

Wolfeboro Police Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2013

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

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

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

Consideration of Minutes

- ***Public minutes of May 23, 2013***

Commissioner Bob Copeland moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public minutes of May 23, 2013 as submitted. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. 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 reported 76 offenses for last month, a 15% decrease.

Arrest status report: He reported 31 arrests last month.

Personnel Analysis report: He provided the monthly report.

Accidents by street name: He reported 15 accidents last month, an increase from the previous month.

Citation analysis report: He provided the monthly report noting 274 enforcement actions taken, with 19 punitive actions.

Prosecutor's report: He reported 35 defendants answering 42 offenses; 1 hearing, 3 arraignments, 24 pleas, and 4 trials

School Resource Officer (SRO): He reported 28 investigations at the High School and 1 investigation at the Middle School.

Detective's Report: He reported the Detective had 11 new cases assigned, with 13 pending currently.

Chief's Items

He reported the following items:

- Two part-time dispatchers were no longer able to serve in that capacity due to full-time commitments in other jurisdictions. Supervisor Lyons is currently conducting interviews for one opening and will hold the second opening to review a new approach in scheduling.
- The two seasonal employees, Paul Bois and Mary Devine, started this week and will provide 30 hours of sworn police-presence for our merchants, residents and visitors in the downtown area during the summer months. He has already received favorable comments on this new program.
- Officers have begun working the many state or federally funded grants that put extra personnel on the road for drunk drivers, pedestrian safety, safe commuting, and under-age drinking. He has also received many favorable comments on the highly visible presence of our officers around Town.
- Sgt. Keaton and Prosecutor Morgan attended a three-day, prosecutor's class at the Attorney General's office.
- The Department hosted a three-hour session on Outlaw Motor Cycle gangs that was presented by the intelligence unit of the State Liquor Commission.
- He and Officers Spera and Emerson assisted with Bike and Walk to School Day and it was a well-attended event with great involvement from the staff of Parks & Recreation.
- Sgt. Keaton and Officer Spera worked the Memorial Day parade.
- Officer O'Brien and Blek assisted with a project undertaken by two Brewster Academy students and a thank you card was sent for his interest and help.
- A resident stopped by to express thanks to Officer Livie for the manner in which he dealt with a minor driving infraction the man had committed.
- Sgt. Moore was acknowledged for his kindness and empathy during a notification to a resident who had experienced the tragic loss of a family member.
- Officer Llewellyn is volunteering his time with Team Vista on an overnight hiking outing. He also works as a CASA volunteer and his interest and support in these worthy endeavors is appreciated.
- The new cruisers are fully outfitted and on-line, with upgraded graphics with thanks to Officer Mark Livie.
- He commended Officer Llewellyn for his investigative efforts on a stolen car case last week.
- Officer Strauch observed an innocuous enough traffic violation on North Main Street and his initial inquiry developed into an arrest for felony level drug possession with intent to distribute. The suspect's vehicle was impounded with search warrants requested and received for specific items. The investigation developed into a multi-jurisdictional case involving the manufacturing and distribution of controlled drugs. Search warrants were executed in a nearby community with two suspects arrested and thousands of dollars of growing and cultivation equipment confiscated. This work is consistent with Officer Strauch's intuitive sense and excellent police work. He will be nominating him for recognition in the State's "Beyond the Traffic Stop" program.
- He reported that the summer season is upon us and attractions that make Wolfeboro a destination for so many. The Glendon Street lot has been completed with much-needed additional parking and provision for boat trailers. The boat-trailer area is conspicuously marked and well laid out. Thanks to the Public Works Department.
- For those island residents and guests who typically use Mast Landing, please remember there are defined limits on parking of boat trailers and remember the Board of Selectmen has designated an area at Abenaki near the skating rink for parking of

boat trailers. He explained Mast Landing is for all boaters and is not for long-term storage.

➤ **DISCUSSION:**

Chairman Goodgame complimented the staff on changing the process for the downtown traffic officers which also results in a 45% savings. He questioned how often they would be on duty.

Chief Chase replied their schedules will vary.

