

Wolfeboro Police Commission Meeting Minutes September 19, 2013

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

Staff present: Chief Stu Chase, Lieutenant 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 August 15, 2013***

Commissioner Bob Copeland moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public minutes of August 15, 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 85 offenses for last month, and provided a comparison of the offenses by month to 2012 and reported a decrease in offenses. He contributes this decrease to a full staff, and good enforcement program and that traffic stops often can eradicate larger crimes.

Arrest status report: He reported 56 arrests last month.

Personnel Analysis report: He provided the monthly report which breaks down each officer's activity for the month.

Accidents by street name: He reported 17 accidents last month.

Crime Comparison report: He provided the monthly report noting crimes are down, but they do still continue to see spikes in counterfeiting, forgery, and fraud, etc.

Arrests of View: He stated this is a report he and the Lieutenant use to provide best staffing and deploy the officers.

Citation analysis report: He provided the monthly report noting that as always education is their main focus, but reported 331 Citation last month (includes verbal) and \$2, 949 in fines to the State.

Prosecutor's report: He reported; 21 defendants who answered 31 offenses, 7 arraignments, 4 trials, 10 pleas, 1 hearing, and 4 pretrial conferences.

Chief's Items

He reported the following items:

- He reported a vacancy central dispatch once again for part-time employment and is currently accepting resumes.
- Sgt. Moore completed forty hours of training in Law Enforcement Executive Development program at the Portsmouth Police Department.
- Several members of the dispatch staff attended a class in customer service hosted by Primex.
- School Resource Officer Cooper attended a training session on interview techniques.
- Officer Llewellyn attended a class on planning for unusual circumstances at schools.
- He reported he received a complimentary letter from a downtown merchant recently regarding the part-time, sworn personnel and their presence for the summer season. It was published in the Granite State News last week and he read the letter. (See attached)
- Officer O'Brien's quick action at a recent call saved the life of a mentally ill person who was in the process of hanging herself. He cut the knot and administered first aid until the arrival of emergency responders. He also commended Dispatcher Brobel for her job well done on keeping the caller engaged until help could arrive also diverting a tragedy.
- He reported that they received notice from the Department of Safety that they will be the recipients of one, Motorola APX 7000 (valued at \$3,538.00), portable radio, from the 2010 interoperability grant. He reported they have received over \$100,000.00 in equipment and upgrades over the past several years from available grant funds.
- The installation of the generator at Bennett Hill began Tuesday, September 17th, after receiving the amended lease agreement from Fifth Estate. The propane is scheduled to be delivered and hooked up on October 1st.
- The Wolfeboro Police Benevolent Association hosted the first "Family Day" at Foss Field on Saturday. The event was designed to strengthen community spirit and to foster police and community partnerships, and was offered free of charge. The Event was a success and included "touch a truck", a dunk tank, face painting (by our own Donna Commerford), music and dancing with Adam Zappala of Sound waves, DJ service. Thanks to all who volunteered their time and energy for this special event!
- He thanked Joe & Mary Balboni for hosting Department members at their home on the 15th! It was a beautiful afternoon that featured fine Italian cooking, fellowship and a boat ride with a talented and seasoned skipper at the helm. Grandson, Ryan, gets a tip of the fedora for his outstanding work at the grille.
- Dispatch Supervisor Lyons met with the staff of Back Bay Rehab to discuss the 911 telephone system and its appropriate use. It was well-received and we plan to expand this program to other affiliates of Huggins Hospital.
- The Department poster which depicts the Police and Central Dispatch staff has been re-designed, approved and forwarded to the printer for publication. We should be getting the finished product soon.

Commissioner's Items

Chairman Goodgame noted the meeting schedule will remain the same next year and directed the Secretary to go ahead and schedule the Library. He reported the Commissioners conducted the annual review of the Chief and he read it for the record. (See attached)

2014 Budget

Chief Chase stated he met with the Town Manager and Finance Director with regards to the 2014 proposed Budget. He reported there are no “big ticket” items in this year’s budget, but reported that Central Dispatch needs to purchase a new base station which is an essential piece of equipment that communicates with the State, Med flights, Mutual Aid, etc. and it is frequently breaking down which is a precursor to failure. He reported there is no increase in the Animal Control Budget as they only have one officer who uses his cell phone in lieu of a pager.

Chairman Goodgame questioned if the Town Manager agreed with the proposed budget.

Chief Chase replied yes, he made an effort to stay within the guidelines.

Commissioner Copeland commended the Chief on presenting an excellent budget.

It was moved by Bob Copeland and seconded by Joe Balboni Jr. to accept the proposed 2014 Police Department, Central Dispatch, and Animal Control Budgets as presented. Members voted and being all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Selectmen’s Representative

The Secretary read the following on behalf of Sarah Silk who was not able to attend the meeting:

- Please note that I am pleased to see that they are once again participating in the DEA pharmaceutical take-back program on Saturday, Oct 26, 2013 which augments the LRHHPF June and August medicine collections.
- Please also report that it is encouraging to see the electrician has been to the tower site to prepare for the generator connection such that the installation should be complete before winter as it appears winter may arrive early this year and be of a long and snowy duration.

