

July 19, 2021

The Nashua Police Commission held a public meeting on Monday, July 19, 2021, at the Nashua Police Department.

Members present:

Commissioner James R. Tollner, Chairman
Commissioner Nicholas Dahl, Clerk
Commissioner Matthew Plante
Chief Michael Carignan
Deputy Chief James Testaverde (not in attendance)
Deputy Chief Kevin Rourke (not in attendance)
Karen Smith, NPD Business Manager
Kathy Breslin, Administrative Project Specialist (acting as recording secretary)

Others Attending the Public Session:

Aldermanic Liaison Lori Wilshire
Aldermanic Liaison Richard Dowd
Barbara Costa, Community Policing Coordinator
Officer Kevin Pucillo, Crime Prevention/Grant Specialist
Courtney Marchand, Harbor Care MERIT Program Manager
Alderwoman Patricia Klee
Alderwoman Jan Schmidt
Two Citizens

PUBLIC SESSION

Commissioner Tollner called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Roll call taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- June 21, 2021

Commissioner Plante made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2021 meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tollner. All in favor.

BUDGET:

Business Manager Karen Smith provided the Commissioners with the following reports:

FY2021 Grant:

A grant was received from the NH Department of Safety, Homeland Security Grant Program in the amount of \$25,563.84 for the purpose of purchasing night vision goggles during the period of April 2021-August 2023.

Chief Carignan stated that SWAT has been trying to buy these items for a number of years and has been working with the NH Tactical Association for funding. The NH Tactical Association has split the grant monies between all of the NH SWAT agencies. This will allow us to purchase approximately 13 pairs of night vision goggles.

Commissioner Tollner wanted to thank the Alderman present who supported the approval of this grant.

FY2021 June Expenditure Report:

A copy of the current June 30, 2021 Expenditure Report was provided. The report will still require year-end charge back adjustments for utility bills, the credit card, the last week of payroll for the fiscal year and fringe benefits. This will require debit/credit adjustments before the final numbers are recorded for year-end. There is a pending resolution, R21-155, to replenish the 198 Interfund transfer account 89725 for the transfer for the outstanding severance payment for the last retirement, which will be reimbursed to NPD account 51750.

Commissioner Dahl asked if we would spend the entire remaining balance of \$131,000 in the FY2021 budget. Karen Smith replied that after all the year-end adjustments we could have a remaining balance of \$150,000-\$100,000 in the FY2021 budget.

Citizen Karen Bill stated that it was her first Police Commissioners meeting and asked when she could ask questions or make a statement.

Commissioner Tollner stated that there was a Public Comment part of the meeting where she can ask questions or make a comment.

FY2021 June Revenue Report:

A copy of the report was provided pending charge backs.

FY2021 Monthly Overtime Tracking by Specific Case Number or Significant Occurrence:

The monthly overtime for significant occurrences in June totaled \$9,915. \$1,587 was due to training and the rest was for multiple cases each costing \$1,000-\$2,000.

June Functional Strength:

The Functional Strength this month was 16, with the prior month being 7. This number is based on 3 vacancies and 13 officers on extended leave, due to training, military service or sick leave.

June Strength Report:

A copy of the May Strength Report was provided.

FY2022 Proposed NPD Budget:

Mayor Donchess line item vetoed the FY2022 budget passed by the Board of Alderman on July 1, 2021. The Mayor wanted a bottom line reduction of \$120,000 taking the \$35,320,858 budget to \$35,200,858. The Board of Alderman voted 13-2 to override the Mayor's veto on July 13, 2021. The copy of the FY2022 budget was provided.

Escrow accounts will be processed next month. The Chief and the Deputies will be discussing the needs of the PD in the coming weeks. Possible items for escrow are for gasoline and training.

The FY2021 fixed cost of gasoline was \$1.54 per gallon, without the exact fixed cost for the FY2022 budget the City said to estimate at \$1.91 per gallon. The actual cost has now come in at \$2.22 per gallon. We will request to escrow \$30,000 from the anticipated \$70,000 surplus from the FY2021 budget to cover the higher cost of gasoline.

The Employee Training and Certification account will have a surplus of \$4,000 at the end of the FY2021 budget. We will request to bring those funds forward to the FY2022 budget to cover training events that had to be rescheduled due to COVID-19.

MOTION: Commissioner Dahl made a motion to accept the budget reports. Motion seconded by Commissioner Plante. All in favor.

