

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16th 2011 , 2010 MEETING

5:00 p.m. (Non-Public) – Office of the Chief of Police, Portsmouth Police Dept.
7:30 p.m. (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 February 16th, 2011 monthly police commission public session to order at 5:02 p.m.

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 at 5:02 p.m.

Action: Commissioner Russo moved to 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 5:57 p.m.

Chairman Howe called the public session back to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers in Portsmouth City Hall.

Present during the public session: Commissioners Howe, Russo, and Golumb, Chief David Ferland, Deputy Chief Stephen DuBois, Captain Frank Warchol, Executive Assistant Kathleen Levesque, Chaplain Bob Jon, Officer Brian Houde

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Russo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:** January 19th, 2011, and February 2nd, 2011.

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 both the January 19th, and the February 2nd, 2011 meetings 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:

Action: Commissioner Russo moved to appoint Officer Peter Sheldon to Master Patrolman status.

Seconded by Commissioner Golumb.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to appoint Officer Peter Sheldon to Master Patrolman status.

Action: Commissioner Golumb moved to accept a grant in the amount of \$1,000 from Seacoast Crime Stoppers to support the 2011 session of the Citizen Police Academy

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept the grant from Seacoast Crime Stoppers.

Action: Commissioner Golumb asked permission of the Chair to make a friendly amendment to the preceding grant motion and add a forward to the city council for their action.

The Chair accepted the friendly amendment to the motion, and the following was added to the grant acceptance motion: "...and forward to the city council for their action."

Action: Commissioner Golumb moved to accept the vendor recommendation of the Steering Committee empaneled by the Police Commission to conduct an independent study of the police department.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

The Chair clarified the point that the steering committee is only authorized to make a vendor recommendation, and cannot enter into contract negotiations with the vendor.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept the vendor recommendation of the Steering Committee.

The Chair indicated the Commission would enter into negotiations with the vendor and hoped to have the study underway before the end of February. Commissioner Russo asked Chief Ferland to explain what the study will accomplish in general terms for the benefit of the public. The chief asked Deputy Dubois, who is a member of the subcommittee, to give the public a brief overview.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. **Officer Houde** was recognized for his motor vehicle stop on January 2nd which resulted in a DWI arrest and seizure of illegal weapons and a large amount of money and marijuana.
2. **Chaplain Bob Jon** was introduced to the commission by Deputy DuBois. The deputy reviewed some of the chaplain's many accomplishments, and indicated he has been serving as our new chaplain since December of last year.
3. **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

Chief Ferland updated the commission on the following:

- The administration was continuing through the budget process, and as instructed by the commission, had submitted a zero-increase budget to the city.
- The next Chief's Coffee Chat is scheduled for Saturday, March 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the Wamesit Place Rec Center, formerly the city's skateboard park.

Deputy DuBois updated the commission on the following:

- The detective division is investigating a couple of unattended deaths; the cases are still open pending toxicology reports from the state.
- Patrol is very busy with weather related issues – snow bans in different parts of the city created a lot of activity as we respond according to the city's

directives. People by and large are cooperative in responding, but invariably there are 'cars towed' issues which can be time consuming to resolve.

The deputy turned the report back to the chief, who added the following:

- During the winter months of January, February, and March, the department takes care of officer certifications and re-certifications to prepare the department for the busy summer months. This year we have begun to use something called, "lethality survey training". This is a new program in New Hampshire. Its goal is to reduce the likelihood that a domestic violence victim does not become a repeat victim. The lethality survey seeks to introduce a decision process for victims to use to keep situations from escalating. It is another tool for the officers to use to address the domestic violence situations they encounter, as these calls can be volatile. Chief Ferland discussed other training being conducted or planned for upcoming months.

Chief Ferland said as services are cut at the state and federal level, police officers have to become more and more skilled at non-traditional police situations. This requires focused, specialized training.

- Chief Ferland thanked Deputy DuBois for testifying in support of the state's cold case unit, and briefly referred to the 20th anniversary of the Bolton/Moore unsolved homicides here in Portsmouth.

C. PATROL SERVICES DIVISION:

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. Field Training Program
 - d. Auxiliary Unit
 - e. Community Relations
5. Personnel Out Sick or Injured

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 February 16th, 2011 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 6:33 p.m.

IX. NEXT MEETING: *Wednesday, March 16th, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. – PLEASE NOTE LOCATION: The Osprey Landing Community Center*

Kathe

Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant

Reviewed By Commissioner Golumb, Clerk of the Commission

John F. Golumb