

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18TH, 2010 MEETING

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

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The chairman called the August 18th, 2010 monthly police commission public session to order at 6:08 PM in the Wm. Mortimer Conference Room of the Portsmouth Police Department. *(one DVD of this meeting is on file)*
- Action: Commissioner Golumb moved** to go into non-public session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues as per RSA 91-A:3, II.
Seconded by Commissioner Russo.
On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to go into non-public session for a discussion of personnel issues at 6:08 PM.
- Action: Commissioner Russo moved** the board come out of non-public session.
Seconded by Commissioner Golumb.
On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to come out of non-public session at 6:51 PM .
- Action: Chairman Gerald Howe re-opened the public session at 7:03 PM. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers of Portsmouth City Hall.**
- Present during the public session:** Commissioners Howe, Russo, and Golumb, Chief David Ferland, Captain Frank Warchol, Executive Assistant Kathleen Levesque
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Retired Police Chaplain Father Angelo Pappas led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:**
July 21st, 2010
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 July 21st, 2010 police commission meeting and place them on file.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

- 1. Personnel Items that require action: None.**

B. CHIEF OF POLICE

- 1. NH Guard & Reserve** - Mr. Cyr and Mr. Wainer of the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve for the police department's support of the New Hampshire Guard and Reserve.
- 2. The commission honored Father Angelo Pappas** for his many years of devoted service as the chaplain to our sworn and civilian employees. Father Pappas was awarded a national law enforcement service award from the American Police Hall of Fame. He was nominated for the award by Chief Ferland.
- 3. Officers Scott Pearl and Matthew Fredrickson** were recognized for their work in searching out and locating a violent transient who had multiple outstanding warrants in several states.
- 4. Grants**
 - a.** A supplemental grant in the amount of \$226,938 from the Office of Justice Programs to fund the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program in the state of New Hampshire. As the state's ICAC Task Force headquarters, Portsmouth administers the funding for all of the satellite ICAC Task Forces in the State.

Action: Commissioner Golumb moved to accept the supplemental grant in the amount of \$226,938 from the Office of Justice Programs to fund the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program in the state of New Hampshire.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

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

- b. A grant in the amount of \$1,000 from the Henry M. Frechette Memorial Fund, for the general support of the Portsmouth Police Explorer Cadets.

Action: Commissioner Golumb moved to accept the \$1,000 grant from the Henry M. Freschette Memorial Fund for the general support of the Portsmouth Police Explorer Cadets.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept the \$1,000 grant and forward to the city council for their action.

5. **Administrative Services Division Report**

- a. Financial Reports, by line item
- 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

6. **Chief Ferland** updated the commission on the following items:

- We have two new interns, Sean Kellerher, of UNH, and Nick Von Heusen, Southern Maine Community College. In the fall we will have two more interns coming, one from UNH, and one from St. Anselm's.
- Facebook now has 1600 fans, we average 400-450 views per week, which is a very good level of activity. This is a nice way to communicate with the public. As an illustration, the Chief said he replied today to a query asking about what we're doing about the car thefts.

Chairman Howe asked if it was linked to our website. The Chief said no, but it is linked to Twitter. Chief Ferland said he feels it improves transparency; citizens can ask questions they wouldn't necessarily feel are important enough to call the station and ask about. It is a very successful way to stay in touch with the public.

- We received a "Thank you" to K-9 Officer Scott Pearl and K-9 Wess from the Hampton PD for their successfully track of an elderly Alzheimer's patient who had wandered out of her home. K-9 Wess and Officer Pearl were also featured as part of a Channel 9 piece on New Hampshire law enforcement K-9s.