PRESENTATION BY COURTNEY MARCHAND REGARDING THE MERIT PROGRAM:

Courtney Marchand, MERIT Program Manager for Harbor Care, did a presentation on the grant funded MERIT program which helps provide services for individuals in Hillsborough County who are struggling with methamphetamine use. The grant is funded for three years and has approximately eighteen months remaining for the grant.

There was discussion and questions after the presentation.

Chief Carignan asked if services are provided 24-7. Ms. Marchand responded that services are offered during normal business hours.

Commissioner Dahl asked if the grant that was funding the program was renewable. Ms. Marchand responded saying it was not they have to apply each time, but their goal was to make the program sustainable through revenue.

Community Policing Coordinator Barbara Costa stated that currently the PD is forming a Crisis Intervention Team to help assist with calls for service that deal with mental health and substance abuse issues. The PD is always looking to have partnerships with treatment facilities, but we also do need resources that are available 24-7.

ACTIVITY REPORT:

Chief Michael Carignan reported the following for the Uniform Field Operations Bureau since Deputy Kevin Rourke was not in attendance:

There has been an increase in activity in regards to shots fired within the City. This past weekend we had a shooting on Crown Street with a person shot in the stomach and the suspect was apprehended soon after. The firearm was found outside the building and a search warrant at the suspect's apartment found significant drugs. All of the persons involved in this incident came from Manchester. There were multiple shootings in Manchester this weekend. Crime in that area is coming this way.

Officer Todd Moriarty recently came back from a week-long training for officers that deals with putting them in different shooting scenarios. Ambushes on officers in cars are up 80%. The public will never understand how stressful it is in a shooting situation. We try to put our officers in every type of scenario to better prepare them.

Commissioner Plante asked if the new body cameras will help with ambushes.

Chief Carignan stated that body cameras is more Deputy Rourke's specialty, but it is his understanding that anytime an officer goes horizontal it will set off an alarm and a call to dispatch. A few years ago there was an officer shot in Manchester

and the other officers had trouble locating the officer because they could not see him. With these new body cameras there is a GPS that would give the exact location of the officer.

Chief Carignan reported the following for the Services Division since Deputy James Testaverde was not in attendance:

Detectives:

Detective Hallam has been assigned to a taskforce with the DEA that is focusing on the postal service. He recently had an arrest that confiscated 12 ounces of methamphetamine and 8 pounds of marijuana. This has been a great resource for the PD to try and help keep methamphetamine out of our area.

Detective Giftos has been assigned to an anti-terrorism taskforce. He, along with Mark Hastbacka of the FBI, have put together a presentation regarding hate groups. They are going to offer this presentation at the PD and anyone is welcome to attend. My goal is to invite people who have addressed concerns first, but we will hold as many presentations as are needed.

We are currently using the Language Bank in order to assist officers with conversations with people on the streets. We are in the midst of trying to firm up a contract with Language Line to further assist the officers with interviews and interrogations. They use both these resources in the hospitals and we want to try and mirror them. This was a department goal and objective.

Alderman Dowd stated that the schools use the Language Bank for 11 different languages. Manchester schools have 14 languages.

Legal:

There are a backlog of cases due to COVID, so they have come up with a modified arraignment system. It is too early to tell how it is going.

Services:

The HVAC project is set to start on August 9th. We will be using the classroom as a satellite working area during the installation, so we will be unable to hold our September Commissioner meeting in that location. We will notify you of the new location.

The phone lines keep going down. Our current phone company is Windstream but we are trying to change to Comcast as our carrier, which will save us approximately \$400 a month.

MOTION: Commissioner Toller made a motion to accept the activity reports. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dahl. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PUBLIC & OTHER AGENCIES:

Chief Carignan gave the Commissioners an overview of the letters of appreciation received from the public and outside agencies including the following:

- Nashua Police Athletic League-Lieutenant Camacho, Sergeant Stone, Officer Stusse, Officer Pucillo, Officer Murphy, Officer Turcotte
- Citizen-Thank you to Officer Braley

MOTION: Commissioner Dahl made a motion to accept the correspondence. Motion seconded by Commissioner Plante. All in favor

NEW K9S:

For the record:

Effective July 2, 2021, K9 Yukon, handler Officer Conner Perry, and K9 Oakley, handler Officer Adam Anderson, after graduating from the K9 Academy, are officially members of the Nashua Police Department.

AWARD:

For the record:

On July 11, 2021 Officer Brian Howe was awarded the V.F.W. Officer of the Year.

