

**PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2007 MEETING**

6:00 PM (Non-Public) 7:00 PM (Public)  
Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

John D. Kelley, Chairman  
Gerald W. Howe  
John C. Russo

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The chairman called the October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 monthly police commission meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Present during public session:** Commissioners Kelley, Howe, and Russo, Chief Michael Magnant, Deputy Chief Len DiSesa, Captain Bill Irving, and Executive Assistant Kathleen Levesque.

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Iraqi War Veteran Ensign Christopher Ivy, here visiting his family in Portsmouth, said the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Kelley also asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge our men and women in the armed services.

- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:  
September 13, 2007**

**Action:** Commissioner Howe moved to accept the minutes and place them on file.

**Seconded by Commissioner Russo.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The board voted to accept the minutes of the September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting and place them on file.

- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

Commissioner Kelley explained the rules governing this addition to the regular meeting agenda.

- V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None**

- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

## **A. POLICE COMMISSION:**

- 1. Personnel Items that require action:** None
- 2. Action: Commissioner Howe moved** to accept the Pease Contract as presented and forward on to the City.  
**Seconded by Commissioner Russo.**  
**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board voted unanimously to accept the Pease Contract as presented and forward to the City.

## **B. CHIEF OF POLICE**

1. Chief Magnant introduced Captain Dave Ferland. Captain Ferland presented an overview of the Department's Accident Investigation Team. This team does the very complex work of reconstructing motor vehicle accidents. A period of questions and answers followed the presentation. Chairman Kelley pointed out that this is one of the areas where overtime is incurred, as team members must stay with the accident scene/crime scene until the work is finished and the scene is secured. Other questions included how long does the average team member stay on the team, considering the complex training required, and what is the threshold for calling out the team.
2. **Capt. Bill Irving** updated the commission on the use/reuse of the Doble National Guard Center. The center is under consideration for future use by the Portsmouth Police Department after it is decommissioned. Capt. Irving reported that the city is also considering the property as a possible site for ball fields and recreation areas. The federal government's guidelines for reuse require the city to declare a use category as a first step. Once a use category is declared, the city cannot change it. Commissioner Howe asked if a feasibility study has been done by the city to see if the property would be a good fit for use as a police department facility. Capt. Irving said such a study had not yet been done. The commission discussed the merit of doing the study first, as it may find that the Doble Center is not suitable for a police facility. The commissioners agreed to pursue a meeting with the city manager to request that prior to notifying the federal government of the city's choice of uses, the city would authorize a feasibility study of the Doble site. The study would determine whether or not the site is even suitable for police department operations.
3. **Financial Report**  
Capt. Irving reviewed the financial report. Chairman Kelley commented on the department's on-going commitment to pursue grant funding wherever

possible. Captain Irving said that we have been able to secure around \$400,000 on average per year in grant funds. However, one of the key sources of money, the Streetsweeper grant, is not likely to materialize this year. This grant totals about \$131,000.

Chief Magnant explained the structure of this grant and where it comes from. He also broke down how the funds are distributed. The Chief said it is not possible for us to make up the full amount of the loss of this money from the department budget.

In all likelihood, we would have to eliminate the most junior detective and return that officer to patrol. This would remove the school resource officer from the high school. The loss of these funds would also have a rippling effect through the budget and may require the 'RIF-ing' (**R**eduction **I**n **F**orce) of more than one officer.

#### **4. Division and Team Reports**

- a. Information Systems Division Report
- b. Accident Investigation Report
- c. Records Division

#### **C. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:**

1. Log Activity Reports
2. Emergency Communications Center Report
3. K-9 Report
4. Auxiliary Monthly Activity Report
5. Personnel Out Sick or Injured
6. Special Events in the City

#### **D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT**

Deputy DiSesa reported that the addition of the part-time prosecutor is working well and we are pleased with Steve Kasmar's experience and productivity.

#### **E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES**

**Action: Commissioner Howe moved** that the board accept the division and team reports and place them on file.

**Seconded by Commissioner Russo.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The board voted unanimously to accept the division and team reports and place them on file.

## **VII. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Howe asked about the status of the Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) filing re: the wearing of a union membership pin. The Chief briefed the commission on the status, including the finding. He indicated that the recent finding was not rendered by the full hearing board, rather it was the finding of a single hearing officer. Chief Magnant explained that the commission does have the option of appealing the finding, and requesting that the full board review the hearing officer's finding in this matter.

**Action: Commissioner Howe moved** that the commission appeal the hearing officer's finding.

**Seconded by Commissioner Russo.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board voted unanimously to appeal the finding of the hearing officer in this ULP matter.

Chairman Kelley then invited all of the candidates in attendance, both for city council and for the police commission, to approach the podium with any remarks if they so chose. City council candidates Steve Durgin, Dave Adams, Jack Blalock, Esther Kennedy, and William Gladhill stepped to the podium in turn and introduced themselves. Police commission candidates Len Baer, John Golumb, and Bob Lighthizer did likewise.

## **VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the commission, the Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Action: Commissioner Russo moved** the October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by Commissioner Howe.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion at 8:20 P.M.

## **IX. NEXT MEETING: - PLEASE NOTE TIME/DATE CHANGE**

Regular Monthly Police Commission Meeting for November – Scheduled for Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers –This meeting will be telecast on Cable Access Channel 22 at a later time.

*Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant  
Reviewed By Commissioner Gerald Howe, Clerk*