

**Wolfeboro Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2011**

Members present: Chairman Joe Balboni Jr., Ron Goodgame, and Bob Copeland

Staff present: Police Chief Stu Chase, Lieutenant Dean Rondeau, and Recording Secretary Amelia Capone-Muccio.

Invited guest/speakers: none.

Chairman Balboni called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM and introduced the Commissioner's, staff in attendance and noted a quorum was present.

Consideration of Minutes

➤ ***Public and non-public minutes of July 14, 2011***

Commissioner Goodgame amended the minutes as follows: page two, sixth bullet "scene" to "seen" and same page the seventh bullet change "They encourage residents" to "Residents are encouraged to". Page 3, second paragraph under Public/Press, change "in" to "it" and "is" to "be".

Commissioner Ron Goodgame moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public and non-public minutes of July 14, 2011 as amended. Commissioner Bob Copeland seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

Chief Chase reviewed the following activity reports for the month:

Offenses (State Law) by month: He stated the total offenses for the month is 192, a 118% increase from last month. He noted that such increase is a lot of work for an understaffed Department.

Arrest status report: He stated the report is a synopsis of the arrests for the month and reported 61 arrests last month, which is a 60% increase from last month.

Personnel Analysis report: He stated the report is a synopsis of each officer's reporting for the month and he summarized the report.

Accidents by street name: He stated there were a total of 22 accidents last month, 175% increase from last month.

Citation analysis report: He summarized the citations by street location and he reviewed the details of this report, noting that very rarely are money fines given, their goal is to educate the public.

Traffic/Parking Control: He provided a new report this month summarizing the activity of the Parking Control Officers downtown and reported that the amount of paid tickets is \$1,635 and unpaid is \$920. He explained that the goal for them to educate the public and hopes this program will become self sustainable.

Prosecutor's report: He noted the Prosecutor reported 15 defendants with 16 offenses, 6 arraignments, 7 pleas, and 2 trials. He noted the lack of court times due to Judge vacations and continuance dates to allow more time for those to pay fines.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Report: N/A summer.

Budget: N/A.

Call analysis by call reason: He stated there were 4,392 calls to Central Dispatch last month, which is a 10% increase.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Copeland questioned the status of the suspects arrested last month by Officer O'Brien who were in this country illegally.

Lieutenant Rondeau stated that all but one has been deported because he is awaiting federal prosecution on drug charges and was previously deported and back in the country illegally.

Chief's items

- A male juvenile was caught "tagging" property and will be prosecuted for such offense.
- The suspect arrested last month for stealing purses from the beaches is housed at the Strafford County House of Corrections as she was on bail for a robbery and re-offended when out of bail for the purse thefts.
- They have developed suspects in the Sewall Road burglaries and are working with Police Departments in the Seacoast area on this case. Such cases like these reaffirms the need for an investigative officer.
- Officer Pete Llewellyn was sworn in Tuesday, August 8, 2011 and will bring his years of experience and commitment to community and is a welcomed addition to the Department. Thank you to Officer Livie who will be his field training officer. He also acknowledged Sgt. Archambault for good work coordinating the hiring process, background check, and orientation for hiring the new officer.
- Officer Pat Serpa will be at the Police Academy August 15th to complete his agility training and begin his field training August 16th. Officer Serpa was hired under the Federal COPS Grant.
- The new hire that would return us to full Department has been delayed to January 2011 due to under funded changes in the retirement system.
- Lieutenant Rondeau in working with the DEA, the state chemist and Town Counsel created an Ordinance on the unlawful sale and possession of synthetic cannaboid compounds (the common terms for this is "K2, K2 Spice" and others). The Ordinance was approved by the Board of Selectmen at their last meeting and is now known as "Chapter 113" of the Town Code. (See attached ordinance) He thanked the Lieutenant for all his hard work on this issue of public safety.
- A structural inspection of the Public Safety Building was done on July 18th in conjunction with ongoing public works projects.
- They are continuing to work towards upgrades to the radio communication tower and a site visit to Bennett Hill was done on August 8th for a possible installation of repeaters at this site.
- The State-wide Operation Safe Commute will occur on August 15th and is a highly visible patrol plan to deter unsafe driving habits during commuting times.
- Skateboarders have been doing damage to the Community Bandstand in Cate Park. The Town has ordinances where skateboards can and can not be ridden and this area falls under a can not be ridden area and Offenders can face criminal charges.

- Bridge Falls Path, if a bicyclist is overtaking a pedestrian they should alert the walker's attention for common courtesy.
- He met with WASR to discuss the manner in getting timely news to the radio.
- Lieutenant Rondeau met with VNA Hospice in Wolfeboro and Laconia to update them on illegal drugs.
- Lieutenant Rondeau filmed a pedestrian safety program with Community Television on Sunday in the downtown area and he thanked him for taking the time on his day off to do such with Peter Pijoan and crew.
- Senior Patrol Officer Cooper completed a Vehicle Concealed Compartment course given by DEA at the Academy in Concord.
- He reminded the public to use the trash receptacles provided at the Town Docks and Cate Park.
- Officer Maloney received a letter of thanks from a resident that he helped find her lost keys.

➤ ***Letter to the Editor in Granite State News response***

The Chief provided the following response to a letter to the editor in last week's Granite State News regarding Police details:

Police Officers are assigned to private details at the request of a contractor. Off-duty personnel are assigned to these jobs. In some instances, the Town or State may dictate the presence of a Police Officer, or not. It could depend on the nature and scope of work, the need to divert or detour traffic, the work site itself, or a specific hazard to a worker.

The Police Department does not tell any contractor he/she must hire a Police Officer. Companies request a Police presence because they have genuine concern for the safety of their employees, as five workers have been killed this summer by motor vehicles in the US. A uniformed officer with a fully equipped police cruiser with the attendant emergency and warning lights is far superior to a person standing on the side of the road in a reflective vest with a sign on a stick.