Chairman Goodgame noted Sgt. Keaton was recently honored at the Rotary with the Paul Harris award. He also acknowledged the Chief and the Lieutenant for admiral job in putting together a great Department and in his opinion it is the best Department in their memory.

Commissioner's Items

➤ **Part-time employees**

David Owen, Town Manager, addressed the Commission and noted with regards to the Chiefs comments regarding hiring part-time employees in Central Dispatch, and that the Commission should be aware that in January the town will be required to offer insurance to those employees averaging 30 hours per week due to the Affordable Care Act and to be mindful of such before adding part-time employees.

➤ **Carroll County Dispatch**

David Owen, Town Manager, addressed the Commission to provide them with information regarding the last year of discussions between the Town of Wolfeboro, the Town of Moultonborough, the Town of Conway and the County Commissioners regarding the Carroll County Dispatch services. He explained that the Town of Moultonborough had originally contacted Wolfeboro and Conway in regards to paying for the County Dispatch services, but all three towns have their own Dispatch Departments. He stated that currently they budget \$400,000 for Wolfeboro's Central Dispatch and all three towns contribute 50% of the cost for the County Dispatch. He provided documents outlining the contribution and an estimated use of the system. He referred to the chart that also outlines how some other communities allocate the cost such as based on usage, etc.

Chairman Goodgame questioned if the three towns did not contribute their portion then the cost would be 50% underfunded and the town's tax bill would decrease accordingly.

Mr. Owen replied it would, but noted they are still in the discussion stage at this point and wanted to provide them with this information to be aware that the discussion is going on and the town has no plans to eliminate Central Dispatch.

Commissioner Copeland questioned who initiated these discussions.

Mr. Owen replied the Town of Moultonborough reached out to Wolfeboro and Conway and the Town Administrator for Town of Moultonborough, Carter Terenzini, is the spokesperson for the discussions.

Chief Chase noted he does not want to confuse the relationship the Department has with the Carroll County Sheriff's office as far as the law enforcement side and that they have minimal contact with the Carroll County Dispatch office. He explained that if all three of the town's 911 lines were busy, then Carroll County would use a land line to contact them, so no dispatching is done by them.

Mr. Owen explained they are only having the discussions to change the allocation of the cost for the Town of Wolfeboro.

Chief Chase noted that 47,717 calls came into Central Dispatch last year, with 5,213 walk-ins.

The Commission thanked Mr. Owen for the update.

Board of Selectmen's Representative

Ms. Silk stated that at the latest Hazardous Waste Collection that included medicine collection, two Wolfeboro Officers were on hand to collect the medicine and a Pharmacist from the Rite Aid in Ossipee. She stated they collected 48 gallons of medicine and 2 gallons of that was controlled medicine. She also noted a recent newspaper article in which the Town of Conway purchased an incinerator for \$6,000 to dispose of medicine but was informed by NH DES that it has had minimal testing and recommends not using it.

Chairman Goodgame questioned what Wolfeboro does with the medicine.

Lieutenant Rondeau replied it is incinerated at a facility in Derry that is specially designed to dispose of drugs and then it is reused for electricity.

Chairman Goodgame questioned the cost of the program.

Ms. Silk replied three towns share the cost of \$50,000, Wolfeboro (60%), Alton (40%) and Tuftonboro (\$4,000 for 50 households). She stated it is based on the usage of what is collected and they do get some grant funds. She lastly invited the Commission to the Lakes Region Repeater Associations Field Day from 2:00 PM June 22, 2013 to 2:00 PM June 23, 2013 on Pleasant Valley Road. This exercise is for practicing for Emergency Management.

➤ Open House Update

Lieutenant Rondeau stated that the press release has been issued to the Granite State News and the Union Leader as well to WMUR and the WASR. They have some fun giveaways for the kids and should have about 40% of the Department throughout the event.

Chairman Goodgame questioned the status of the baseball cards.

Lieutenant Rondeau replied that they have received the proofs and should receive the actual cards soon, but it may not be in time for the event.

➤ Next Meeting

July 18, 2013 at 4:00 PM at the Wolfeboro Public Library.

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

Commissioner Bob Copeland moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 5:10 PM. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio