

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17th, 2024 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

5:30 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

Kate Coyle, Chair
Buzz Scherr, Commissioner
Francesca Fernald, Commissioner

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The September 17th, 2024, monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers.

The following people were present for the public session: Commissioners Coyle, Scherr and Fernald, Chief Mark Newport, Deputy Chief Mike Maloney, Business Manager Karen Senecal, Executive Assistant Jackie Burnett and members of the police department and the public.

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Fernald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **MOTION TO SUSPEND THE AGENDA**

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to suspend the agenda to move to items #1 and #2 under the Chief's Report: Vesting of Rank Ceremony and Donation Presentation.

Seconded by Commissioner Fernald.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Coyle:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Scherr:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Fernald:	“Aye.”

1. Vesting of Rank Ceremony

Chief Newport vested Officer Roland Dupuis with the power and authority of the rank of Sergeant.

2. Donation Presentation

Tina Miles presented a \$3,200 check for the Portsmouth Police Honor Guard, using proceeds from a charity event held in honor of her late husband and retired Portsmouth Police Officer Phil Miles.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the \$3,200 check for the Portsmouth Police Honor Guard from The Miles Family and forward to the City Council for their action.

Seconded by Commissioner Fernald.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Coyle:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Scherr:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Fernald:	“Aye.”

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF THE 8/20/24 MEETING MINUTES:

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept the minutes of the above-noted Police Commission meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Fernald.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Coyle:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Scherr:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Fernald:	“Aye.”

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Facilities Update

a. Restoration

The Dispatch Center is the remaining area that requires remediation; however, the police department is not ready to temporarily relocate dispatchers to the redundant dispatch center at Fire Station II. The police department has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years.

b. Community Policing Facility (CPF) Planning

The Chair reported that the working group will present at the September 23rd City Council meeting on the progress made to the design and development of the plan for a new police facility. The public is welcome to attend and provide their input.

2. Community Priorities

a. CAD/RMS Update (Central Square)

Training is currently underway in anticipation of an early October 2024 launch of the new Central Square Pro Suite CAD/RMS software. The next focus will be the implementation of a new body-worn camera program. The department will seek a federal grant for \$220,000 with a 50% match to fund the program.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. **Vesting of Rank Ceremony** (See Section III, above)
2. **Donation Presentation** (See Section III, above)

The Chair asked for a motion to suspend the rules to discuss a non-agenda item; a NH Highway Safety grant in the amount of \$26,300 for motor vehicle enforcement.

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved suspend the rules to address a motion to accept a Highway Safety grant from the state.

Seconded by Commissioner Fernald.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Coyle:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Scherr:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Fernald:	“Aye.”

Action: Commissioner Scherr moved to accept NH Highway Safety grant in the amount of \$26,300 and forward to the City Council for their action.

Seconded by Commissioner Fernald.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Coyle:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Scherr:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Fernald:	“Aye.”

3. Crime Analyst Report

Deputy Chief Maloney reported the calls for service statistics, comparing September 2024, year-to-date, to 2023 totals: Arrests & DWI arrests increased. Involuntary Emergency Admissions (IEAs), mental health calls, juvenile-related calls, accidents, reports taken and calls for service all decreased.

4. Monthly Traffic Stats

August 2024: 492 motor vehicle stops, 18 summonses, and 55 reportable motor vehicle crashes.

5. Financial Report

FY24 budget update: \$240,000 was returned to the city's general fund due to vacancies.

FY25 budget update: tracking 1.6% below the cap due to vacancies.

The FY26 budget planning process has begun; CIP items requested.

a. Grant Applications Update

- Federal ICAC grant: Oct 1st.
- JAG Grant for \$11,000: deciding how it will be used. This grant is administered through Rockingham County (due in Oct).

b. Strategic Plan Update – Currently being drafted.

VII. PATROL DIVISION:

- a. This report was included in the commission meeting packet.

VIII. COURT OFFICE REPORT:

- a. This confidential report was included in the meeting packet.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Invitation to the public to attend the Monday, September 23, 2024, City Council meeting at 6pm to discuss plans for the new community policing facility.

X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024, starting at 5:30 pm.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Action: Commissioner Fernald moved to adjourn the September 17th, 2024, Police Commission meeting at 6:07 PM.

Seconded by Commissioner Scherr.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed 3-0.

END OF MEETING

Respectfully Submitted by Jacqueline Burnett, Executive Assistant
Commissioner Buzz Scherr, Recording Clerk of the Commission