

# PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2025 MEETING

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

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

**The following people were present for the public session:** Commissioners Coyle, Scherr (via Zoom) and Fernald, Chief Mark Newport, Deputy Chief Mike Maloney, Business Ops. Manager Karen Senecal, and Executive Assistant Jackie Burnett.

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The public session was called to order at 5:30 PM by Chair Coyle.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led collectively by the Commission.

III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE 10/27/25 MEETING MINUTES:**

**Motion:** Commissioner Fernald moved to accept the minutes as presented.

**Seconded:** Commissioner Scherr. **Roll Call Vote:** Approved, 3-0.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. POLICE COMMISSION:**

1. **Facilities Update**

a. **Municipal Building Blue Ribbon Committee**

The Committee is completing a space-needs assessment for City Hall, which will inform future project scope and cost estimates. Chief Newport stated that the Police Department remains on schedule to remediate the dispatch center. The redundant dispatch center at Fire Station 2 is prepared for temporary and long-term operations during the project.

2. **Community Priorities**

a. **Update on Central Square CAD/RMS**

Chief Newport reported that the department has transitioned to the new CAD/RMS system. The switch occurred on November 4 and operations continued without major disruption. The department is adapting to new processes for crash logging and reporting, including updated State

submission methods. Work continues with internal stakeholders and the vendor to refine the system. Chair Coyle noted the scale of the project, including migration of approximately 30 years of data, and recognized its importance to the department's community priority goals. Commissioner Scherr commended department leadership and staff for successfully implementing the system. Chief Newport acknowledged staff contributions to the transition.

**B. CHIEF OF POLICE:**

**1. Crime Analyst Report**

**January 1 – October 31, 2025 Statistics: (compared to last 3 years)**

Calls for Service: ↓ -8.6%	Reportable MV Accidents: ↓ -9.7%
Arrests: ↓ -0.6%	Motor Vehicle Stops/Offenses: ↓ -14.7%
DWI Arrests: ↓ -0.8%	IEA ( <i>Involuntary Emergency Admissions</i> ): ↑ 4.2%
Reports Taken: ↓ -10.9%	Juvenile Matter Calls: ↓ -23.7%

Report generation from the new CAD/RMS system is still being optimized; some reports may be temporarily delayed.

**2. Monthly Traffic Statistics - October 2025:**

- Motor Vehicle Stops: **447** (117 fewer than September)
- Summonses Issued: **8** (12 fewer than September)
- Reportable Motor Vehicle Crashes: **44** (8 more than September)  
Commissioner Scherr inquired whether staffing levels influenced traffic-enforcement numbers. Deputy Chief Maloney stated that when staffing is limited, patrol officers prioritize calls for service, reports, and community policing activities over proactive traffic enforcement.

**3. Financial Report**

Business Operations Manager Karen Senecal reported that spending remains below the cap. The proposed FY27 budget is targeted for completion by mid-December.

**a. Grant Application Update**

The department received \$1.3M in State funding for the NH ICAC Forensic Shield grant and anticipates receiving the federal grant following the end of the federal government shutdown. The Bullet Proof Vest grant is due December 19.

**VI. PATROL DIVISION:**

This report was included in the meeting packet.

**VII. COURT OFFICE REPORT:**

This confidential report was included in the meeting packet.

**VIII. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

- The Commission congratulated Jay Lieberman and Buzz Scherr on their upcoming 2026 terms.

**IX. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

**X. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

**Motion:** Commissioner Fernald moved to adjourn at 6:04 PM.

**Seconded:** Commissioner Scherr. **Roll Call Vote:** Approved, 3-0.

END OF MEETING

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