

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 10th, 2006 MEETING

6:00 PM (Non-Public) 7:00 PM (Public)
City Council Chambers, Portsmouth City Hall

John D. Kelley, Chairman
Gerald W. Howe
John C. Russo

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The chairman called the August 10th, 2006 monthly police commission meeting to order at 6:04 PM. (*A cassette tape recording documenting the opening of this meeting is on file for reference*).

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to go into non-public session as appropriate under RSA 91-A.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

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

The commission immediately went into non-public session at 6:04 PM.

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

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to move to public session at 6:42 p.m.

Present during public session: Commissioners Kelley, Howe, and Russo, Deputy Chief Len DiSesa, Admin. Captain Bill Irving, National Night Out Coordinator Robin McIntosh, Executive Assistant Kathleen Hoyt

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Captain Bill Irving led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:

Action: Commissioner Howe moved the board accept the minutes of the meeting held on July 12th, 2006.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

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 to suspend the agenda and move directly to **'B. CHIEF'S REPORT, Item 1'**.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

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. Letter of Appreciation to Ms. Robin McIntosh from the police commission for her work as the tireless organizer of the National Night Out event for Portsmouth. Ms. McIntosh has filled this position for several years and her energy and skills are responsible in large measure for the level of participation we have from Portsmouth's neighborhoods. Deputy DiSesa presented Ms. McIntosh with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the officers as well.

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to return to the agenda as published.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously to return to the agenda as published.

2. Financial Report

Chairman Kelley asked how the overtime budget fared over the summer, as this is one of our busiest times with events and the vacation/tourist population influx. Deputy DiSesa said that the overtime accounts were definitely impacted, but they were in keeping with past years for the same season.

3. Grants and Donations

Three grant awards were presented to the commission for their acceptance:

A grant in the amount of \$3,089.40 from NH Highway Safety for “Portsmouth Red Light Running”

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to accept the grant for \$3,089.40 and forward to the city council for action.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously to accept the grant and forward to the city council.

A grant in the amount of \$3,707.28 from NH Highway Safety for “Regional DWI Saturation Patrols”

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to accept the grant for \$3,707.28 and forward to the city council.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously to accept the grant and forward to the city council.

A grant in the amount of \$2,757. from NH Highway Safety for “Route #1 Corridor Enforcement Patrols”.

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to accept the grant for \$2,757 and forward to the city council.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously to accept the grant and forward to the city council.

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to appoint Officer John Lee to permanent status.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to appoint Officer John Lee to permanent status.

Chairman John Kelley asked Commissioner Howe if he wanted to address the Pease Airport Services agreement at this time. Commissioner Howe said ‘yes’, and made the following motion:

Action: Commissioner Howe moved to approve and accept the Pease Airport Services Agreement as presented.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept the agreement.

- 4. Division and Team Reports**
 - a. Information Systems Division Report
 - b. Accident Investigation Report
 - c. Records Division

C. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:

Chairman Kelley asked about how we have gone about accomplishing increased traffic enforcement in the city. Deputy DiSesa gave a brief explanation of the traffic unit, its goals and operation. The commissioner also asked if the electronic signs we have deployed have a measurable effect on traffic speed compliance. The Deputy replied by describing a neighborhood meeting that he had just attended the previous Sunday night where there was a lively discussion on this very issue. The voiced opinion of the residents at the meeting was one of appreciation for the police response to the speed issue in their neighborhood. Residents said they felt the signs had made a big difference in slowing things down, and making motorists more aware of their speed through the residential area.

Commissioner Howe asked if the department had conducted the real-time test of the redundant dispatch center yet. Deputy DiSesa indicated we had reached a point of readiness where the drill could be scheduled and that it was in the works.

1. Log Activity Reports
2. Emergency Communications Center Report
3. FTO Report
4. K-9 Reports
5. Auxiliary Monthly Activity Report

Deputy DiSesa said we are actively recruiting to bring the numbers up from the current 21 to full strength, which is 28.
6. Personnel Out Sick or Injured
7. Special Events in the City

D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT

Commissioner Kelley asked about the caseload in the court office. The Deputy indicated that Prosecutor Susan Boone is handling the busy caseload well. **(see note.)

There was also a brief discussion regarding sex offenders living in Portsmouth. He asked if it was possible to do background checks on people applying for public housing. Deputy DiSesa explained that this was something of a slippery slope. Firstly, the housing authority is neither equipped nor authorized to do background checks on applicants. Secondly, even for law enforcement, there is a high degree of accountability built into requesting a background check on someone. There must be an investigative, offense, or an arrest number connected to the inquiry for it to be honored. All inquiries are logged and accounted for. This is in the best interest of our citizens and the protection of their privacy. So, although on the issue of sex offenders it might seem like a good screening option, it is a complicated issue.

****NOTE:** On at least one occasion since this August meeting, Prosecutor Susan Boone handled **100 arraignments** in a single day.

E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

Commissioner Howe asked if the school resource officers were on night patrol during the summer. Deputy DiSesa explained that they were indeed on patrol in plain clothes. They were patrolling events or working cases. He indicated that they each continued to carry a case load over the summer.

Chairman Kelley asked about the impact the explosion of new hotel rooms and the new conference center would have on calls for service. The Deputy indicated it definitely would impact our activity level.

Turning to PAL basketball, the Deputy reported that the program is returning to a good level of vigor, with an increasing level of participation from the kids.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINESS

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

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

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

VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before this commission,

Action: Commissioner Russo moved the August 10th, 2006 meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Howe.

On a Roll Call Vote: The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion at 7:24 P.M.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: *Scheduled for Thursday, September 14th, 2006 at 7 p.m.*
This meeting can be viewed live via Cable Access Channel 22

Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Hoyt, Executive Assistant
Reviewed By Commissioner Gerald Howe, Clerk