

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MAY 13th, 2003 MEETING

Noon (Non-Public) 1:00 PM (Public)
Portsmouth Police Department - Wm. D. Mortimer Conference Room

John D. Kelley, Chairman
William F. Devine
Gerald W. Howe

I. CALL TO ORDER: The Chairman called the May 13th, monthly Police Commission Meeting to order at 1:05 PM (*One cassette tape documenting this meeting is on file for reference*).

Present during public session: Commissioners Kelley, Devine, and Howe, Chief Magnant, Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal, City Councilor Harold Whitehouse, and Administrative Aide Kathe Hoyt

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Councilor Harold Whitehouse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Action: Commissioner Howe moved that the Board accept the minutes of the meeting held on April 15th, 2003

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Commissioner Howe moved to change the date of the regular monthly police commission meeting for June from the 17th to the 24th.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a roll call vote: The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The date for the next regular monthly Police Commission meeting is June 24th, 2003.

2 Personnel Items that Require Action

Commissioner Howe moved that the Board appoint Auxiliary Officer Gary Goodspeed to permanent status, effective April 26th.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. Mayor's Proclamation

a. Chief Magnant displayed a proclamation from Mayor Sirrell recognizing National Police Week (May 11- 17th), and Peace Officer's Memorial Day in particular, May 15th. Chairman Kelley asked that the proclamation be displayed at a suitable location within the department.

Commissioner Howe moved to accept the proclamation.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Commission voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. Financial Reports

Financial Reports were presented by Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal. Chairman Jack Kelley asked about the new equipment used by the Accident Investigation Team. Chief Magnant explained it is complicated and highly technical, but it cuts the time required to process a scene in half. Roads closed as the result of a scene can be reopened in half the time. This is significant when one considers the number of officers that can be tied up and away from their zones diverting and directing traffic as the result of a single accident. The Chief gave examples of several other ways the equipment has made an enormously positive impact .

Commissioner Howe asked about the cost of the SERT call out to assist the Durham PD with the post-UNH Hockey playoff riot in their downtown. Karen indicated that UNH has stated publicly that they will pay for costs, and we have prepared an invoice.

Chairman Kelley asked how the overtime account would be affected if the police department is not successful in obtaining the level funding required for FY '04. Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal indicated it would have a heavy impact on overtime. Chief Magnant explained in addition that Minimum Manning carries its own risks -- some beats would not be covered at all -- and officers would have no back up on high risk domestic violence or motor vehicle calls, or on calls which escalate rapidly after they begin. The Chief explained these scenarios can happen regularly in the course of a shift.

Liability to the City was also mentioned as a risk of Minimum Manning. Both public and officer safety is jeopardized.

3. Acceptance of Grants

Commissioner Howe moved to accept the DWI Saturation Patrol grant award from the NH Highway Safety Agency in the amount of \$463.56.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted to accept the grant award and forward to the City Council.

Commissioner Howe moved to accept the grant award from the NH Department of Safety, Division of Fire Safety & Emergency Management for Incident Command Training in the amount of \$1500.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted to accept the grant award and forward to the City Council.

4. Donations

Honor Guard - Donations in the amount of \$1,075. from friends and family in memory of retired Captain Paul Connors and \$300. from Brian Park Construction Company.

Family Services - Received a donation of \$110. from Southern Maine Portland Chapter Harley Owners Group.

Fitness Room - Received \$1400. worth of donated equipment from Mr. Craig Annis of Vision Fitness.

Commissioner Howe moved to accept the donations to the Honor Guard, Family Services Division, and PPD Fitness Room in the amounts or value of \$1375, \$110, and \$1400 respectively.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted to accept the donations and forward to the City Council.

5. Division and Team Reports

a. Information Systems Report - Chief Magnant took this opportunity to publicly thank Felicia Donovan for her work on the Budget Presentation, along with Karen Senecal's many hours of work, over and above the regular demands of the work week.

b. Accident Investigation Team Report

c. Records Division

d. Emergency Communications Center

6. Letters of Thanks and Recognition from outside the Department

a. Letter of Thanks from Rochester Police Chief David Dubois for Sgt. Lou Ferland's and K-9 Officer Tim Black's assistance in getting the Rochester K-9 program back on track.

b. Thank you letter from Portsmouth High School Department of the Arts for the police escorts provided to the school's percussion ensemble as they returned from their World Champion Award-winning performance in Dayton, Ohio.

c. Letter of Commendation from Rye Police Chief Alan Gould for Portsmouth Detective Russ Russo's work in picking up information relevant to a Rye burglary case and relaying it to Chief Gould which resulted in a confession and an arrest in the case.

C. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:

1. **Log Activity Reports** were reviewed. Commissioner Howe noted an increase in the

disorderly conduct stats, perhaps linked to the series of pro/anti war demonstrations held during the active conflict stages of war in Iraq. Chief Magnant said he would research the statistics.

2. **Status of Personnel Out Sick or Injured:** Officer Earl Case is out injured with a shoulder injury and will be back on the 19th. Officer Kotsonis is back off the injured list. Lieutenant Hoysradt will be returning to light duty the week of the 15th or the following week. Officer MacKenzie continues to be on light duty. A determination will be made on his status this summer.

D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT: Disposition Report for April was presented.

E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES: The monthly report was presented.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before this Commission,

Action: Commissioner Howe moved the May 13th meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion at 1:32 PM.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, June 24th, 2003
12:00 Noon - Non-Public Session
1:00 PM - Public Session

Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Hoyt, Administrative Aide
Reviewed By Commissioner Gerald Howe, Clerk