CIVILIAN RESIGNATION:

For the record:

Dispatcher Sarah Karafelis effective August 3, 2021.

CIVILIAN RETIREMENT:

For the record:

Communications Systems Engineer/Technician Brian Sherman effective July 31, 2021.

MOTION: Commissioner Tollner made a motion to accept the retirement of Communications Systems Engineer/Technician Brian Sherman effective July 31, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Plante. All in favor

Commissioner Dahl asked if the retirement of Brian Sherman is going to be a big issue. Chief Carignan responded that Mr. Sherman is Bill Mansfield's right hand man dealing with all the citywide communication and our radios, but he has been out for an extended period of time. Pete Cinfo from our IT Department has been assisting Bill Mansfield which is a great opportunity to have someone learn how the system works.

SWORN RETIREMENTS:

Sergeant Andrew Karlis effective August 1, 2021.

MOTION: Commissioner Tollner made a motion to accept the retirement of Sergeant Andrew Karlis effective August 1, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dahl. All in favor.

Master Patrolman II Richard Treem effective July 22, 2021.

MOTION: Commissioner Dahl made a motion to accept the retirement of Master Patrolman II Richard Treem effective July 22, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Plante. All in favor.

CIVILIAN NEW HIRE:

For the record:

- Probationary Dispatcher Emily Horlick effective June 22, 2021.

PROMOTIONS:

For the record:

- Sergeant Scott Hudon to the rank of Lieutenant effective August 2, 2021.
- Master Patrolman II Ryan Rooney to the rank of Sergeant effective August 2, 2021.
- Master Patrolman Joseph Dewitt to the rank of Sergeant effective August 2, 2021.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chief Michael Carignan reported the following:

On August 2nd we will be holding the promotions and hopefully swearing in one possibly two new officers. Approximately two years ago we were down 22 officers and the Professional Standards Bureau has worked very hard to get us to full staff. We were at full staff for a few weeks last month. On August 1st we will be down 7 officers and by August 2nd hopefully we will only be down 5 officers. We will hold a new recruit drive in September.

It is very difficult when we are understaffed because this new generation of officers does not want to work overtime and we are having to order officers in to work. We are going to work very hard to get back to full compliment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alderman Dowd asked where the PD was with the expendable trust fund (ETF) for overtime for FY2022. It is easy to see with the activity on these cases how the overtime can add up.

Commissioner Toller stated that the expendable trust fund for overtime in FY2021 was \$100,000 and for FY2022 it is \$20,000 Alderman Dowd stated that it appeared that the calls of service are increasing.

Commissioner Tollner stated there has been a significant increase in calls for service from last year at this time.

Alderman Dowd stated that there are many crazy drivers in the state. Perhaps the PD could have officers concentrate on particular spots.

Chief Carignan stated that we track the areas of complaints and send the information to the Traffic Unit We have worked with the State Police on the highways that go through Nashua, and we have focused on Main Street and certain neighborhoods. People just have to notify us of problem areas and we will address it.

Officer Pucillo stated that we have NH Highway Safety grants that are used to hire officers to crackdown on drunk driving,

speeding, child safety, etc. These officers are hired to work just on the grants and are not taking officers from their daily patrol assignments on the streets.

Alderman Patricia Klee stated that in her ward she sees a lot of officers on patrol and just having them in the area slows down the traffic

Barbara Costa stated she receives emails regarding traffic concerns in different parts of the City and wondered if there needs to be more conversations to see if there is more need for signage.

Citizen Karen Bill spoke about her traffic concerns on Robinson Road. She had been dealing with Officer Fitzpatrick and Officer Gobbi, who she spoke very highly. She stated he did a great job and is a great representative of the force. She had issues with a utility pole in the area, but has been dealing with Eversource directly.

Ms. Bill also stated she has a lot of questions regarding the Police Commission. When she first read about the issue she did not think it was a good idea because the Mayor was requesting the change and she thought that was political. She questioned whether the Governor or the Mayor should appoint members to the Police Commission. It states it is based on merit and experience? Who makes that determination? She also doesn't think Aldermen should be on the Commission. She thinks there should be a third option and it should be a discussion by people in the City. Why do we need a change? Does there need to be a woman? Do you need diversity? She does not think there should be a question on the ballot saying should it be this way and not the old way. The question on the ballot should be as to the best way to get there. How do we get the wheels moving to get that 3rd option out there?

Citizen George Denault asked the Chief if he thought the lack of control at the Mexican border is the reason for the increase in drugs in the area. Are they focused more on humanitarian work rather than dealing with the cartels.

