

**PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE JULY 24TH, 2003 MEETING**

Noon (Non-Public) 1:00 PM (Public)  
Portsmouth Police Department - Wm. D. Mortimer Conference Room

John D. Kelley, Chairman  
William F. Devine  
Gerald W. Howe

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** The Chairman called the July 24th, monthly Police Commission Meeting to order at 1:05 PM (*One cassette tape documenting this meeting is on file for reference*).

**Present during public session:** Commissioners Kelley, Devine, and Howe, Chief Magnant, Deputy Chief Young, Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal, Fosters reporter Jim Baker, Herald reporter Liz Kenney, Principal Robin Burdick, Webmaster Alan Brady, Commander John Russo, Captain Bill Irving, Sgt. Frank Warchol, Detective Tim West, Cable Commission Chairman Gene Fiske, Councilor Harold Whitehouse, Mr. Hugh Jenks, Mr. Neil Cohen, SASS Representative Diane LaVoie and Administrative Aide Kathe Hoyt

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Deputy Chief Young led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

**Action:** Commissioner Howe moved that the Board accept the minutes of the meeting held on June 24th, 2003

**Seconded by Commissioner Devine.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion to accept the minutes.

**IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman John Kelley suspended the agenda to move to the Chief's portion of the meeting and address the first two items under the Chief's section.

1. **Honor Guard** - Captain John Yerardi made presentations on behalf of the Portsmouth Police Honor Guard to Commander John Russo for his generous support and work with the Honor Guard since its inception in 1999. A presentation was also made to firefighter Teddy Blood who has played taps for Honor Guard ceremonies on numerous occasions, sometimes taking vacation time to be available and forgoing his own leisure time to provide taps for funerals and memorial services. Ted Blood is an active firefighter and was at a scene at the time of the meeting.
2. **Pierce Island Committee** - Mr. Neil Cohen and Mr. Hugh Jenks addressed the Commission regarding the current state of things on Pierce Island. They reviewed the improvements that had been made, and indicated that cooperation has been good thus far between the Police and the Committee. Mr. Jenks asked for additional support from Patrol. Wanted to be able to enforce a zero-tolerance for parking violations which have been occurring this season. Wanted to increase the amount of family-oriented activity on the island.

There was much discussion on the various points brought up by both Mr. Jenks and Mr. Cohen. Deputy Young suggested further meetings with Parks and Recreation to resolve some of the issues. In the end, however, the commission observed that these were matters to be addressed by the City Council, as the Police Commission was not in a position to authorize any additional expenditure of monies beyond the budget.

These items being addressed, the commission returned to the published agenda.

#### A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. **Personnel Items that Require Action**  
**Commissioner Howe moved** to appoint Chief Michael Magnant to permanent status: **Commissioner Devine** indicated the appointment would be made at the next monthly commission meeting after the formal review by the Commission scheduled for July 29th. **Commissioner Howe withdrew the motion.**
  - a. **Commissioner Howe moved** the Board accept the resignations of Auxiliary Officer Austin Wallace, effective July 8th, 2003, and Youth Advocate Tanja Gravelle, effective July 10th, 2003.  
**Seconded by Commissioner Devine.**  
**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board unanimously voted to accept the resignations with regret.
  - b. **Commissioner Howe moved** the board accept grant awards for the following:
    1. The Byrne Grant Formula in the amount of \$39,829. from the NH Attorney General's Office.
    2. The Portsmouth Red Light Running grant in the amount of \$2316. from the NH Department of Highway Safety.
    3. The Portsmouth Speed Enforcement Patrol grant in the amount of \$2316. from the NH Department of Highway Safety.

4. The Portsmouth DWI Sobriety Checkpoint grant in the amount of \$1544. from the NH Department of Highway Safety.

**Commissioner Devine seconded the motion.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Commission voted unanimously to accept the grant awards.

2. **Pedestrian Pilot Project - Downtown Street Closures**

Commissioner Devine said he observed tremendous traffic problems and felt strongly that the situation interfered with police and fire mobility. The Chief went on record as having said right from the beginning that this particular section of Market Street did not lend itself to a street closure set up. There are no feeder streets and it is a main thoroughfare into the town. He said the plan for the Pleasant Street closure will be revised before the second street closure happens on August 2nd.

