

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20TH, 2008 MEETING

6:00 PM (Non-Public) 7:00 PM (Public)
Wm. Mortimer Conference Room

Gerald W. Howe, Chairman
John C. Russo
John F. Golumb

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The chairman called the February 20th, 2008 monthly police commission meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Present during public session: Commissioners Howe, Russo, and Golumb, Chief Michael Magnant, Deputy Chief Len DiSesa, Captain Bill Irving, Executive Assistant Kathleen Levesque, Foster's Reporter Chuck McCann, Captain Dave Ferland, and other members of the Patrol Division.

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Captain Ferland led the Pledge of Allegiance. The chair also asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of our men and women in the armed services.

- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:**
January 23rd, 2008.

Action: Commissioner Russo moved to accept the minutes and place them on file.

Seconded by Commissioner Golumb.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted to accept the minutes of the January 23rd, 2008 meeting and place them on file.

- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

- V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. **Personnel Items that require action:**

Action: Commissioner Golumb moved to appoint Officer Matthew Hester to Master Patrolman status effective on his 10-year anniversary date of October 18th, 2007.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to appoint Officer Matt Hester to the rank of Master Patrolman, effective on his 10-year anniversary date.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE

Note: Before the Chief began his report, Chairman Howe explained that although Officer Hester moved into the pay structure for Master Patrolman I in a timely fashion, his status change was not voted upon by the commission as it should have been. The commission corrected this at the February meeting.

1. **Recognition** of Officer Michael Maloney for the fugitive arrest of Joseph Stowell.
2. **Recognition** of Sgt. Corey MacDonald and Officer Michael Maloney for their efforts to resuscitate a Concord Way resident who had been found by neighbors outside her home.
3. **Recognition** of the officers who participated in Leadership Seacoast this year by voluntarily accommodating citizen ride-alongs. The numerous Leadership Seacoast students rode with the patrol officers for four to six hours to gain a better understanding of the job of a Portsmouth Police Officer.
4. **Recognition** of 2007 Arrest Leaders detectives Roth and Peracchi, and officers Jones, Goodwin, and McCain.
5. **Sgt. Michael Schwartz** briefed the commission on how the Portsmouth Police Department responds to incidents and reports of Elder Abuse.
6. **Financial Report**
Capt. Irving reviewed the financial report. We are 66.03% through the budget year, and are running about 3% under the forecast. He said that we are keeping a close eye on the overtime accounts and the gasoline accounts.
7. **Donations**
 - a. Three donations to the Accident Investigation Team for the purchase of the Photogrammetry Equipment as follows:
 - \$1,000 from National Wrecker, Inc.
 - \$1,000 from Ralph's Truck & Equipment Parts
 - \$1,000 in cash from an anonymous donor
 - b. Two donations to the Portsmouth Police Explorers as follows:
 - \$250 from the Portsmouth Police Relief Assoc.

\$100 from the Portsmouth Police Patrolmans' Union

Action: Commissioner Golumb moved to accept each of the donations separately and forward to the city council for action.

Each seconded separately by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously each time to accept the donation and forward to the city council for action.

8. Forfeiture Funds:

\$12,000 from the Rockingham County Attorney's office; said funds being realized from fines paid by the defendant for illegal gambling operations at the State Street Saloon in Portsmouth.

Chief Magnant explained the \$12,000 and asked for a motion to accept the funds.

Action: Commissioner Golumb moved that the commission accept the forfeiture funds.

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept the \$12,000 in forfeiture funds.

9. Division and Team Reports

- a. Information Systems Division Report
- b. Accident Investigation Report
- c. Records Division

10. Letters of Thanks and Appreciation from Outside the Department

- a. Letter of Appreciation from Chief Gregory Dodge of the Epping Police Department for the assistance of Portsmouth Detective Michael Leclair. Detective Leclair aided the Epping agency in a forensic computer investigation involving possession of computer images of child sexual exploitation.
- b. Chief Magnant also included the thank-you letters written by Leadership Seacoast students who participated in the ride-alongs.

B. PATROL SERVICES BUREAU:

Note: Deputy DiSesa lead off his report to the commission by reviewing the number of officers who were out on injured leave or FMLA. There are currently 8 people out on leave. The Deputy then went into a review of the following reports:

- 1. Log Activity Reports
- 2. Emergency Communications Center Report

Deputy DiSesa indicated that we were still down one dispatcher from the minimum of 11 dispatchers that we have been working with. We do have a promising candidate to fill this position, and a background check is currently underway.

3. **FTO Report**
4. **K-9 Report**
5. **Auxiliary Monthly Activity Report**
6. **Personnel Out Sick or Injured**
7. **Special Events in the City**

Chief Magnant asked the deputy to brief the commission on our most recent new officer hire. Deputy DiSesa said that just today, they had extended a final offer to Officer Chris Worthington. Officer Worthington has three years of experience as a New York City patrolman. He is from New England and is looking forward to returning to the area. Officer Worthington will start with the department in March. Even with this hire, we are still down two positions.

D. CITY PROSECUTOR REPORT

E. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

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

Seconded by Commissioner Russo.

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

VII. MISCELLANEOUS OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the commission, the Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Russo moved the February 20th, 2008 meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Golumb.

On a Roll Call Vote: The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion at 7:51 P.M.

**IX. NEXT MEETING: - *March 19th, 2008, 7:00 p.m. – Eileen Dondero Foley
Council Chambers, Portsmouth City Hall***

*Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant
Reviewed By Commissioner Russo, Clerk*