Chief Carignan responded that he did not want to get into anything political. Mexico is a huge pipeline for drugs, but that is mostly due to the fact the drugs grow better in that climate and they have more options on smuggling the drugs into the United States. I do not think border patrol as anything to do with it.

Alderman Patricia Klee inquired if there were an increase in calls for fireworks. She has had many calls from her constituents.

Chief Carignan stated that he could provide Alderman Patricia Klee the number of calls for service due to fireworks. The 4th of July event in the City was not highly attended and was much quieter than prior years.

Alderman Patricia Klee stated the noise on Main Street on Father's Day weekend was significant and she is still getting calls.

Chief Carignan asked Alderman Patricia Klee if she received the report the PD provided regarding calls on Main Street. Alderman Patricia Klee stated she did, but could not read the report.

Chief Carignan stated that the reports covers Main Street and the surrounding side streets. People who are pulled over for violations on Main Street are usually pulled over on a side street. Our Crime Analyst Jenny Sousa worked very hard on the report. It is very hard to get these numbers, but if your neighbors have concerns they can attend a Crime Watch meeting.

Alderman Patricia Klee stated that they did attend the meetings, but felt there was no follow-up.

Barbara Costa stated that since she has taken over for Ed Lecius she has been trying to set up relationships in the communities much like the businesses.

Alderman Jan Schmitt stated that she loved the police force and thought they were doing a great job in Ward 1. The traffic is slower thanks to the officers patrolling the streets and the new flashing stop sign on Charon Avenue.

Commissioner Tollner responded to Kathy Bills question regarding the Police Commission. He stated that last week Chief Carignan, Alderman Wilshire and himself met with the Mayor on how to go forward with the Commission. We agreed to maybe getting the community involved and get different ideas. There were recommendations to have a meeting in each and every Ward. We hope to hear back from the Mayor soon.

Citizen Karen Bills asked if the Mayor got so many signatures on a petition can he get something about the Police Commission on the ballot. She asked if the Mayor already had the signatures.

Alderman Patricia Klee stated that once the Mayor has the signatures it would go back before the Alderman and then it would go on the ballot.

Alderman Jan Schmitt stated that the Alderman would like to have a conversation on what the ballot question should be.

Citizen Karen Bills stated there needs to be a more progressive discussion.

Commissioner Tollner stated that we should hear more in the next few days.

Citizen George Denault stated without being political why do we need to make a change.

TENTATIVE DATE OF NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING:

There will be no Police Commissioners meeting in the month of August. The next tentative date for the Police Commissioners meeting will be Monday, September 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm. The next meeting will not be held in the NPD classroom due to the HVAC installation project. The location of the next meeting will be posted on the NPD website.

END OF PUBLIC SESSION:

MOTION: Commissioner Tollner made a motion to end the public session and enter the non-public session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dahl. All in favor

Time: 7:19 pm

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

MINUTES SEALED

PUBLIC SESSION INTO NONPUBLIC SESSION: 7:28 pm

MOTION: Commissioner Tollner asked for a motion by roll call vote to **suspend** the public session and enter non-public session as authorized by:

Item #1:

A. RSA 91-A: 3, II (b): “The hiring of any person as a public employee”

Motion by Commissioner Dahl, seconded by Commissioner Tollner.

A roll call vote was taken:

- Commissioner Tollner – yes; Commissioner Dahl – yes; Commissioner Plante – yes
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END OF NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

MOTION: Commissioner Tollner made a motion to end the non-public session and return to public session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dahl. All in favor.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION: 7:31 pm

MOTION TO SEAL RSA 91-A:3 III:

Minutes of proceedings in nonpublic session shall be kept and the record of all actions shall be promptly made available for public inspection, except as provided in this section. ...”

- “divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the body or agency itself,
- or render the proposed action ineffective,
- or pertain to terrorism...”

Commissioner Tollner asked for a motion to seal the following minutes of the Non-Public session (**Item #1**).

Item #1: RSA 91-A: 3, II (b): “The hiring of any person as a public employee”

MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Tollner seconded by Commissioner Plante to seal the minutes of the Non-Public Session (**Item #1**) as authorized above. All in favor.

TENTATIVE DATE OF NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING:

- Monday, September 27, 2021 at 5:30 pm
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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Dahl made a motion to end the public session and adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Plante. All in favor.

Time: 7:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Nicholas Dahl, Clerk