

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 15th, 2022 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

5:30 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

Stefany Shaheen, Chair
Buzz Scherr, Commissioner
Kate Coyle, Commissioner

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The March 15th, 2022 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:42 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. (An archived video of the meeting is available on the city's website and the city's YouTube channel.)

A meeting scheduled prior to the anticipated non-public session of the regular Police Commission meeting ran longer than expected; therefore, the non-public meeting that was anticipated to be at 4:00 p.m. was cancelled and will be rescheduled to a future date and time.

The following people were present for the public session:

Commissioners Shaheen, Scherr and Coyle, Chief Mark Newport, Captain Michael Maloney, Business Ops. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Jackie Burnett and members of the public.

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Commission collectively led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:** February 11th (budget work session), February 15th (regular meeting) and February 16th, 2022 (public hearing on proposed PD budget).
Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept all three sets of minutes.
Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

➤ **On a unanimous roll call vote, 3-0, motion passed.**

- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lisa Wolford, New Castle Ave. – In reference to the Resident Group Representatives (RGR) recommendations to the police department

regarding potential areas of reform, Ms. Wolford expressed her concern about the lack of immediate progress and recommended a review of action items. She also requested an updated report be made available to the public. She wished to remind the Commission that it is their responsibility to ensure the CAD/RMS process is executed properly and to ensure Chief Newport has the resources he needs.

There being no other individuals wishing to provide a comment, the public comment session was closed.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Promotions: Captain

Interviews took place just before the public session of the regular meeting. More deliberation is required before an individual can be named. This promotion will be acknowledged at the next regular Police Commission meeting on April 19th, 2022.

2. Facilities Update

a. Restoration

Chief Newport reported on the on-going remediation work in the Detective's wing on the first floor of the police department.

b. Upcoming Police Facilities Conference

Chief Newport, along with Commissioners Scherr and Coyle, Capt. Maloney, DPW Director Peter Rice, City Facilities Manager Joe Almeida and City Councilor John Tabor, will be attending a 3-day IACP Conference in which they will learn the ins and outs of building a new police facility.

3. Community Priorities

Acknowledged Wolford's comment pertaining to this topic.

Commissioner Coyle volunteered to itemize recommendations and organize them in a report to be published. The Chair assured the public that the Commission and department have been moving forward on recommendations, some of which have been addressed fully.

Commissioner Scherr has met on NDA, mobile crisis response unit and Commissioner Coyle on BWCs.

Chair: two time sensitive: RFP process. Karen reported the RFP went out earlier this month to vendors. In the appendices, the RGR recommendations were listed. Also reference re: posting policies on the

website. Chief Newport reported Lt. Keaveny is still working on this project.

4. Discussion of Budget Work Session & Planning

Karen reported on last CIP meeting. City approved bonding for approval. Approved 2.8 million to complete design of building. There was also funding on current retrofitting of space. Karen confirmed BWCs will be on next year's CIP.

a. Review of CIP Requests

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. Grants & Donations

a. VOCA Grant

A grant award in the amount of \$24,759 from the New Hampshire Department of Justice through the 'Victims of Crime Act' (VOCA). This grant is for expenses incurred and services provided for direct victim services, to include expenses for personnel.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the grant in the amount of \$24,759 from the NH DOJ through 'Victims of Crime Act', and forward to the City Council for their action.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

On a unanimous roll call vote 3-0, motion passed.

b. Donation

A donation in the form of a certificate for a 'Getaway Lakefront weekend in Waterford, ME' for a four-day weekend getaway for up to 25 people from an anonymous donor. Wellness retreat.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the certificate for a Getaway Lakefront weekend in Waterford, ME to be donated to the Portsmouth Police Department, and forward to the City Council for their action.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

➤ **On a unanimous roll call vote 3-0, motion passed.**

2. Letters of Recognition from Outside the Department

a. Email from Gary Levy: fraudulent credit card matter. List officer's names who assisted.

b. Email from Ms. Emily Perkins, Exec. Director of PPAF: Jones assisted with a safety plan – they were thankful for her assistance.

c. Letter from Ms. Gail Martens, "Acts of Kindness": witnessed an officer's act of kindness – assisting an elderly motorist by clearing the snow/ice off the roof of the vehicle.

d. Thank you card from Ms. Sandra P-J of The Birchtree

Center: Werner provided CRASE training and wanted to thank the officer and the department for offering safety training to their non-profit. The Chair added that she has heard from people whose families have been impacted by ICAC-related matters. Big thanks to Lt. Kinsman for the difficult but necessary work he and his team perform on a daily basis.

3. Accreditation Update: Yr 3 of 4-year process. Collecting proofs. File review this year. Reported number of agencies in NH and country that are advanced accredited.

4. Monthly Traffic Stats

Chief Newport reported the February 2022 traffic statistics. Capt. Maloney added that Patrol's continued goal is DWI detection and. Also announced extra officers on the road for St. Patrick's Day. Commissioner Scherr: how many were moving/non-moving violations? Capt. Maloney stated each stop would need to be looked at individually. Many cars are stopped for rolling through stop signs, expired registration, etc.

5. Financial Report – Karen Senecal

2.5 %. 2 resignations – still watching OT. FY23 budget – CM put forward personnel requests and increase \$ to gasoline budget line. 4.88% increase from last year's budget was submitted in final documents.

Rolling stock: Capt. Maloney and Karen attended that meeting. Gave up motorcycle and one vehicle.

Strategic Plan: finished by mid-April. Will be published when ready.

Grants: Kinsman and Karen still working on ICAC ARPA funding application. Shaheen asked about requests for funding. Two requests through City allocations: 1 forensic social worker to work with juvs and elderly at PHA and to go out on calls for service. Second project pertained to HVAC system air return – current system is insufficient for the space.

Shaheen made a plea to the CC – PD in desperate need of restoration of staffing levels and fixing the building to create a safe work environment.

a. Strategic Plan:

b. Grant Applications Update:

VII. PATROL DIVISION:

a. This report was included in the commission meeting packet.

VIII. COURT OFFICE REPORT:

- a. This confidential report was included in the commission meeting packet.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS: None

X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regular commission meeting date is Tuesday, April 19th, 2022.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved the March 15th, 2022 monthly Police Commission Meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Coyle.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed 3-0 to adjourn the March 15th, 2022 monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:13 pm.

END OF MEETING

Jackie

Respectfully Submitted By Jacqueline Burnett, Executive Assistant

Commissioner Buzz Scherr, Recording Clerk of the Commission