

**PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING**  
**5:30 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers**  
**Joseph J. Onosko, Chair**  
**Jim Splaine**  
**Stefany Shaheen**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. in the Wm. Mortimer Room of the police department for the purpose of going into non-public session.

The Chair called for a motion to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91:A, 3-II (a), “Dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee...

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to enter non-public session for the purpose delineated above.

**Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Splaine:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Shaheen:	“Aye.”

The motion passed to go into non-public session at 4:10 p.m.

**The public session was called back to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers.** (An archived video of the meeting is available on the city’s website.)

**The following people were present:** Commissioners Onosko, Splaine, and Shaheen, Chief Robert Merner, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, members of the Department, the public, and the press.

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

III. **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE AGENDA:**

The Chair asked for a motion to suspend the agenda and move to the personnel recognitions under **“B. CHIEF OF POLICE”**.

**Action: Commissioner Splaine moved** to suspend the agenda and move to the personnel recognitions.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Voice Vote:** The motion passed to suspend the agenda and move to the personnel recognitions under **“B. CHIEF OF POLICE”**.

The Chair returned to the Agenda as written.

IV. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the minutes.

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to accept the minutes (February 1<sup>st</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meetings).

**Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to accept the minutes (February 1<sup>st</sup>, February 5<sup>th</sup>, and February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meetings). The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Splaine:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Shaheen:	“Aye.”

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** (The following is a brief summary of each person’s comments, and represents the speaker’s personal opinion. The entire meeting can be viewed online by going to the City’s website and scrolling down the home page of the City’s website to “Recent Meeting Broadcast”, or “City YouTube Channel...” which is in the blue box just below it.)

There being no public comment, the Chair closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

### **A. POLICE COMMISSION:**

#### **1. Commissioner Onosko:**

- a. Court Ruling to Keep the Goodwin Award Sealed. The Chair asked for a motion regarding this decision.

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** the Commission join the Portsmouth Herald in requesting an appeal of the Rockingham County Court decision to seal the Goodwin Arbitration Decision.

**Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to have the Commission join the Portsmouth Herald in requesting an appeal of the Rockingham County court decision to seal the Goodwin Arbitration Decision. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	‘Aye’
Commissioner Splaine:	‘Aye’
Commissioner Shaheen:	‘Aye’

- b. Goodwin Arbitration Award Ruling: This has remained sealed so the Commission cannot talk about it. The Chair said he has an issue with the award and believes the Commission should appeal this award ruling.

**Action: Commissioner Onosko moved** to direct the city attorney Tom Closson to appeal the Goodwin Arbitration Award.

**Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to direct city attorney Tom Closson to appeal the Goodwin Arbitration Award. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	‘Aye’
Commissioner Splaine:	‘Aye’
Commissioner Shaheen:	‘Aye’

Chair asked for a motion to suspend the agenda to hear from Albert ‘Buzz’ Scherr regarding this subject.

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to suspend the agenda.

**Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.**

**On a Voice Vote:** The motion passed to suspend the agenda to hear from Professor Albert ‘Buzz’ Scherr regarding this subject.

Mr. Scherr spoke about two pending pieces of legislation which if passed, would impact the public’s access to the personnel information of police officers, and may make the two appeals unnecessary.

The Chair then called the question to vote to appeal the Goodwin Arbitration Award ruling.

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to appeal the Goodwin Arbitration Award ruling. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	‘Aye’
Commissioner Splaine:	‘Aye’
Commissioner Shaheen:	‘Aye’

- c. Contract Negotiations: The Chair gave an update on where things stand with negotiations with all three unions.
- d. Body-Cam Sub-Committee Update: The sub-committee has met four times since its inception. The Chair gave a summary of the work to date.

**B. CHIEF OF POLICE, cont’d:**

1. Donations:

- a. The following donations were accepted in support of the Portsmouth Explorer Cadets:
  - i. \$20 from Robert E. Nunn & Edith Nunn
  - ii. \$72 from Dr. Ferland & Linda Cadieux
  - iii. \$20 from Janet Conroy & Martha Stavrou
  - iv. \$600 from Friends of the South End

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to accept the donations as listed above in support of the Portsmouth Explorer Cadets, and forward to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.**

**On a Voice Vote:** The motion passed to accept the above donations in support of the Portsmouth Explorer Cadets and forward to the City Council for their action.

2. Letters of Thanks and Appreciation
  - a. Chief Merner read several letters of thanks and appreciation received by the Department for the work of individual officers.
3. Accreditation Report
4. Traffic Stats
5. Financial Report
  - a. Grant Applications Update
  - b. Facilities Report

Commissioner Shaheen spoke for several minutes on the degrading condition of the two basement floors in the city hall building that make up Police Headquarters.

**C. PATROL DIVISION:**

- a. This confidential report is included in the Commission packet.

**VIII. COURT OFFICE REPORT:**

- a. This report is included in the Commission packet.

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2019 with the public session beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers.

**XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Monthly Police Commission Meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to adjourn the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:49 p.m.

END OF MEETING

*Kathe*

*Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant*

*Reviewed By Commissioner Splaine, Clerk of the Commission*

*Jim Splaine*