- We have completed the dissolution of our Accident Investigation Team. We will have to request the State Police Accident Team to respond to our motor vehicle accidents in the future. This does potentially mean that we may not have access to a team if they are not available.
- Thanks to Capt. Schwartz for a very successful National Night Out this year. More than 20 neighborhoods participated.
- We continue to be active in our involvement with the elderly who live in Portsmouth. We work with several state agencies in caring for them, frequently checking in on some elderly residents who may not have any family in the area, or who may be completely alone.
- The Court Office – continues to be very busy. The chief said he was pointing this out because the court office has to operate at 100% all of the time. Any small oversight or misstep can cost us a conviction. Their work largely happens under the radar, and the chief wanted to take the opportunity to publicly thank them for their work.
- Chairman Howe asked how the shorter records window hours are working out. Chief Ferland indicated that we have not received any complaints.
- We are conducting active shooter training at the high school this week. This training is particularly important in light of the shooting incident at a warehouse facility in Manchester, CT. The training is being run by three Connecticut State Troopers. One of the instructors was a responder to the Connecticut shooting incident. This is very timely, very effective training.
- Officer Brian Houde is the new Explorers post advisor. This is a time-intensive commitment, and we are pleased that Officer Houde, himself a former cadet, has taken on these responsibilities.
- As reported in the local paper, the Portsmouth Ford thefts have been solved. Detective Kristyn Bernier was the lead investigator in this case, and logged hundreds of hours of investigative time that ultimately put the pieces together and secured the critical evidence. This was a complicated case, involving law enforcement in several states as well as the FBI.
- The investigation of the hammer assault case is ongoing.
- Officers skillfully handled a group of protesters at a recent Pro Choice Event. It is very important that our officers have the necessary training to handle these kinds of potentially explosive situations with

skill and professionalism, while protecting the constitutional rights of everyone involved.

- Officers arrested two juveniles damaging the Wentworth School.
- In June we had a suicide off the high level bridge.
- Our AFIS technology enabled us to ID someone we had arrested and fingerprinted for an assault on a juvenile. Through the AFIS system, we were able to determine the real identity of this vagrant who had given us false information, and learned that he was wanted in three additional states.
- Police Cadets lent their help to the Portsmouth Rotary Club for their annual Thunder Chicken BBQ and road race, setting up and cleaning up the event. Our Explorer Cadets log hundreds of hours in community service every year in service to Portsmouth.
- The “Going Green” newspaper did an article on our new ‘green’ jackets that have been purchased for the officers. The jackets are made with recycled bottles from a company right here in Portsmouth. These are quality garments that look and feel like a high-end “Patagonia” style jacket.
- Thank yous and e-mails received from the public:
 - Kudos on the smooth fireworks event of July 3rd
 - Several e-mails expressing sorrow at the loss of high school Resource Officer Rochelle Jones due to budget cuts
 - Compliments to Capt. MacDonald for the way he deals with the media and keeps everyone informed
 - Apology from a visiting foreign national who allowed himself to become an unruly drunk. He complimented Officer Worthington for his professional diplomacy in handling his bad behavior. The gentleman apologized to the officer and to the department.
 - Thank you to the chief for a talk given at the Bank of America breakfast
 - Thank you from Prescott Park for our quick response that resulted in catching and arresting the vandals who were destroying their outdoor theater sets
 - A big thank you to Officer Kiberd for the life-saving off-duty rescue of a woman in Ogunquit, Maine who was drowning
 - Letter of Thanks from Ms. Elizabeth Townes for the ongoing work of Officer Christina Meyers. Officer Meyers’

‘walk throughs’ of the Margeson Apartments make Ms. Townes feel more safe and secure. In her letter, Ms. Townes says that Officer Meyers always takes the time to talk and visit with the residents when she comes through and she considers Officer Meyers a friend. Officer Meyers is one of several officers who take the time to do extra security walk throughs at the Portsmouth Public Housing facilities that have mostly senior citizens as residents.

- **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- The Boston/Portsmouth Air Show next weekend.
- DWI Sobriety Checkpoint this weekend
- Benefit Softball Game with the Fire Department this Sunday to benefit Sarah Fox
- Next chief’s coffee will be in October on the west side of the city
- K-9 Open house and car show at Pease on September 4th

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. Update on Special Events – given in chief’s recap above.

D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT

E. DETECTIVE DIVISION

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

Chairman Howe asked if there was any other business before the commission. There being none, the Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Russo moved the August 18th, 2010 meeting of the police commission be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Golumb.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion at 7:50 PM.

IX. NEXT MEETING: *Wednesday, September 15th, 2010, Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers, Portsmouth City Hall, @ 7:00 PM.*

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

John F. Golumb