps-plan, and be prepared; take precautions to protect against cold weather injuries and exposure. Dress in layers, and limit outside activities in extreme cold weather.