

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16^H, 2009 MEETING

6:00 PM (Non-Public) – Wm. Mortimer Conference Room, PPD
7:00 PM (Public) – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers, City Hall**

Gerald W. Howe, Chairman
John C. Russo
John F. Golumb

**The Public Session opens in the Wm. Mortimer Conf. Room and then moves to the Council Chambers after the non-public session concludes.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The chairman called the December 16th, 2009 monthly police commission public session to order at 6:03 PM in the Wm. Mortimer Conference Room of the Portsmouth Police Department.

Action: Commissioner Russo moved to go into non-public session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues as per RSA 91-A:3, II.

Seconded by Commissioner Golumb.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to go into non-public session for a discussion of personnel issues.

Action: Chairman Gerald Howe re-opened the public session at 7:09 PM.

Present during the public session: Commissioners Howe, Russo, and Golumb, Chief David Ferland, Deputy Chief Stephen DuBois, Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal, Executive Assistant Kathleen Levesque, Patrol Officers Black, Pearl, and Blanding

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Russo led the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON: November 18th, 2009.**

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

Seconded by Commissioner Golumb.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted to accept the minutes of the November 18th, 2009 meeting and place them on file.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Personnel Items that require action:

Reallocation – **Commissioner Golumb moved** to reallocate \$101,841.84 from the patrol accounts to the community affairs account.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to reallocate the funds.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE

1. Officer Tim Black and K-9 Officer Scott Pearl were recognized for their work in the early morning hours of November 18th in bringing a suicidal man on the I-95 Bridge to safety.

2. Officer Steven Blanding was recognized for the initiative and good police work that resulted in the arrest of a shoplifting suspect.

NOTE: Officer Tim Black's briefing was delayed by computer difficulties, so the commission moved to item 4 of the agenda.

3. Grant: A grant in the amount of \$22,001 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance was presented to the commission for acceptance. This sum is Portsmouth's portion of \$114,525 awarded to Rockingham County and five area municipalities under the 2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program. Portsmouth's allocation will be used for officer training in crisis Intervention and Active Shooter response.

Action: Commission Golumb moved to accept the grant in the amount of \$22,001 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept the grant and forward to the city council for their action.

4. Bureau of Administrative Services Report

a. Financial Reports, by line item

Karen Senecal informed the commission that the cost of our retirement contribution was unexpectedly increased by the state by approximately \$42,000. This cost was not budgeted for, and depending on how the

upcoming year goes, we may have to ask for a supplemental allocation from the city council.

- b. Overtime Report**
- c. Attendance Report**
- d. Personnel and Training Report**
- e. Information Systems Report**
- f. Records Division Report**
- g. Fleet Report**
- h. Communications Center Report**

The Deputy took the next portion of the meeting and updated the commission on the following items:

- 12 people took the physical agility test on Sunday. These candidates are all full-time certified. Oral boards were conducted on Tuesday, and five of those look like strong prospects. We have a candidate under review for the Animal Control Officer position, and the only other vacancy we are looking to fill right now is the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force administrative position. This is a grant funded civilian position in the Detectives Division.
- Newmarket has joined the cross-agency system that we can access through our IMC software. We now have access to over 750,000 names. Funding for this cross-agency project is coming to a close, so Newmarket may be one of the last towns we look at to join this system.
- Radio Encryption – We have spoken to the commission about this from time to time, as it has been a work in progress. We are closer to bringing this on line. The encryption will enable dispatch and headquarters to be able to share sensitive information with the field officers on an encrypted channel. Information like juvenile names or social security numbers will be able to be securely relayed; or, if officers are on surveillance, they will be able to transmit information over this encrypted frequency.
- Reverse 911 – just about ready to go online with this. The Deputy gave examples of how this system can be an effective tool in police work.
- Holiday reminder – The deputy reminded everyone to lock their cars during the holiday shopping season. Vehicles with visible gifts in them are vulnerable; also, in neighborhoods bad guys are looking for money and will canvass cars looking for easy entry. Locked cars and

keeping gifts out of view are simple but effective steps that everyone can take.

- As the commission is already aware, the department received a fine settlement of about \$4,000 from a recent case involving over service by a local establishment that resulted in a DWI accident and someone being injured. The monies are being used for additional hunter patrols and a DUI awareness/poster campaign.