➤ Questions from the Public

Elissa Paquette of the Granite State News noted she recently attended a Pathways meeting in which they were discussing was to make the downtown safer for pedestrian and bike travel and they were discussing the improvements to the downtown policing and it sounds as though that is a new service that was needed working well.

➤ Next Meeting

October 17, 2013 at 4:00 PM at the Wolfeboro Public Library.

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

Commissioner Bob Copeland moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to move to non-public session under RSA 91-A II a: Internal personnel practices of the Police Department and Collective Bargaining at 4:48 PM. Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Roll call vote, Bob Copeland-yes, Joe Balboni Jr.-yes and Ron Goodgame-yes, being none opposed, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 6:12 PM.

Chairman Goodgame announced that the Commission sealed non-public session minutes of the September 16, 2013, by a 2/3rd vote as required by law.

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 6:14 PM. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio

Wolfeboro Police Commissioner
Public Safety Building, Wolfeboro, NH 03894

Dear Chief Chase:

September 19, 2013

Per the Town manager, reviews of all Town personnel are to be completed by September 30, 2013.

As you know, during the past year, the Commissioners have given you oral and informal Performance Reviews demonstrating to you that we, collectively as well as individually, believe you continue to exceed our expectations of your performance of the Job Description for Chief of Police as same was adopted by your current Commissioners effective 5/10/12.

As we have said many times orally and in writing, you have a proven track record over the past 7 years as an extremely able Chief of Police. You have also demonstrated great vision which has enabled our Police Department to function as one of, if not the best Police Departments Wolfeboro has ever had. Morale appears never to have been better and it is obvious to even the casual observer that your people are proud to be serving with you. You communicate well and are respected by your sworn and civilian staff, Town department heads, elected officials and our citizenry.

During the past year, you have kept us advised of all pertinent activities, and we have found you a most willing participant in conferences, as we have mutually deemed necessary or prudent, so that we might be better able to fulfill our positions as Police Commissioners. We do note that you are an impressive advocate when it comes to discussing with us policies and procedures you feel are important to the effective and efficient performance of the Department and Dispatch. It is also noted by us that over the course of the last several years we have found very few instances where we have not been able to reach accord; and we find that you always have been very helpful in assisting the Commission with its oversight responsibilities under RSA 105-C-4. You seek constantly to set the highest standards for Community Policing and we are very mindful of your attainment of that goal.

As we pointed out last year in our written Performance Review of you at September 30, 2012, it is your responsibility to do a written review of Lt. Rondeau just as it is our responsibility to give the same to you. However, given the continued splendid performance of the Lieutenant we

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would like to take this opportunity to add a few things of our own for the Lieutenant's Personnel Jacket/File. It is our belief that the Lieutenant be given the highest marks for his past and continued performance as your Executive Officer. He has, in our opinion and as your Executive Officer, greatly facilitated the administration, planning, and execution of the public safety mission and our mutual vision of Community Policing in Wolfeboro.

Additionally, we commend him for being selected this year to attend the prestigious FBI Academy for Senior Officers. We believe he has continuing potential for attaining even more senior rank in our Department. His knowledge of matters important to the Department is exemplary and we are sure you'll agree that we are most fortunate to have him.

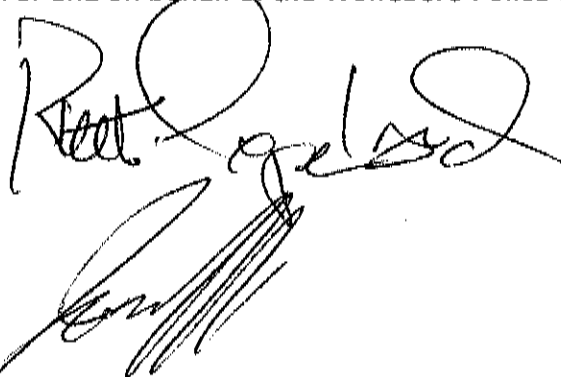
Chief Chase, we thank you and all your personnel for the continued excellent service in the Town of Wolfeboro!



Ron Goodgame

Chair

For and on behalf of the Wolfeboro Police Commission.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Impressed with Wolfeboro Police Department

To the Editor:

I wanted to tell you how impressed I've been with the members of the Wolfeboro Police Department I've met while managing a local downtown shop. I met Officer [Paul] Bois and Officer [Mary] Devine earlier in the season, and both were friendly and enthusiastic about their jobs.

I had the chance to observe them interacting with tourists and others, and they certainly seemed to be enjoying that part of

the job. And, unlike last summer, I didn't hear any complaints from our customers about the ticketing of cars or two hour parking limit. I think having these professional "official" officers, as opposed to the young traffic patrol people, was a huge plus.

We also had a nice visit from Officer [Randy] Archambault, who stopped by in June to introduce himself. He stopped by another time just to check in. And, in August, I had a sus-

pected shoplifting incident and called the dispatcher, who sent Officer [Shane] Emerson to the shop. He was great, and attempted to locate the young boys in question, and noted all the details.

It makes all of us at the shop feel more safe and secure when we have such diligent officers on the force.

Thank you,
Pam Knapp
Mirror Lake

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