

**PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2011 MEETING**

5:00 p.m. (Non-Public) – Wm. Mortimer Conference Room, Police Dept.  
6:00 p.m. (Public) – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers, City Hall

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The chairman called the September 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 5:58 p.m.

**Chairman Howe called the public session back to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers of 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

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

- III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:**  
August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Action: Commissioner Golumb 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 August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 police commission 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:**

**Action: Commissioner Golumb moved** to appoint Officer Sean Evans and Officer Wayne Boucher to Master Patrol Officer status.

**Seconded by Commissioner Russo.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The board voted unanimously to appoint Officers Boucher and Evans to Master Patrol Officer status, effective on their respective ten-year anniversary dates this month.

**Action: Commissioner Golumb moved** to accept the resignation of Officer Nicole Mercer with regret.

**Seconded by Commissioner Russo.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The board voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Officer Mercer.

Chairman Howe remarked that officer Mercer was an excellent police officer who served Portsmouth well, and the department will miss her.

**B. CHIEF OF POLICE:**

Chief Ferland briefed the commission on the following:

- NH Congressional Law Enforcement awards. Officers Tim Black and Scott Pearl have received law enforcement awards from the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation. Officers Black and Pearl were instrumental in helping to save the life of a suicidal man in the high level bridge in Portsmouth in 2009. The award ceremony will take place October 23<sup>rd</sup> at Police Standards & Training.
- Captain Schwartz will be attending the 248<sup>th</sup> session of the FBI Academy. Deputy DuBois is a graduate of the 237<sup>th</sup> FBI National Academy and spoke briefly on the rigors and opportunities presented by the academy.

Chief Ferland turned the next portion of the meeting over to Deputy DuBois, who briefed the commission on the following items:

- The organization study of the police department is beginning to wrap up. Public Safety Strategies Group is putting together the first draft of their report, and we are looking forward to that coming out sometime in November.
- Crime:
  - We are dealing with a lot of burglaries, as are several surrounding towns. Building burglaries in Portsmouth are mostly commercial, but we are also dealing with car break-ins and bicycle thefts. The deputy urged the public to lock their cars; many car break-ins are crimes of opportunity. He said a bicycle theft may sound minor to the listener, but if it is your property that has been taken, it is not minor. Competitive cycles can cost several thousand dollars. ID theft is still prevalent. Deputy DuBois explained these cases are complex and time consuming, and place a burden on detective division resources.

Deputy DuBois turned the meeting over to Capt. Warchol to give the financial report to the commission. Capt. Warchol said we have started the year off well, no unforeseen expenses at this point, and we are right where we should be.

Chief Ferland indicated the department is still engaged in the “Loud Noise Annoys” campaign. We have continued with the educational piece as well as the motorcycle checks. We have done about a thousand voluntary motorcycle noise compliance checks. Our purpose is to raise the everyday awareness of noise levels. This includes truck noise, hooting and hollering, horns on cars, and all such noise that people may generate by thoughtless actions. This is a sustained type of initiative, but police cannot fix this problem alone, we need people to be more respectful and compliant with the laws.

Events:

- Out of Darkness suicide walk
- Portsmouth Peace Treaty Signing Observance
- Alzheimer’s Awareness Walk
- The Community Child Care Center road race
- Citizen’s police Academy – deputy will speak further about this

- The Portsmouth Police QR (“Quick Reference”) code project – Citizens’ Police Academy alumni have taken this project on for us
- Police K-9 Open House at Stratham Hill Park on Sunday

Chief Ferland asked the deputy to talk about the upcoming citizen Police Academy which will begin October 18<sup>th</sup>.

### 3. Grants & Donations:

**Action: Commissioner Golumb moved** to accept a donation in the amount of \$100 from Comm. Wm. Mortimer to the Police Honor Guard in memory of retired Officers Robert Knight and Richard Maddock.

**Seconded by Commissioner Russo.**

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

**Action: Commissioner Golumb moved** to accept the FY ’11 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant from the Office of Justice Programs in the amount of \$13,950.

**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.

**Action: Commissioner Golumb moved** to accept a training grant in the amount of \$2,000 from the Police Standards and Training Council for a mid-level management course for two lieutenants.

**Seconded by Commissioner Russo.**

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

Chief Ferland paused here to replay a number of thank you notes, e-mails, and postings received by the department.

### 4. Administrative Services Division Report

- a. Financial Reports, by line item
- b. Overtime Report
- c. Personnel and Training Report
- d. Information Systems Report
- e. Records Division Report
- f. Fleet Report
- g. Communications Center Report

**5. Letters of Thanks and Appreciation from Outside the Department:**

- a. Letter from a resident of Portsmouth who, as a member of the jury, recently had the opportunity to hear Portsmouth Officers present their cases to the Rockingham County grand Jury. They heard 326 cases and listened to many police officers. The writer was highly complimentary of Portsmouth's officers; of their decorum, dress professionalism, and preparation. He said other jurors commented as well that Portsmouth's officers stood out.
- b. Letter of Thanks from Mr. Gordon Simmons, President and CEO of Service Credit Union, for our work in the planning and execution of the 2011 Boston-Portsmouth Air Show at the Pease International Tradeport.
- c. Note of Thanks from Councilor Bob Lister for our participation in a friendly game of basketball with the crew of the U.S.S. Virginia at the Connie Bean Center last month.
- d. Letter of Thanks from Congressman Frank Guinta for the hospitality extended to him when he visited the department last month.

**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

**D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT**

**E. DETECTIVE DIVISION**

**VII. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Action: Commissioner Russo moved** to accept the division and team reports and place them on file.

**Seconded by Commissioner Golumb.**

**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 gave the date of the next meeting and 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 September 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 6:27 p.m.

**IX. NEXT MEETING: *Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in the Little Theater Room of Portsmouth High School. THIS WILL BE A MORNING MEETING. The public session will begin at 9:30 a.m. The public is welcome to attend.***

*Kathe*

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

*John F. Golumb*