

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 16th, 2004 MEETING

Noon (Non-Public) 1:00 PM (Public)
The William Mortimer Memorial Conference Room
Portsmouth Police Department

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Chairman called the March 16th, monthly police commission meeting to order at 1:10 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, City Councilor Harold Whitehouse, Captain John Yerardi, Captain Jim Tucker, Lieutenant Ken Winsor, Lieutenant Tim Brownell, Lieutenant Dave Ferland, Sergeant Frank Warchol, Detective Tim West, Officer Chris Cummings, Officer Scott Study, Victim/Witness Advocate Kristen Maki, Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal, IT Manager Felicia Donovan, P&T Secretary Terry Barrett, Administrative Aide Kathe Hoyt

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Deputy Chief Dave Young led the Pledge of Allegiance to open the meeting.

III. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

Action: Commissioner Howe moved the Board accept the minutes of the meeting held on February 18th, 2004.

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:**

A. **POLICE COMMISSION:**

1. **Items That Require Action**

Commissioner Howe moved to increase the outside work detail rate to \$39.61/hr. effective July 1, 2004. This change is necessitated by contractual increases.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion to increase the outside work detail rate.

B. CHIEF'S REPORT:

1. Recognition

Auxiliary Officer Dana Cummings was recognized in absentia for his working in training ACO Patricia Tate.

Officers Christian Cummings and Scott Study were recognized by the Commission and by the Chief for their work with a intoxicated and suicidal subject in the early morning hours of February 24th on the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge. The Chief read and presented Letters of Commendation to both officers and offered words of praise and acknowledgement for the work the officers do for the residents of Portsmouth.

2. Financial Reports

- a. Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal reviewed certain aspects of the financial reports. Commissioner Howe asked if the appearance of a surge in the OT accounts was a trend. Karen explained we had a couple of call-outs in February for the Accident Investigation team and for the SERT, but it was not a trend.

The Chief indicated he and Karen will be finalizing projections for the rest of this '04 fiscal year and will have those for the Commission for the next meeting.

Commissioner Devine wanted to know if we budget any dollars for anticipated special team call-outs, so we do not end up using overtime dollars. Karen Senecal explained that to a degree we allocate based on past history. However, the Chief stated this was only half the story. The other half is the need to meet budget guidelines imposed by the City Council and to produce a budget that will be accepted and passed by the Council. This usually does not allow for a dollar provision for anticipated special team call-outs in an upcoming year.

3. Division and Team Reports

- a. Information Systems

b. Accident Investigation Team

The Chief noted the bad car accident involving a teenaged girl last month. He updated the Commission that although she arrived at the hospital with serious head injuries, and was not expected to live, she made a remarkable turnaround while in the ER and has since been discharged, although she is facing an extended period of therapy.

c. Portsmouth Police Honor Guard

d. Records Division

4. Letters of Thanks and Recognition from Outside the Department

a. Letter of Thanks from Dr. David Schopick, thanking the police department for the work of Lt. Dante Puopolo and Officer Rich Brabazon in assisting the doctor at his offices with a patient. Dr. Shopick noted the gentleness, courtesy and professionalism of both officers and thanked them for their efforts with this difficult situation.

b. Thank you note from the Beaupre family of Peverly Hill Road, for the increase in aggressive enforcement of the posted speed limit on that very busy road.

C. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:

1. Log Activity Reports

a. Commissioner Kelley asked if the force was seeing more drug activity. The Deputy explained that SIU has made a number of arrests, however some of the arrests were concluding open cases that had been in the works for a number of months. Other arrests were the result of patrol officers being proactive as a result of motor vehicle stops.

Commissioner Kelley asked if it is common practice to bring drug dogs in on such stops. The Deputy indicated it was not a usual practice. The officers usually obtain consent to search the vehicles from the drivers. The Chairman also asked if heroin use was up, and are we seeing juveniles and younger adults in the fatality numbers. The Deputy explained that heroin is readily available in a purer form that users don't need to inject. The Chief said that use seems to run in cycles and we do still see some syringe users. He explained heroin users are often very secretive so use is likely higher than what we're seeing. We are not seeing juveniles or younger adults in the fatality numbers. Users are usually hard-core addicts. The Chief noted that two of the three recent heroin overdose fatalities were upper middle class addicts. Commissioner Devine then asked about robbery statistics.

2. Communications Center Report

a. The Deputy reported that work continues on the back-up dispatch center, which is still in the planning and costing stages.

3. FTO Report

4. K-9 Report

5. Auxiliary Monthly Activity Report

6. Personnel Out Sick & Injured

Officer George Williams, who is recovering from shoulder surgery, should return to duty in April.

7. Update on Special Events

Deputy Young reported the city is considering more street closure events this season. Commissioner Kelley asked about what was in place for anticipated St. Patrick's Day activities downtown. The Deputy indicated patrol was at full staff and that DWI is/will be a vigorous priority.

D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT

E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

Chief Magnant reviewed the report with the Commissioners, noting that Det. Mike Leclair arrested two offenders for failure to register as sex offenders living in Portsmouth. Commissioner Howe asked what the penalty was after the arrest, for failure to register. The Chief indicated he will supply the Commission with the information.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS

- A.** Commissioner Howe inquired about future off-site Police Commission meetings similar to the February meeting held at Osprey Landing. Commissioner Devine indicated he had received a request from the Greenleaf Neighborhood Association to hold a meeting at the new Skate Board Park & Community Center. It was decided this would be pursued as the next off-site meeting location for the April regular monthly commission meeting.
- B.** Commissioner Kelley asked if notice could be brought to the attention of the Traffic & Safety Committee that the telephone pole in such and such a location on Marcy Street is a traffic hazard. Deputy Young, who sits on the Traffic & Safety Committee, will bring this to the next meeting, in addition to e-mailing Mr. Dave Allen.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before this Commission,
Commissioner Howe moved the March 16th meeting be adjourned.
Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board unanimously voted in favor of the motion at 1:48 P.M.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: The April Commission meeting is currently scheduled for Tuesday, April 20th, with the public session beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the William Mortimer Conference Room at the Police Station. However, this date, time and location will change if arrangements can be made for an off-site meeting at the Skate Board Park community building on Greenleaf Avenue. The public will be advised of changes.

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