3. **Discussion of fundraising activity for the Honor Guard**

Commissioner Kelley had addressed this matter earlier in the public session when Captain Yerardi finished making the Honor Guard presentations to Commander Russo and Firefighter Ted Blood. Accordingly, the commission moved to item #4.

4. **Internet Safety**

An extensive discussion on Internet safety took place, involving an update and participation from the Portsmouth Detective Division, Elementary school principal Robin Burdick, SASS representative Diane LaVoie, Cable Commission Chairman Gene Fiske, and Webmaster Alan Brady. Protection of children on school computers, the role of the cable commission, limitations of current legislation and investigative restraints, possible actions to be taken to solve existing problems and close holes in the protective net, were all discussed. A detailed summary of this agenda item exists in a working memo from Police Chief Michael Magnant to Commission Chairman John Kelley.

**B. CHIEF OF POLICE:**

Items one and two of the Chief's agenda being previously covered, the meeting resumed with item three.

3. **Financial Reports**

Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal submitted the FY'03 close out reports and answered questions for the commission.

4. **Grant Awards**

**Commissioner Howe moved** to accept the grant awards as listed previously in this document under "POLICE COMMISSION, Personnel Items that Require Action, item "b".

**Seconded by Commissioner Devine**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board unanimously voted to accept the grant awards and forward to the City Council.

**5. Division and Team Reports**

- a. Information Systems
- b. Accident Investigation Team
- c. Portsmouth Police Honor Guard
- d. Records Division

**6. Letters of Thanks and Recognition from outside the Department**

- a. Photo and note from Mr. & Mrs. David Oheck for the donated infant car seats. The family had no car of their own and were receiving volunteer transportation. The car seats enabled the Oheck's premature infant daughters to be brought home from a Boston hospital.
- b. Letter of gratitude from Portsmouth Little League, Inc. for the 500+ hours of volunteer work by four Portsmouth Police Officers who served as coaches in their minor league system. Officers Hester and Outhouse served as team managers, Officer Mansfield also served as a coach assistant and did much of the organizing and communication with players and parents, and Officer Kinsman often filled in when one of the managers or assistants was not available. These officers enabled many kids who were first-time players the opportunity to learn the game and experience playing on a team.
- c. Letter of thanks from Diane Tibbetts, Officer Lloyd Tibbett's widow, to the Portsmouth Honor Guard for their volunteer performance, marching in the Brentwood Fourth of July parade which was dedicated to Lloyd's memory.
- d. Letter of thanks from Mr. & Mrs. Kyle True for the care and courtesy shown them by Officer John Aubin in his thorough review of child seat installation and safety.
- e. Letter of thanks from Chief Timothy Towne of the Berwick, Maine police department for K-9 Team Mansfield/Viktor's search of the Berwick middle school as part of the department's zero-tolerance drug policy for Berwick schools.

**C. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:**

- 1. Log Activity Reports
- 2. FTO Report
- 3. K-9 Unit Highlights
- 4. Update on Special Events Log
- 5. Communication Center Report - Dispatch Construction Update

**D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT**

**E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES**

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS**

- A. Councilor Harold Whitehouse clarified the Pierce Island issue of on-site coverage, indicating the City Manager had hired a part-time employee to patrol the island and verbally enforce the parking restrictions. The employee has been instructed to report to the police department if further enforcement is needed in a particular situation. Councilor Whitehouse

also said he would be submitting a personal report, as an on-site observer, on the pedestrian pilot project Market Street closure to the city council.

**VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

There being no further business before this Commission,

**Action: Commissioner Howe moved** the July 24th meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by Commissioner Devine.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion at 2:16 PM.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, September 16th, 2003**  
**12:00 Noon - Non-Public Session**  
**1:00 PM - Public Session**

*Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Hoyt, Administrative Aide*  
*Reviewed By Commissioner Gerald Howe, Clerk*