

Wolfeboro Police Commission Meeting Minutes February 19, 2015

Members present: Chairman Joe Balboni Jr (via telephone). Steve Wood and Vice Chair Ron Goodgame.

Staff present: 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 January 15, 2015 and Non-public minutes of January 15, 2015***

Commissioner Steve Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the public minutes of January 15, 2015 as submitted and the non-public minutes of January 15, 2015 as submitted. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Members voted and being none opposed, the motion passed.

Activity Reports

Captain Rondeau reported on the following activity reports for last month:

Offenses (State Law) by month: He reported 63 offenses for the month, and noted that this is the first reporting of the year so no comparison is available, but is consistent with previous months. He noted for the first time in his 19 years with the Department they had a violation of an alcohol interlock system.

Arrest status report: He reported 25 arrests for last month.

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

Accidents by street name: He reported 12 accidents for last month.

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 155 stops last month and only 5 resulted in a summons.

Detectives Report: He reported that the Detective has 19 pending cases going into the month and he closed 9 cases.

Central Dispatch report: n/a.

DISCUSSION:

➤ ***Motor Vehicle Stops***

Commissioner Goodgame questioned the amount of warnings for traffic stops and if such is wasting the time of the officers. He feels the public is owed consistency and that there should be some guidelines so it is consistent to when a warning is issued vs. a citation.

Commissioner Wood disagreed and recalled when he attended the Police Academy, one of the things they were taught was to have their mind made up when they get out of the car, but noted many factors are taken into consideration when a citation is issued.

Captain Rondeau agreed. He noted most of their stops are not punitive and the Department's goal is education. He would pass on his concerns to the Chief, but feels setting guidelines for the officer's is not the way to go as each circumstance is different. He explained a lot is taken into consideration when issuing a citation such as speed, weather, or school zone, etc.

Commissioner Wood questioned if the Department notifies the public where traffic enforcement will be.

Captain Rondeau they do not do that, because the answer is all of Wolfeboro.

➤ ***Detective's Report***

Commissioner Goodgame stated when the decision was made to have a Detective the Chief made his case noting having this function would allow the Patrol Officer's to do patrol vs. trying to investigate their cases as well and sometimes on overtime. He would like to continue to monitor this function and keep statistics as an additional Detective may be needed in the future, including what it saves in overtime.

Captain Rondeau agreed this position has been very worthwhile and does save on overtime.

Chief's Items

Captain Rondeau stated the following:

- Officer Swift has completed the field training program and has joined the patrol rotation.
- He stated after an extensive search, the Department has selected a canine partner for Officer Strauch. A one year old Chocolate Lab was chosen after successfully completing a round of agility and situational testing administered by an outside agency and an independent contractor. The conversion of an older police vehicle to a K9 car has been completed and Officer Strauch will travel to Rhode Island next week to pick up the dog. They both will start at the State Police, K9 Academy March 2nd. He further stated that the Department is grateful for the generosity of our residents and business owners who made the re-institution of this program possible. We feel the K9 adds an additional dimension to the public safety mission; particularly in the area of drug detection, evidence recovery and search and rescue incidents.

- Officers cleared several cases in this reporting period including the arrest of a heroin dealer, the arrest of a cocaine dealer, the arrest of a marijuana dealer, the arrest of a burglar from a past break at All Saint's Church, and the arrest of a robbery suspect who was targeting elderly customers at area ATMs.
- Dispatch Supervisor Mia Lyons has received, through a grant, 200 gun locks. The free locks are available in the lobby of the public safety building. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this program.
- An Officer is continuing to be provided for the public input portion of the Selectmen's meetings and such is common practice in other communities. The Department considers this an opportunity to engage the people of the community.
- He attended several meetings as follows: regional meeting in Ossipee on the continuing problem of heroin addiction, symposium in Manchester on drug addiction hosted by the office of the U.S. Attorney, Appalachian Teen Mountain Project, visited with a local Explorer Troop and an update on the DEA, drug take-back program.
- He stated he and/or the Chief attended several other meetings as follows: met with Town Counsel on two occasions, Department Head Meeting, Budget Committee meeting, Town Deliberative Session, addressed school security issues – new technology and a Board of Selectmen, non-public session.

DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Goodgame questioned if there has been any formal recognition of Commissioner Balboni for his contribution to the K9 program for the vehicle and he would like to see him acknowledged for that as it was instrumental in reviving the program. He also commended the Department on their cooperation in working with other Departments.

Board of Selectmen's Representative

Sarah Silk stated they are getting ready for the seasonal Household Hazardous Waste Collections and noted the DEA will no longer be doing their voluntary Drug Take Back program so residents will only have two opportunities to get rid of their expired or unwanted medicine at the collections in June and August. She noted the Voter's Guide will be published in the February 26th edition of the Granite State News.

Commissioner Goodgame thanked Ms. Silk for her great contribution as liaison to the Police Commission and wished her luck in her reelection. He also wished Commissioner Balboni good luck on his reelection to the Commission and thanked him for all the work he has been doing with the Police Commission. He reminded the public the Town election will be March 10th from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM at All Saint's Episcopal Church.

Public

None.

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 4:45 PM. Commissioner Joe Balboni Jr. seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Capone-Muccio
Amelia Capone-Muccio