

Wolfeboro Police Commission Meeting Minutes December 18, 2014

Members present: Chairman Joe Balboni Jr. Steve Wood and Ron Goodgame.

Staff present: Chief Stu Chase and Recording Secretary Amelia Capone- Muccio.

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

➤ *Pledge of Allegiance*

Chairman Balboni entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Minutes

- ***Public minutes of November 20, 2014***

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public minutes of November 20, 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Ron Goodgame seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

Offenses (State Law) by month: He reported the offenses for the month, a 37% increase from last month.

Arrest status report: He reported 23 arrests for last month 1% increase.

Personnel Analysis report: The report is a synopsis of each officer's reporting for the month.

Accidents by street name: He reported 10 accidents for last month with 114 year to date. This is a 15% decrease from the previous year.

Prosecutor's report: He reported 37 defendants answering 48 offenses, with 6 arraignments, 9 pleas, and 19 pretrial conferences.

School Resource Officer (SRO): He reported numerous investigations at the High School last month and at the Middle School.

Motor Vehicle Traffic Report: He reported 1,892 stops year to date with a majority of those being non-punitive as the goal is education. He in fact only 2% of those stops were punitive.

Detectives Report: He reported that the Detective has 23 pending cases going into the month. He closed 1 case by arrest and 5 by other means.

Central Dispatch report: n/a.

Detective's report: n/a.

Chief's Items

Chief Chase stated the following:

- He reported 1,465 calls to Central Dispatch during the last power outage which is 87% more than the previous outage and probably relates to being Thanksgiving eve. He noted that 2,660 looked at the notice on the Police Department Facebook page, which is another means to get the word out. He explained as he stated previously, the Department does not have the up-to-date information, but only that there is an outage and that they are working on it. He explained calling into Central Dispatch is not going to provide any further information, but rather ties up all the business lines.

Power Outage Discussion

Commissioner Wood stated he has been in the Electric Utility business for 30 years and there is a problem with outage calls coming into Central Dispatch for outages, which has nothing to do with them and should be handled by the Municipal Electric Department. He stated the easiest way to deal with the problem is for the Municipal Electric Department to take the calls out of Central Dispatch as this was never what Central Dispatch was intended to be. He stated Wolfeboro has been very fortunate over the years to a low rate of outages. He also referred to a Granite State News article (12/11/2014) that indicates you can call the Electric Department during an outage, he did not know this and such should be made more public either in the bills or a refrigerator magnet. He also suggested that the Municipal Electric Department contact NEPA (who the Town is a member of) and find out how other Municipal Electric Departments handle outages to make a change from Central Dispatch.

Board of Selectmen Representative Sarah Silk addressed the Commission and explained that the Board recently discussed the latest power outages with the Director of the Municipal Electric Department at their last meeting. She informed the Commission the Board approved funds for the MED to purchase an all-terrain vehicle to patrol Wolfeboro's portion of the line as a way to speed up the process as the area is not accessible to the trucks. She did explain that in prolonged outages the MED does provide staffing to take calls at the Electric Department and have been doing that for a couple years.

Mr. Wood suggested they set up a system to have calls forwarded to someone's home.

Ms. Silk replied they cannot do that and noted the Department has a 45 minute response time which is much better than surrounding areas.

Commissioner Goodgame stated some comments were made that it was due to the aging infrastructure.

Ms. Silk replied that it is not due to ageing infrastructure and believes information was going to be sent to the Granite State News with regards to the outages as they both were not due to Wolfeboro's system, but large pine trees falling into the right of way on the line coming into town. She stated that typically when these outages happen the news and media outlets notify the public of an impending storm and how to be prepared for outages, she reminded the public to be prepared as they do not have control over Mother Nature.

Commissioner Goodgame stated he also feels that in light of today's work issues that when a town-wide power outage happens, people are on edge and get worried it may be a terrorist attack which results in calling the Police Department.

Commissioner Wood agreed that could be the case on a calm day, not when there is a storm.

Ms. Silk stated she feels more awareness is needed about the procedure and preparedness, but noted long power outages in this area are very infrequent.

Commissioner Goodgame stated the issue is the calls to Central Dispatch.

Ms. Silk noted that she would pass on such concerns to the Board.

Commissioner Wood did note the Municipal Electric Department line crew is a dedicated staff and does have a good response time. He noted that he did read the letter to the editor in this week's paper as well regarding the power outage and reference to the system and if the person has been a 25 year resident, they should know that a major system upgrade was done several years back.

Elissa Paquette of the Granite State News stated that in the last storm the editor was trying to get the paper out and when he called in, the Editor actually got the Director of the Electric Department.

Chief Chase continued with his Chief's Items as follows:

- There has been considerable interest in the issuance of body cameras for police officers, but he noted there are several issues, exclusive of cost, to be considered before this would occur locally. The Department is awaiting guidance from the (NH) Attorney General's office before any further consideration is given.
- K9 program: A breeder in Rhode Island is actively seeking a "scent dog" for the Department. It is the intent to commence training in March of 2015 and will begin converting an older patrol car to a K9 unit. The Department continues to receive donations toward this project, noting most recently the Rotary Club made a substantial contribution. He stated the Department is grateful for the generosity and community spirit we have seen in the endeavor and thanked everyone on behalf of the Police Benevolent Association.
- The Department had the opportunity to utilize the Police Academy's training simulator this month in Concord. The four-hour package included both classroom and practical exercises. The simulator creates scenarios that feature contemporary policing issues such as "active-shooters" at schools; armed hostage situations; an armed robbery at an ATM; a domestic disturbance and others. He explained the simulator is as realistic as it can be and thanked Don Vittum, Director of Police Standards & Training and his staff, for allowing us to use this most outstanding training tool.
- The following sworn personnel completed all annual, mandatory training requirements in December: Officer Spera, certified to conduct physical fitness testing, Sgt. Moore is re-certified as a firearms instructor, Supervisor Lyons completed Terminal Agency Coordinator re-certification and Garrett Anthony of our part-time staff was certified as an S.P.O.T.S terminal operator.
- Supervisor Lyons has once again done an outstanding job with the Children's Christmas fund. We got a bit more exposure this year, resulting in more recipients while at the same time, receiving more donations as well. Thank you to all who support this grass-roots endeavor.

- He reported the following for Community Outreach: He spoke at Rotary this month on the K9 program, he spoke to WASR for the food pantry drive, he attended two budget committee meetings and one department head meeting. The Department assisted with the Turkey Trot, 5K race, led Santa into Town for the annual Chamber of Commerce parade and will be present at "First Night." He stated Capt. Rondeau spoke to the Men's Breakfast Club, the quilters' guild and assisted the Clipper House Assisted Living facility with a table-top drill of unusual occurrences.
- And lastly he wished everyone Seasons Greetings and Merry Christmas to all!

Public

None.

Being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Balboni entertained a motion to enter into non-public session.

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to move to non-public session under RSA 91-A II b, to discuss personnel and litigation at 4:40 PM. Ron Goodgame seconded. Roll call vote, Ron Goodgame-yes, Joe Balboni Jr.-yes, and Steve Wood-yes, being none opposed, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 4:55 PM.

Chairman Balboni announced that the Commission sealed the non-public session minutes of the December 17, 2014, by a 2/3rd vote as required by law.

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

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 4:56 PM. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio
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