

Wolfeboro Police Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2015

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Steve Wood and Vice Chair Ron

Goodgame.

WOLFEBORO, N.H. TOWN CLERK

Members present: Chairman Joe Balboni Jr (via telephone),

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

Vice-Chairman Goodgame 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*

Vice Chairman Goodgame entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Minutes

- *Public minutes of December 18, 2014*

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public minutes of December 18, 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

- *Non-Public minutes of December 18, 2014*

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to unseal the nonpublic minutes of December 18, 2014. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the nonpublic minutes of December 18, 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

Offenses (State Law) by month: He reported 89 offenses for the month, a 106% increase from last month and a total of 873 for the year.

Arrest status report: He reported 31 arrests for last month 106% increase and 283 for the year.

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

Accidents by street name: He reported 11 accidents for last month with 138 for the year.

Prosecutor's report: n/a

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 159 stops last month and over 2,000 stops for the year.

Detectives Report: He reported that the Detective has 23 pending cases going into the month. He closed 4 cases by arrest and 4 by other means.

Central Dispatch report: n/a.

Chief's Items

Chief Chase stated the following:

- He announced Officer Mary Swift was sworn in as a fulltime officer on January 2nd. He noted that she has worked as a seasonal officer for the last two years and worked fulltime for the Wakefield Police Department for the last three years. She is currently going through several weeks of training and upon completion will assume regular patrol.
- A breeder/trainer from Rhode Island is actively seeking a "sporting breed" dog for the K9 Program. He anticipates K9 Officer Strauch and his new partner to commence training in March. He stated the conversion of an older police vehicle to a K9 unit will begin January 23rd.
- The Wolfeboro Children's Christmas Fund assisted a record of 76 children in the community this year. He thanked all the generous supporters of this program and the dedication of Dispatch Supervisor Mia Lyons and helpers who put the effort together.
- The Department assisted in ushering in the New Year leading the parade procession and also visited many of the venues throughout the evening.
- He and the Captain attended a recent Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern.
- He spoke to the Rotary Club on the status of the K9 program and the Rotary also made a generous contribution to the K9 Fund.
- Department members and spouses attended a Holiday party with the Sheriff's Department and other Carroll County Police agencies and he thanked Lt. Duffy and the State Police at Troop E for providing coverage during this event.
- He read the Annual 2014 Town Reports.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Goodgame questioned if Central Dispatch is fully staffed.

Chief Chase replied no, there is one part-time position open but he does not plan to fill it at this time as they currently have a part-time person covering those shifts.

Commissioner Goodgame questioned how a member of the public may make arrangements for the "ride along" program.

Chief Chase they can make those arrangements through the Captain.

Board of Selectmen's Representative

Sarah Silk provided an update to last month's conversation about the process of a power outage and she put an article in the Granite State News explain such. She stated the Town is also working on a magnet reminder to be mailed to all electric customers.

Commissioner Wood stated that the emphasis on preparedness is important as storms are widely advertised through the media in advance.

Elissa Paquette of the Granite State News noted the Wolfeboro Municipal Electric Department now has a Facebook page as another means to reach the public.

Public

Dana Anderson addressed the Commission to question if the Town has an emergency plan based on all the problems going on in the world today.

Sarah Silk replied yes the Town has an Emergency Management Director, the Fire Chief, and information is available on the plan at the Town Hall.

Mr. Anderson also addressed a concern about how the Police Department handled a situation about a year ago when guns were drawn and the Officers were screaming at the suspect. He felt that another negotiation tactic should have been used.

Captain Rondeau replied that was a very difficult situation and was glad that it turned out okay.

Mr. Anderson also stated he would like the Officers to work with underage kids and give them a chance when they cite them for smoking etc. He feels in today's time that children have a negative attitude towards the Police Department. He lead this discussion into an issue with his son who works really hard at his business and has a lot of cash for this business and a mistake he made in drinking too much and getting arrested for DUI. He stated in a review of the report there is a discrepancy in the amount of cash that was reported. His son had \$1500 from his business on his dashboard that he didn't deposit because the bank was closed and another \$130 or so in the console, but that money was not reported on the report. He stated his son stated the Police were following him around and his son is not a criminal or drug dealer and he would like an investigation on this matter.

Chief Chase replied that such is in process per request of his son's Attorney.

Mr. Anderson stated this is a good reason the Officer's should wear body cameras as he has heard stories of people getting pulled over for things like false taillights out.

Commissioner Goodgame explained that body cameras were discussed and they are currently being reviewed by the Attorney General's Office as a policy for such needs to be drafted. Once that review is complete they can talk about getting them for the Department.

Commissioner Wood stated that there are a lot of issues to iron out with body cameras for privacy and agrees they are a great tool, but they need to wait for a policy from the Attorney General's office.

Mr. Anderson stated he has talked to a lot of businesses who state they are willing to donate funds if need for such cameras. He thanked the Commission for their time and wished them a successful 2015.

Being no further business before the Commission, Vice Chairman Goodgame 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 at 4:34 PM. Joe Balboni Jr. 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 4:54 PM.

Vice Chairman Goodgame announced that the Commission sealed the non-public session minutes of the January 15, 2015 by a 2/3rd vote as required by law.

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

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 4:55 PM. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio
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