

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 27TH, 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 August 27th, 2019 public session of the monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 Onosko, Splaine, and Shaheen, Chief Robert Merner, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, and Det. Sgt. John Peracchi.

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

- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

The Chair asked for a motion to accept or amend the minutes of the July 23rd, August 2nd, August 20th, and August 22nd meeting minutes.

Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved to accept the minutes of the above captioned meetings as written.

Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to accept the minutes of the above captioned meetings as written.

- 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 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 section.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Commissioner Onosko: The Chair indicated a number of officers had just been promoted to fill open positions, and the official vesting of rank ceremony will take place as part of the September monthly Police Commission meeting.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. NH Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Update: Det. Sergeant John Peracchi, NH ICAC Commander. Det. Sgt. Peracchi gave the Commission a brief overview of the NH ICAC Task Force, making the following points:
 - The first ICAC Task Forces in the United States were formed in 1998. The Portsmouth Police Task Force was one of the original 10 task forces in the country.
 - Now have 61 Task Forces in the Country.
 - Now have about 4500 state and local agencies working with these task forces around the country.
 - Computer crime is increasing exponentially and has increased more than 100% from last year to this year alone. Task Forces must stay current with the never-ending array of apps being pushed out to our kids on almost a daily basis.
 - The role of the task force is to provide the complex investigative support to state and local law enforcement agencies that these crimes require; i.e. the trained forensic investigators who know how to recover images and information from cell phones, computers, and other devices; the trained interviewers who know how to deal with the perpetrators; the technical assistance needed for local law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes where a child has been exploited online, and to help them secure warrants so guilty parties can be arrested and prosecuted.
 - Det. Sgt. Peracchi also talked about satellite labs, and new training resources being developed by his office to further equip his task force, and the state and local agencies they work with.

2. Letters of Appreciation:
 - A letter from the Board of Directors of GLG Management thanking Chief Merner and the officers who came by to visit the Spinnaker Point neighborhoods during the National Night Out event.
 - A note of thanks from Ricci Lumber President, Mr. Edward Hayes, complimenting officers Pearl and Melanson whom he observed questioning an individual at the construction site of the Cate Street townhomes project. The person turned out to be an authorized construction worker. Mr. Hayes said both officers were very courteous and professional, and he appreciated their vigilance. He went on to note a second instance of Officer Potter taking steps to secure and serve a trespass notice to individuals on the construction company's business property.
3. Accreditation Report: CALEA update.
4. Traffic Stats for July:
 - 65 Summonses, 9 for speeding
 - 58 Motor Vehicle Accidents
 - 229 Traffic Enforcement Stops
 - 686 Stops for May, June, & July combined
 - Note re: Bartlett Street: a total of 565 Traffic Stops have been made on Bartlett Street in the last 5 years; 78 of them in 2019 to date.
5. Financial Report
 - a. The Police Department will be returning over \$100,000 to the city as we close the FY '19 Fiscal Year.
 - b. Grants & Donations:
 - i. **Action: Commissioner Splaine moved** to accept the grant in the amount of \$60,000 from the NH Department of Safety for the State Department's National Passport & Visa Centers Active Threat Exercise and forward to the City Council for their Action.
Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.
On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to accept the grant in the amount of \$60,000 from the NH Department of Safety for the State Department's National Passport & Visa Centers Active Threat Exercise and forward to the City Council for their Action.

- ii. **Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to accept the donation in the amount of \$3,000 from the United States Police Canine Association, Inc. toward the procurement of a Police K-9 and forward to the City Council for their action.
Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.
On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to accept the donation in the amount of \$3,000 from the United States Police Canine Association, Inc. toward the procurement of a Police K-9 and forward to the City Council for their action.

VII. PATROL DIVISION:

- a. This report was included in the 8-27-19 Commission meeting packet.

VIII. COURT OFFICE REPORT:

- a. This confidential report was included in the 8-27-19 Commission meeting packet.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:

Chief Merner briefly discussed work that has been done by our Command Staff to create training for active shooter responses for our schools. He said he thinks it is some of the best training material on this subject that he's seen in 30 years of policing.

X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 17th, 2019, with the public session beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

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

Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved to adjourn the August 27th, 2019 monthly Police Commission Meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to adjourn the August 27th, 2019 Monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:19 p.m.

END OF MEETING

Police Commission Meeting
August 27th, 2019

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*Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant
Reviewed By Commissioner Splaine, Clerk of the Commission*

Jim Splaine