

**PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING**

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

Joseph J. Onosko, Chair  
Jim Splaine  
Stefany Shaheen

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 3:55 p.m. in the Wm. Mortimer Room of the police department for the purpose of going into non-public session. Commissioner Shaheen was present via telephone.

The Chair called for a motion to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91:A, 3-II (c), “Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person...”, and (i), “consideration of matters related to the preparation for...emergency functions...”

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to enter non-public session for the purposes delineated above.

**Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.**

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

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Commissioner Onosko:  | “Aye.” |
| Commissioner Splaine: | “Aye.” |
| Commissioner Shaheen: | “Aye.” |

The motion passed to go into non-public session at 3:55 p.m.

**The public session was called back to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers.** Note: There was no live broadcast capability available in Council Chambers, so the business portion of the meeting was conducted in Conference Room ‘A’ where it was recorded for re-broadcast at a later time.

**The following people were present:** Commissioners Onosko and Splaine; Commissioner Shaheen was present via telephone. Also present were Chief Robert Merner, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque, members of the Department and the public.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Splaine led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE AGENDA:**

The Chair asked for a motion to suspend the agenda and move to the first item under the Chief's Report.

**Action: Commissioner Splaine moved** to suspend the agenda and move to the first item under the Chief's Report.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to suspend the agenda and move to the first item under the Chief's Report. The vote was as follows:

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Commissioner Onosko:  | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Splaine: | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Shaheen: | “Aye” |

IV. **A. CHIEF OF POLICE**

1. Chief Merner recognized Sergeant Kaltenborn, Detective Munson, Lead Dispatcher Jason Cullen, and Lead Dispatcher Keith Noseworthy for 20 years of service to the Portsmouth Police Department. Chief Merner then swore in three new officers: Officer Zachary Brandt, Officer Josh Haile, Officer Alex Wolfertz.

NOTE: Up until this point of the meeting, the Commission was meeting in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. After the recognitions and swearing-in of new officers, the Chair declared a brief recess so the Commission could move to Conference Room 'A' for the remainder of the public session so the business portion of the meeting could be recorded. The meeting resumed in Conference Room 'A' at 6:05 p.m.

V. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the following meetings, as written: September 3<sup>rd</sup>, September 24<sup>th</sup>, September 30<sup>th</sup>, and October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Action: Commissioner Splaine moved** to accept the minutes of the September 3<sup>rd</sup>, September 24<sup>th</sup>, September 30<sup>th</sup>; and October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meetings as written.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to accept the above captioned meeting minutes as written. The vote was as follows:

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Commissioner Onosko:  | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Splaine: | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Shaheen: | “Aye” |

**VI. 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 scrolling down the home page of the City’s website to “Recent Meeting Broadcast”, or “City YouTube Channel...” which is in the blue box just below it.)

There being no one wishing to speak, the Chair closed the public comment session.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**IX. A. POLICE COMMISSION:**

1. Commissioner Splaine:
  - a. Update on traffic stop data, “Rolling Stops”, and Flashing Radar Speed Indicator Signs. Chief Merner explained the letter of the laws regarding stop signs; a rolling stop is not a stop; a rolling stop is a moving violation. Chief Merner then addressed Flashing Radar Speed Indicator Signs. He talked about their deployment, cost, functions, the number of signs owned by the PD and by the City, etc.
  - b. Chief Merner discussed the Monthly Traffic Stats for September since he was talking about traffic-related items.

**B. CHIEF OF POLICE, cont'd:**

2. Accreditation Update
3. Letter of Thanks from Outside the Department
4. Financial Report

a. Grants & Donations:

Grants:

**Action: Commissioner Splaine moved** to accept the grant from the US DOJ in the amount of \$371,122 and forward to the City Council for their action.)

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to accept the grant from the US DOJ in the amount of \$371,122 and forward to the City Council for their action.)

A grant from the NH DOJ in the amount of \$30,000, which provides for expenses incurred for services provided to victims.

**Action: Commissioner Splaine moved** to accept the grant in the amount of \$30,000 and forward to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to accept the grant in the amount of \$30,000 and forward to the City Council for their action.

Donation:

A donation in the amount of \$650 from the Friends of the South End in support of the Portsmouth Police Explorer Cadets.

**Action: Commissioner Splaine moved** to accept the donation in the amount of \$650 from the Friends of the South End in support of the Portsmouth Police Explorer Cadets, and forward to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On A Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to accept the donation in the amount of \$650 from the Friends of the South End in support of the Portsmouth Police Explorer Cadets, and forward to the City Council for their action. The vote was as follows:

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Commissioner Onosko:  | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Splaine: | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Shaheen: | “Aye” |

**X. PATROL DIVISION:**

a. This report was included in the 3-26-19 commission meeting packet.

**XI. COURT OFFICE REPORT:**

a. This confidential report was included in the 3-26-19 commission meeting packet.

**XII. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

a. Commissioner Splaine brought a request forward to consider the purchase of an equipment van to support the work of the Drone Unit, using funds bequeathed to the Police Department by the Estate of Geraldine Webber. Commissioner Splaine asked Chief Merner to brief the Commission on the equipment needs of this new unit.

**Action: Commissioner Splaine moved** to appropriate up to \$30,000 for the purchase and equipping of the Drone van.

Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed to appropriate up to \$30,000 for the purchases and equipping of the Drone van. The vote was as follows:

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Commissioner Onosko:  | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Splaine: | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Shaheen: | “Aye” |

**XIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The next commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with the public session beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers.

**XIV. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

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

**Action: Commissioner Splaine moved** the October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Police Commission Meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to adjourn the October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:47 p.m.

END OF MEETING

*Kathe*

*Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant*

*Reviewed By Commissioner Splaine, Clerk of the Commission*

*Jim Splaine*