Deputy DuBois turned the meeting over to Chief Ferland, who added details on the following items:

- Cross-agency; a year ago we began with access to about 53,000 names, and we now have over 750,000 names in this database.
 - DUI poster campaign – this project will also have a student component, where students will be designing posters that deal with other aspects of alcohol abuse, underage drinking, and the fall out that comes from these behaviors.
5. Chief Ferland introduced Officer Tim Black as the tactical commander of the Seacoast Emergency Response Team. Officer Black briefed the commission on the activity and status of the team.
- SERT was formed in 2001 as a regionalization and expansion of Portsmouth's Emergency Response Team. Officer Black discussed the benefits of regionalization.
 - Now have 12 towns
 - The team has responded to:
 - barricaded suspects, armed/wanted
 - Hostage rescue/negotiations
 - Drug search warrants
 - High risk warrant executions
 - VIP Security
 - Large venue security (events such as Market Square Day)
 - Riot and crowd control
 - Training expectations

Officer Black noted that SERT considers itself a life-saving organization, not a life-taking organization, as the taking of a life is an absolute last resort after all other options have been exhausted and a threat still exists. After giving an overview of the organization and the training, Officer Black answered questions from the commission.

Under unusual circumstances, SERT does provide services outside of its jurisdiction. Officer Black specifically recalled a missing child incident in the northern part of NH that SERT was part of.

Deputy DuBois added that the officers have to maintain their fitness level while on the team and are tested several times during the year.

There is added benefit to our police department in having access to the specialized training the officers who are on the team have in the day-to-day delivery of police services here in Portsmouth.

Chief Ferland took the next portion of the meeting and delivered the following briefing:

- 26 people graduated from the Senior Citizen Police Academy. Kudos to Capt. Schwartz and Det. Grella for putting this program together.
- Our Facebook account now has 890 fans; we are also on Twitter and Nixel social media outlets.
- Crime front:
 - Continue to investigate Ports. Ford
 - Margeson arson – prepping arrest warrant on this
 - Copper thefts continue
 - Finishing up a 7-arrest drug sweep, continuing to gain new information from these arrests on other cases
 - Car thefts in Ellwyn Park- **lock your car!**
 - Graffiti in Strawberry Banke
 - Fleet mileage is going up in the winter as it always does, because there are fewer bike and foot patrols.
 - Interns finished up their term with us/new interns coming next semester
 - Presentation of draft of strategic plan has happened as scheduled; this will provide a blue print for our work for the next three to five years.
 - First night – this year will include fireworks so we are planning for that
 - Explorer ticket fundraiser for Monarch tickets
 - Training – mandatory use of force completed for all; also a missing child response class was held here at the PD
 - Detective Rebecca Hester is currently in juvenile prosecutor school. We are doing this training because we need to

develop some depth in this area. Presently Det. Grella is our only juvenile prosecutor and we need to develop some back up in this important job function.

- Completed orientation for new city councilors

6. Letters of Thanks & Appreciation From Outside The Department:

- An e-mail note of thanks from Chris Snowdon for his ride-along experience with an officer during his shift.
- SASS thanked us for partnering with them
- Got a media thank you for the access we allowed to the media in the recent drug sweep
- Several thank you's for Officer's handling of the high level bridge incident highlighted earlier in this meeting.

7. Upcoming items and events:

- Budgeting preparation process. The next six months will be very busy preparing the department budget and its presentation.
- Det. Rochelle Jones' is in the process of developing a Hip-Hop program that she wants to offer to students after school; this is something Rochelle is committed to do on her own time.
- Police Commission's monthly meeting in January will be held in Gosling Meadows, inline with commission's wish to be out in the community.

The chairman clarified that these off-site meetings will be recorded and then broadcast over channel 22 so they will continue to be as accessible as possible to the community.

The Chief extended his best wishes to the commission for the upcoming holiday season.

C. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:

1. Offense Report
2. Program/Self-Initiated Activity/Directed Patrol Report
3. Animal Control Report
4. Special Teams/Programs report
 - a. K-9 Program
 - b. Seacoast Emergency Response Team

- c. Accident Investigation Team
- d. Field Training Program
- e. Auxiliary Unit
- f. Community Relations
5. Personnel Out Sick or Injured – One officer out injured
6. Update on Special Events

D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT

E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

VII. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINESS:

Action: Commissioner Golumb moved to 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.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Before asking for a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chairman Howe extended his wishes to all for a happy Holiday Season. He reminded everyone that if they were out there behaving, we would be looking after them, and if they were not, we would be looking for them.

There being no further business before the commission, the Chairman announced the date for the next commission meeting, and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Russo moved the December 18th, 2009 meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Golumb.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion at 7:59 PM.

IX. NEXT MEETING: - Wednesday, January 20th, 2010, Community Room, Gosling Meadows

Kathe

Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant

Reviewed By Commissioner Russo, Clerk

John C. Russo