

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28th, 2017 MONTHLY POLICE
COMMISSION MEETING

5:30 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

Brenna Cavanaugh, Chair
Joseph J. Onosko
Joe Plaia

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The February 28th, 2017 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 4:39 p.m. in the Wm. Mortimer Room of the police department for the purpose of going into non-public session.

PRESENT: The Chair, who was out-of-state, attended the meeting via conference call. Present in the conference room were Commissioners Onosko and Plaia, Chief Mara, and City Attorney Robert Sullivan.

The Chair called for a motion to designate an on-site Chair Pro Tem for this meeting.

Action: Commissioner Onosko moved to appoint Commissioner Plaia Chair Pro Tem for the February 28th, Police Commission Meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Cavanaugh.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed to appoint Commissioner Plaia Chair Pro Tem for the February 28th Police Commission Meeting as follows:

Commissioner Cavanaugh	“Aye”.
Commissioner Onosko	“Aye”.
Commissioner Plaia	“Aye”.

The Chair Pro Tem called for a motion to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91:A, 3-II (e), “Discussion of pending or threatened (in writing) litigation against the town or town officials, board members or

employees...”, and (a), “Dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee...”

Action: Commissioner Cavanaugh moved to enter non-public session for the purpose delineated above.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Cavanaugh:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Plaia:	“Aye.”

The motion passed to go into non-public session at 4:40 p.m.

The public session was called back to order at 5:48 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. (An archived video of the meeting is available on the city’s website.)

The following people were present: Commissioners Cavanaugh (via conference call), Onosko, and Plaia, Chief David Mara, Captain of Operations Frank Warchol, Professional Standard Division Lieutenant Darrin Sargent, Accreditation Manager Jackie Burnett, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque, members of the public.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Lt. Darrin Sargent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Plaia explained the Chair of the Commission was out-of-state, but would be present at the meeting via conference call. By motion, the Commission designated Commissioner Plaia Chair Pro Tempore for the February 28th, 2017 meeting.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

The Chair Pro Tem asked for a motion to accept the minutes.

Action: Commissioner Cavanaugh moved to accept the minutes of the January 24, 27, and 30, 2017 meetings.

Commissioner Onosko indicated there were four sets of minutes to accept; they were for the January 24, 27, 30 and February 22nd, 2017 meetings. The

Chair Pro Tem asked the Commissioner if she wished to amend her motion.

Amended motion: Commissioner Cavanaugh moved to accept the four previous commission meeting minutes.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to accept the minutes of the January 24, 27, 30, and February 22nd, 2017 meetings.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT: : (The following is a brief summary of each person's comments and represents the speaker's personal opinion. The entire meeting can be viewed online by going to the city's website and clicking "Channel 22", and then clicking on "Archived 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 meetings.")

Mark Brighton, 285 Union Street: Mr. Brighton prefaced his remarks by saying he gives great deference to public safety as compared to the other city departments. He said the Department's requested budget is more than 340% the rate of inflation at 6.7%. Mr. Brighton talked about the request for two additional officers and asked if the commission anticipates these kinds of increases in the future. Mr. Brighton said he trusts the commissioners and the chief.

Brendon DuBois, resident of Exeter, and brother of the former chief of police: Mr. DuBois, reading from a prepared statement, said his family has been the target of insults, from members of the commission, their supporters and the so called activist community of Portsmouth, in public, in print, and on the internet. He said, speaking for himself, while he accepts criticism as part of the territory of being a public figure, and even welcomes it, attacking members of the DuBois family is not acceptable. Mr. DuBois then referenced an anonymous phone call that had been made to Mr. DuBois' parents in Dover earlier this month that was traced to Commissioner Cavanaugh's phone number. After reading his statement, Mr. DuBois asked Commissioner Cavanaugh if she wished to respond. The Commissioner stated the Commission does not respond to comments made during the public comment session. Mr. DuBois thanked the Commission and concluded his remarks.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Commissioner Onosko updated the Commission on the current status of the nationwide executive search for a permanent Chief of Police. The search is being conducted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Commissioner Onosko said the first cut from the pool of applicants will be made in late March, at which time we should be working with 10 semi-finalists. In early April, somewhere around the 10th we will select our finalists. These finalists will come to Portsmouth on Thursday and Friday, April 27th & 28th, and by mid-May we will select our candidate. We will conduct additional background checks, and hope to have our new chief working with Chief Mara and Captain Warchol for two to four weeks before Chief Mara leaves July 11th.

Commissioner Onosko asked that the recruitment brochure be put up on the webpage, and Karen said she would take care of that tomorrow.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. Accreditation Update – Lt. Sargent, Professional Standards Division, gave the Commission an overview of the work of the division and Jackie Burnett, Accreditation Manager, updated the Commission on the status of our CALEA process and where we are in the accreditation process timeline. Ms. Burnett said by the fall of 2018 we should be in a position to do a mock assessment. The mock assessment would be done by members of the **Northern New England Police Accreditation Coalition**, or NNEPAC. It prepares the department for the actual on-site formal assessment by the CALEA team of three to four assessors. Our goal is to be ready for this by May of 2019.

Chief Mara spoke briefly on other positive aspects and side benefits of the Power DMS software that is required for the CALEA accreditation process.

The Chief also touched on the following points:

- Undocumented Immigrant SOP: He said the commission has had the opportunity to review the draft of the SOP and has given

its input. Commissioner Onosko added it was a sound, well written document.

- Recent SERT Call out: Chief Mara had the opportunity to observe the responses of the department and the SWAT team to the Springbrook Circle call out first hand. He felt the entire event was handled very well by the officers in a professional manner.
- FY '18 Department Budget: Chief Mara said in order for the department to just maintain the status quo, we would be at a 4.85% budget. Therefore, we are asking for a 1.75-1.85% increase over our 4.85% status quo budget, not a 6.7% increase.

2. Financial Report & Facility Update – Karen Senecal

a. Donations:

1. A disbursement check in the amount of \$105,687 from the Estate of Geraldine W. Webber.

Action: Commissioner Onosko moved to accept the disbursement check in the amount of \$105,687 from the Estate of Geraldine W. Webber and forward to the city council for their action.

Seconded by Commissioner Cavanaugh.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to accept the disbursement check in the amount of \$105,687 from the Estate of Geraldine W. Webber and forward to the city council for their action.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- Chief Mara announced the names of three department employees who had completed 2016 without taking a single sick day, and they will receive Outstanding Attendance Awards. Those employees are Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Dispatcher David Rabitor, and Officer TJ Potter.
- New gun law: The department put information on our Facebook page regarding the new gun law. The new concealed carry permit application form is now up on the New Hampshire Department of Safety's website. The Chief said citizens no longer need a permit to carry a concealed weapon under the new New Hampshire law, however if someone is going to travel out of state and wants to have reciprocal privileges in that state, they would want to have a NH concealed carry permit. Chief Mara advised

people to check with others states ahead of time to be sure they have reciprocal privileges with New Hampshire.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Before requesting a motion to adjourn, the Chair Pro Tem announced the next scheduled Police Commission meeting would be March 28th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers.

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Cavanaugh moved the February 28th, 2017 Police Commission meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to adjourn the February 28th Police Commission meeting at 6:28 p.m.

END OF MEETING

MONTHLY POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION

DATE OF MEETING: 2-28-17

Name & Address: Mark Brighton
285 Union St
Topic: Budget

Name & Address: Brendan DuBois
Topic: The Police Comm

Name & Address: _____
Topic: _____

Name & Address: _____
Topic: _____

Name & Address: _____
Topic: _____

Name & Address: _____
Topic: _____