We often see "flagmen" throughout Town, there have been at least two (and sometimes three) on one street daily for about a month. I understand a company in Manchester is supplying flagmen at a cost of \$22 per hour. Googling the hourly rate will show figures ranging from \$15 to \$55 for flagmen services.

While Flagmen do direct traffic flow, they can not be called upon or be expected to: render first aid, take enforcement action, intervene in conflict resolution, report or respond to a crime in progress, know the community and provide information, advise or have direct communication with local, county and state police units or do about one hundred other things a police officer does in a day.

Additionally Flagmen are not often taken seriously, ask one how many times he or she is cursed or ignored in the course of a day. Better yet ask the flagmen in Wolfeboro, who was dutifully standing at his post when a motorist alit from his vehicle and assaulted the elderly gent.

Consider that officers on private detail represent public safety and the community they serve. The theory of "omnipresence" is an important piece in crime prevention. High visibility of officers is itself a deterrent to crime. We deal with those who run afoul of the law daily. It is common to hear an offender say, "I should have stayed out of Wolfeboro, you guys have a reputation of stopping cars". That is good news to us and to the good citizens of the community. By the way, the Oklahoma City bomber was apprehended by a traffic stop.

Why is there sometimes more than one officer on a detail? That is determined by the contractor based on the type of work being done, the location and attendant site-lines, the need to be mobile (like stringing cable over extended

distances) terrain of the job and the experience and common sense of the owner of the company requesting the officer.

Are Officers sometimes together? Of course, there are starting and ending points to the work, there are officers being relieved for breaks or other reasons, there are sometimes roadside conversations between detail officers and on-duty officers or supervisor, there could be an on-duty officer bringing a cold drink to a detail officer or a hot drink on a cold day, there could be an occasion when the contractor is waiting for a crew, materials or supplies and there could be many reasons why a passing motorist could see two officers together at a site.

I note the letter writer use the term "gawking and yakking" in his disingenuous narrative. Police Officers are highly trained observers. For example, the next time you are driving along and see a Police Officer gawking, he or she may be gawking at you, by the way. Try looking at an approaching vehicle, while you pass by, and before the car is out of site, memorize the license plate number, check the validation of the tags to assure the car is registered, note the validity of inspection sticker, define the make and model of the car and any distinctive custom parts and or damage, and be able to describe the operator of the car to include gender, approximate age, clothing and demeanor and how many occupants are in that vehicle.

Describing the action as "gawking" by one could be defined as situational awareness by another; it is second nature to Police Officers.

With the invention of cell phones, a motorist may see "yakking" from time to time, it is a handy way to communicate.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Goodgame noted that it should be stressed that the detail officer is not on-duty and such duty is typically over and above a shift. He questioned if the cost of \$7 for the cruiser is enough to cover the idling for such duty.

Chief Chase replied it does he stated the figures have been reviewed for budgetary purposes and what is charged covers the cost and keeps the program self sustaining. He noted that police details do not cost the taxpayers.

Lieutenant Rondeau pointed out some companies only use Police Officers for details like Fairpoint.

Commissioner Goodgame questioned if there are mandates from the State on their roads.

Lieutenant Rondeau replied there are guidelines and provided the manual that dictates such.

Public/Press

Elissa Paquette of the Granite State News questioned where the suspect who stole purses was from.

Chief Chase replied she lived on Elm Street in Wolfeboro.

Mrs. Paquette questioned the number of purses she stole.

Chief Chase replied at least a half dozen.

Board of Selectmen Representative Chuck Storm commended the Department on the work of the Parking Officers downtown who are really hustling.

Chief Chase noted they are Criminal Justice students and they are doing a great job and are dedicated.

Commissioner Goodgame stated some members of the public have questioned why they are standing together and not intervening with the traffic problem.

Lieutenant Rondeau replied they will intervene when they can, but the traffic problem downtown is an engineering design problem and that at this point the only thing the town hasn't tried is traffic lights.

Commissioner Copeland stated that something needs to be done about the pedestrians who cross without looking first.

Lieutenant Rondeau replied that they have been educating the jay walkers and the motorists as well.

Peter Pijoan stated that the Pedestrian Safety program will be shown next weekend August 20 and 21st.

Commissioner's Items

Commissioner Goodgame stated he did a recent ride along with Lieutenant Rondeau during a special shift of DUI enforcement. He observed two arrests during this ride a long and commended the Department on their professionalism in the arrests. He stated that the Lieutenant arrested an individual for DUI and suspended licenses and he treated the suspects very nice and he acted appropriately. He stated that he would like the Commissioners to have a program to communicate with the Department on auditing what is going on in the Department for feedback. He read an email sent from Officer Cooper. (See attached e-mail) He stated it is important for the Commission to keep open communication for staffing reasons as well as moral purposes.

Next Meeting

Chairman Balboni announced the next meeting of the Wolfeboro Police Commission is September 8, 2011 at 4 PM at the Wolfeboro Public Library.

Being no further business, Chairman Balboni entertained a motion to non-public session.

Commissioner Ron Goodgame moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to move to non-public session under RSA 91-A at 5:00 PM to discuss personnel. Commissioner Bob Copeland seconded. Roll call vote, Bob Copeland-yes, Ron Goodgame-yes and Joe Balboni Jr.-yes, being none opposed, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 5:32 PM.

Chairman Balboni announced that the Commission sealed the non-public session minutes of the August 11, 2011 by a 2/3rd vote as required by law.

Being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Balboni entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Bob Copeland moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 5:33 PM. Commissioner Ron Goodgame seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Amelia Capone-Muccio

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