

Wolfeboro Police Commission Meeting Minutes April 21, 2016

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

Staff present: Chief Chase, Captain 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 February 17, 2016***

Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public minutes of March 17, 2016 as submitted. Commissioner Ron Goodgame seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

Chief Chase reported on the following activity reports for last month:

Offenses (State Law) by month: He reported 62 offenses for the month which is a 16% increase from the previous month.

Arrest status report: He reported 26 arrests for last month, which is an increase from the previous month. He stated there have been 72 arrests to date.

Personnel Analysis report: The report is a synopsis of each officer's reporting for the month.

Accidents by street name: He reported 9 accidents for last month which is a decrease from the previous month.

Prosecutor's report: N/A.

School Resource Officer (SRO): Officer Llewellyn reported the school complex is a busy place and the Commission will notice he added more information to his report.

Motor Vehicle Traffic Report: He reported 156 stops last month, which is an increase from the previous month with 322 year to date.

Detectives Report: The Detective's report noted he has carried 9 cases over from the previous month, he had 8 new cases and closed 4 by arrest. He noted 2 cases were closed by other means, leaving 2 cases open.

Geographical Analysis: He provided this report that shows the activity in specific areas.

Central Dispatch report: N/A.

Discussion:

Commissioner Goodgame questioned who assigns the cases to the Detective and how many cases do the Patrol Officers have.

Chief Chase replied they are assigned by the Supervisor and the Patrol Officers could have anywhere from 5-10 cases. Many factors are taken into consideration in assigning cases and the officers work it out with each other. He noted Patrol Officers duty is to fill the shift first.

Commissioner Goodgame questioned if the cruiser is parked at the High School.

Chief Chase replied yes, the SRO alternates between bus safety and pedestrian cross walk.

Chief's Items

Chief Chase reported the following:

- Administrative Assistant, Donna Commerford, has announced she will retire at the end of May with over a decade of service to the Department. He thanked Donna for her day to day keeping the Department running smoothly and wishes her well in her retirement.
- April 16th was National Public Safety Tele-communicator's Week. He thanked the Central Dispatch employees for their good work in keeping first responders safe when responding to calls in the field.
- The Town Manager has announced the Town will be conducting a Wage and Job Classification survey. This survey will likely be a valuable tool in the upcoming NEPBA bargaining process.
- Thanks to Captain Rondeau the Department will once again receive grant money for enforcement programs this upcoming summer season. Those grants will focus on drunk and impaired driving enforcement, speed enforcement, seatbelt enforcement and pedestrian crosswalk safety. The Board of Selectmen also approved a grant to purchase a radar/informative data/traffic trailer and this trailer will be used not only by the Police Department but other Town Departments as well. He thanked the Board for supporting this purchase.
- National Drug Take Back day is April 30th at the Public Safety Building. A collection box will be in the lobby of the building to collect any unwanted or expired medicine.
- The Town has presented a "harassing and vexatious litigation" case in the Carroll County Superior Court on April 13th and the court is scheduled to convene on the matter in 20 days with a decision to be rendered sometime thereafter. Town Council has also informed the Town that the NH Supreme Court has ruled against the same plaintiff in a "Right to Know" suit filed

against the Police Prosecutor and as part of this disposition, the Supreme Court has ordered the Plaintiff to pay the Town's Attorney costs.

- The oldest vehicle of the Department fleet is regularly parked at the High School on the days when the School Resource Officer is on campus. He noted the condition of the vehicle caught the eye of Mr. Sullivan, the Vo-Tech School Auto Teacher and at no cost students made repairs to the vehicle. They also did some of the same work to the Detective's vehicle. He thanked them for their Community Spirit!
- The new Ford SUV's should arrive soon and he thanked the elected officials and the voters for supporting this purchase.
- The Department is researching the cost of cellular phones for the officers for department business as personal cellular phones have been hung up in the discovery process for lengthy proceedings. Since this is not a budgeted item, this purchase will be reviewed carefully for cost.
- The Department signed a mutual aid agreement with the Town of New Durham effective April 13, 2016 with New Durham Chief Bernier.
- The Captain has represented the Department at several Board of Selectmen meetings.
- The Department covered the March 8th elections at All Saint's Church.
- The Department has participated in many events on heroin use and addiction in the area. Captain Rondeau has spoken at various venues. He (the Chief) continues to serve on the White Horse Addiction Board of Directors.
- Captain Rondeau received a letter of thanks from a young man attending NH Youth Police Academy this summer.
- As part of Nation Library Week, he read to children at the library.

DISCUSSION:

Cell Phones

Commissioner Goodgame questioned the purchase of phones for all officers or just a couple to share within the Department.

Captain Rondeau clarified that in some cases, particularly domestic violence cases, when an officer allows a victim to use their personal phone to make contact with a shelter or social worker, that phone can be suspended to court, same with phones where pictures relative to a case, this can tie up an officer's personal phone for months as well as make that officer's personal information available to suspects. The Department would like to use Department phones going forward to prevent this from happening.

Commissioner Goodgame questioned if the camera has many photos from different cases.

Captain Rondeau replied that the information from those phones would be downloaded regularly.

Commissioner Goodgame questioned the need for phones if body cameras become mandated.

Chief Chase replied such is unknown at this time, he is proposing to move to phones that are issued to each cruiser with information transferred to tablets and all this essentially becomes part of the officer's office and the ability to do more in the vehicle. He noted there is no upfront cost for the phones and they are still negotiating the terms of the cost.

Captain Rondeau noted that if body cameras become a mandate, then funding will need to be made available for that mandate.

Commissioner Goodgame suggested they purchase just two or three phones to be shared during the shifts as he doesn't see a need for more than that.

Chairman Wood noted that it would make more sense to equip each car with its own phone as another communication tool for the officers.

Chief Chase stated he would present the proposal at a future meeting when he has the cost of such confirmed as this is an unbudgeted item for 2016.

White Horse Addiction Center

Commissioner Goodgame questioned what White Horse Addiction Center is.

Chief Chase replied it is a new opioid addiction center in Ossipee working with addicts on recovery. They service about 20 clients and are a fairly new facility.

Commissioner's Items

➤ *School District- bus activity*

Chairman Wood stated that he and the Chief met with the Superintendent of Schools to discuss the issues with bus safety who indicated she was not aware of these issues and was very receptive in working towards options to address the problem, including stop arm cameras for the buses. She also noted the staff is satisfied with SRO Llewellyn and his work at the school as well as addressed some of the bus and pedestrian safety at the High School. He noted that the SRO monitors bus departure and the pedestrian crosswalk as well as having a cruiser on the school grounds.

➤ *Public Safety Building Open House*

Captain Rondeau stated the Board of Selectmen approved the Temporary Event permit for this event scheduled for July 2nd. He noted he discussed the event with the new Fire Chief who is in favor of participation in this event.

Chief Chase noted the new Fire Chief has started and he has met him and wishes him well.

Board of Selectmen's Representative

N/A.

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

Commissioner Ron Goodgame moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission enter non-public session RSA 91 A: 3 a & c to discuss personnel at 4:35 PM. Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Roll call vote: Ron Goodgame- yes, Joe Balboni Jr.-yes and Steve Wood-yes, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 4:55 PM.

It was moved by Ron Goodgame and seconded by Joe Balboni Jr. to seal the minutes of April 21, 2016. Members voted and being all in favor, the motion passed.

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

Commissioner Ron Goodgame moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 4:56 PM. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio