

**PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 SPECIAL POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MEETING**

**5:30 p.m. Public Session – Via Zoom Meeting Platform**

Joseph J. Onosko, Chair  
Stefany Shaheen, Commissioner  
Thomas Hart, Commissioner

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Special Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. via the City’s Zoom meeting platform.

**The following people attended the Meeting:** Commissioners Onosko, Shaheen, and Hart, Chief Robert Merner, Capt. Mark Newport, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque.

II. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. POLICE COMMISSION:**

1.) Acceptance of the “Victims of Crime” grant from the NH Dept. of Safety in the amount of \$49,518 for direct victim services, including personnel costs, was accepted by the Commission.

**Action:** Commissioner Shaheen moved to accept the Victims of Crime grant in the amount of \$49,518 from the NH Dept. of Safety, and forward to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded by Commissioner Hart.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to accept the Victims of Crime grant in the amount of \$49,518 from the NH Dept. of Safety, and forward to the City Council for their action. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye”
Commissioner Shaheen:	“Aye”
Commissioner Hart:	“Aye”

2.) The Commission authorized \$4,150 to be taken from the Webber Fund to complete the outfitting of the specialized drone van acquired by the Department in 2019.

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to authorize \$4,150 from the Webber Fund to complete the outfitting of the specialized drone van.  
**Seconded by Commissioner Hart.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to authorize \$4,150 from the Webber Fund to complete the outfitting of the specialized drone van. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye”
Commissioner Shaheen:	“Aye”
Commissioner Hart:	“Aye”

## **B. CHIEF OF POLICE:**

1.) Chief Merner asked the Commission to accept the following two in-kind donations of equipment:

a.) Donation of bicycle helmets for the Department’s bicycle safety program.

**Action: Commissioner Hart moved** to accept the in-kind donation of bicycle helmets for the Department’s bicycle safety program.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to accept the in-kind donation of bicycle helmets. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye”
Commissioner Shaheen:	“Aye”
Commissioner Hart:	“Aye”

b.) Donation of fencing for new K-9 enclosure.

**Action: Commissioner Hart moved** to accept the in-kind donation of fencing for the new K-9 enclosure.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to accept the in-kind donation of fencing for the new K-9 enclosure. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko: "Aye"  
Commissioner Shaheen: "Aye"  
Commissioner Hart: "Aye"

2. Chief Merner relayed a letter of appreciation from an out-of-state crime victim for the professional efforts, respect, and kindness of Officer Wells in directing this victim to the correct agency and support services.

3. The Chief briefed the Police Commission on the safety measures and operational adjustments that have been put into place to protect our officers and civilian employees from exposure to the COVID-19 virus through their work.

He said the Portsmouth Police Dept. met with the Coast Guard at the beginning of March to look at safety and security measures for shipping coming into our port. We were eight to ten days ahead of the curve in taking action. Chief Merner had already directed Command Staff at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Operations Meeting to prepare lists of who could work from home, and our IT personnel were already setting up VPNs and other IT supports for remote working as resources permitted.

The Chief said the City's Health Officer, Kim McNamara, and Fire Chief Todd Germaine have done yeoman's work in working with us and staying on top of this fluid situation, which is still escalating. He also thanked Mr. Malachi Fisher, who is the new head of operational security at Portsmouth Hospital, saying he has been very responsive and great to work with through all of this.

Chief Merner concluded by describing the operational measures taken to close-up the physical police building while staying responsive to people who need our help.

**III. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:**

The next regularly is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. It is safe to assume this meeting will also be via the city's ZOOM meeting platform, unless the city meetings calendar indicates otherwise.

**IV. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

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

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** the April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Special Police Commission Meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by Commissioner Hart.**

**On a Roll Vote:** The motion passed to adjourn the April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:18 p.m. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye”
Commissioner Shaheen:	“Aye”
Commissioner Hart:	“Aye”

END OF MEETING

*Kathe Levesque*

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

*TOM HART*  
