

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18TH MEETING

Noon (Non-Public) 1:00 PM (Public)
Wm. Mortimer Conference Room, Portsmouth Police Department
John D. Kelley, Chairman
William F. Devine
Gerald W. Howe

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The chairman called the October 18th monthly police commission meeting to order at 12:01 PM. (*One cassette tape documenting this meeting is on file for reference*).

Action: Commissioner Devine moved to go into non-public session as appropriate under RSA91-A.

Seconded by Commissioner Howe.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously to move to non-public session.

The Commission immediately went into non-public session at 12:05 PM.

Action: Commissioner Devine moved the commission adjourn from non-public session and re-enter public session.

Seconded by Commissioner Howe.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to move to public session at 1:18 p.m.

Present during public session: Commissioners Kelley, Devine, and Howe, Chief Michael Magnant, Deputy Chief Dave Young, Councilor Harold Whitehouse, Sgt. McQuate, Officers Maloney, Colby, and Goodwin, Foster's Democrat Reporter Doug Guarino, Budget Coordinator Karen Senecal, Executive Assistant Kathe Hoyt.

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

- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

Action: Commissioner Howe moved the board accept the minutes of the meeting held on September 20th, 2005.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion to accept the minutes and place them on file.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

Action: Commissioner Howe moved the board suspend the agenda and move directly to section V. Chief's Report, Items 1, 2, & 3.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to suspend the agenda and move directly to the Chief's Report.

B. CHIEF'S REPORT:

1. Letters of Recognition

Letters of recognition to Sergeant Rod McQuate, Officer Matt Hester, and Officer Mike Kotsonis for their rescue of a woman in diabetic shock and the safe recovery of her vehicle.

2. Letter of Recognition

Letter of Recognition to Officer Aaron Goodwin for his diligent patrol of the Port City Dodge dealership which resulted in the apprehension and arrest of a burglary suspect.

3. Letters of Appreciation

Letters of Appreciation to Officers Sargent, Stacy, Colby, Maloney and Bigda for their ingenious revamping of the AR-15 rifle qualification course for the police department.

Chief Magnant asked the commissioners if they wished to return to the written agenda. Commissioner Howe indicated they had one more item of business they wished to discharge at this time.

Action: Commissioner Howe moved that Officer David Colby receive Master Patrolman Status.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously that Officer Colby receive Master Patrolman Status.

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to return to the written agenda.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to return to the written agenda.

The Chairman asked for the financial report.

4. Financial Report

Commissioner Howe suggested the commission address the personnel items that require action at this time, and the chairman concurred.

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Personnel Items that require action.

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to appoint Lt. Earl Case and Officer William Dubois to permanent status.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to appoint Lt. Earl Case and Officer Dubois to permanent status.

B. CHIEF'S REPORT (cont'd)

5. Grants and Donations

Action: Commissioner Howe moved the board accept the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$21,688. This figure represents Portsmouth's portion of the \$173,504 awarded to Rockingham County and seven county towns.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept the grant awards and forward them to the city council. Details regarding the grant usage will be attached to the memo sent to the city manager.

6. Division and Team Reports

a. Information Systems

Commissioner Howe asked for an update on the redundant dispatch center. The Chief indicated the progress was slow but good. The grant

monies for the furnishings is coming from FEMA, and the hurricane Katrina disaster has caused internal FEMA delays on the release of the monies.

- b. Honor Guard Report
- c. Accident Investigation Team
- d. Records Division

Action: Commissioner Howe moved that the board accept the division and team reports and place them on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept the division and team reports and place them on file.

7. Letters of Thanks and Appreciation from Outside the Department

- a. A letter from Mr. John Tata commenting on an audible conversation that took place at Starbucks downtown between a young man in his late teens, and Officer Kuffer Kaltenborn about career opportunities in law enforcement. Mr. Tata was struck by the time taken by Officer Kaltenborn and the respect shown the young man as the officer answered his questions.
- b. A letter of thanks from Rye Police Chief Alan Gould, for Detective Tom Hart's quick work during the course of a Portsmouth Arrest. Det. Hart's background enabled him to connect the defendant with burglaries in Rye. The investigation that followed resulted in an arrest for the burglaries and partial recovery of stolen property.
- c. A letter of appreciation from Lt. Gerald Taylor of the New Hampshire Police Standards & Training Council for the quality of training and instruction made available through Detective Corey MacDonald's work with the academy.

C. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:

1. Log Activity Reports

Chairman Kelley noted an upsurge in the statistics reflecting activity such as fights, disorderly conduct, noise, etc. He asked if this reflected a need for more coverage. The Deputy believes the numbers reflect the decision of the Chief and the Deputy to increase the police presence in the downtown over the very active summer months to address quality of life issues.

Chairman Kelley asked if we would see an increase in the calls for service with all of the projected building projects. The Deputy replied with an unequivocal 'yes'.

Commissioner Howe asked if the town has an ordinance against skateboarding. Deputy Young indicated that it did, and in fact there was a skateboarding case in district court this month.

The Chief indicated that Commissioner Howe may be referring to the Herald editorial earlier this month that made insinuations of 'institutional bias' against skateboarders on the part of the police department. The Chief observed that the article seemed to discount the downtown officers overall rapport and good interaction with downtown kids. Most of the officers are the likes of Kuffer Kaltenborn, who has another letter of appreciation in this very meeting's materials for his interaction with a downtown teen. Such pieces do an injustice to the many officers who coach Lacrosse, Football, and Basketball and don't even have their own kids on these teams. Painting with such a narrow brush is a great disservice to the department. Further, the editorial did not cover the expensive property damage that must be born by the city or downtown businesses as a result of waxing and board damage. Commissioner Howe indicated that his question had been based on the editorial.

2. Emergency Communications Center Report
3. FTO Report
4. Auxiliary Monthly Activity Report
5. Personnel Out Sick or Injured
6. Special Events in the City

D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT

E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

Commissioner Kelley asked about the current rash of property fires. The Deputy indicated that an arrest has been made regarding the most recent incident, and other investigations are on-going at this time.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINESS

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to place the Letters of Recognition and Appreciation on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Devine.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to place the Letters of Commendation on file.

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before this commission,

Action: Commissioner Devine moved the October 18th meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Howe.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion at 1:54 P.M.

NOTE: Subsequent to the adjournment of the meeting it was explained that copies of all Letters of Commendation, Recognition, and Appreciation are automatically made part of the meeting record and a separate motion to place them on file is therefore not required for future meetings.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: *Scheduled for Tuesday, November 15th, 2005*

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