

September 27, 2021

The Nashua Police Commission held a public meeting on Monday, September 27, 2021, at the Nashua Fire Department located at 177 Lake Street.

**Members present:**

Commissioner James R. Tollner, Chairman  
Commissioner Nicholas Dahl, Clerk  
Commissioner Matthew Plante  
Chief Michael Carignan  
Deputy Chief James Testaverde  
Deputy Chief Kevin Rourke  
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  
Three Citizens

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**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- July 19, 2021

Commissioner Tollner made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2021 meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Plante. All in favor.

**BUDGET:**

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

**Approved FY2021 Equitable Sharing and Final Certification:**

A copy of the annual Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification was provided. Nashua Police Department is approved and in compliance through June 30, 2022. The report breaks down the areas of forfeiture revenue and expenditures. Monies are used to run the Narcotics unit (equipment, services and vehicles), but may be used for general law enforcement purposes as long as it is not supplementing the operating budget. Capital improvements are not allowed as that would be funded through the City.

**FY2022 August Expenditure Report:**

A copy of the August 31, 2021 Expenditure Report was provided. The gasoline account is averaging 7800 gallons per month. At the locked in price of \$2.2215 that is roughly a total of \$17, 237 per month or \$207,000 a year. The gasoline budget was set a \$190,000 based on old gasoline pricing, but we have \$30,000 in escrow which was approved for the difference of anticipated overage.

The August 31 51 two digit month-to date column 51750 includes retirements in the amount of \$214,431. This amount was reimbursed from the City's retirement account in September.

**FY2022 August Revenue Report:**

A copy of the report was provided.

**FY2022 Monthly Overtime Tracking by Specific Case Number or Significant Occurrence:**

Monthly overtime for the month of August for significant occurrences totaled approximately \$63,000.

**August Functional Strength:**

The functional strength, which is the number of total officers we were down for August, was 14; including 7 vacancies, 2 officers at the Academy, 2 officers with FTOs and 3 officers on extended leave.

**FY2022 August Overtime Analysis:**

The average weekly overtime in the month of August was \$58,659. The FY2022 weekly overtime budget is \$24,305 per week, but based on the current vacancies we can increase the weekly overtime budget to \$45,000.

**August Strength Report:**

A copy of the August Strength Report was provided.

**Active Grants Summary:**

A copy of the report was provided.

**SRF Revolving Funds:**

A copy of the report was provided.

**Trust Funds:**

A copy of the report was provided.

**HVAC and Windows Capital Project:**

A copy of the report was provided.

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

**ACTIVITY REPORT:**

***Deputy Chief Rourke reported the following:***

We have decided to have a department picture done since the last photo taken was in 1996. We have already had all the specialty unit photos updated. The department photo will be taken in mid-October.

Captain Page has found a Covid testing system that is equivalent to the PCR test. This way we can test our officers immediately if they feel like they have Covid symptoms. It should arrive in a week or two.

Officer Turcotte is a month away from getting his K9 Ellie. The dog is a comfort dog and is trained for tracking.

The Safe Exchange Program is going well. We have two designed spots in front of the department.

Last week we sent out 58 boxes of uniforms to be fitted for the body cameras. A Senior Engineer from Body Worn will be at the PD on October 4<sup>th</sup> to double check all the equipment that needs to be installed. On October 25<sup>th</sup> they will begin a two week training for all of our officers. We may have to extend this time to 4-6 weeks. We are in the middle of developing a SOP for the cameras. We brought the union in on this process and it has been going smoothly. We are hoping to have the body cameras up and running by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

***Chief Carignan reported the following:***

Today there was a report of a suicidal male with a handgun on Monica Drive. We had to activate the Bearcat and manpower only to find that it was a fake call. At the same time we had another man in another location who tried to commit suicide by shooting himself.

Captain Kenney has done a great job in the Legal department, especially with the courts changing the processes all the time. All the judges speak very highly of him.

Captain Bolton's father died. He was a 24 year veteran of the NH State Police and he worked at the Nashua Police Department as a Detention Specialist for approximately 8 years. His wake is Thursday and the funeral is Friday.

***Deputy Chief Testaverde reported the following:***

***Detectives:***

Steven Hallam who was recently assigned to the United States Postal Service (USPS) Taskforce has had great success with his team lately. They seized a couple of kilos of Fentanyl and Cocaine in the mail headed to Nashua.

The background is almost complete for the DV Advocate position.

On August 11<sup>th</sup> we had a homicide of a 35-year-old male on Hanover Street. His mother had reported that she had not heard from him. A new officer on 3<sup>rd</sup> shift had a motor vehicle stop a few days earlier and it turns out that he had pulled over the suspect driving the victim's car. The POP Unit got extremely lucky and was able to find the suspect at one of his reported hangouts. We had junior officers on this investigation and they did an incredible job.

While this investigation was going on other detectives were in the middle of closing a homicide case that took place on Buck Street in 2018. Although the suspect in this case was killed in Virginia years ago, detectives got a tip about the other individuals involved in this home invasion. This eventually led to these individuals getting charged with Conspiracy to Commit Murder.

***Legal:***

Attorney Muzzy recently had her baby which will leave the other attorneys to handle her case load until she comes back in 2 months.

Due to Covid and changes in the court system the workload has been excessive. Today in court our officers had to handle 46 arraignments.

**Professional Standards:**

We held a recruit test this weekend, which the Chief will talk about later.

We used Instagram to help promote the test and from it we got 5,000 views to our website.

A few months ago the Commissioners approved a PT Incentive to assist in getting our officers healthier. We have had 56 officers take their PT Test so far, with 18 of those officers scoring 80-90%.

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) has issued new guidelines that states that all officers have to be trained for crowd control, so we will be rolling out this training this year.

The Governor's council has recommended that officer's mandatory yearly training hours get increased from 16 hours to 24 hours. This will affect our yearly training budget.

**Services:**

Phase 1A of the HVAC started in August and is on schedule.

The Crime Scene Unit vehicle has been stored in the garage at Nashua Fire and Rescue on East Hollis Street and we need to find it a new home before the end of winter.

Barbara Costa our Community Policing Coordinator has been working on a resource manual for all our officers. This manual will include information for shelters, mental health, rehabilitation, etc.

The PAL Night of Champions was a great success. Not only did we have a great turnout from the public, but many of our younger officers stopped by.

Commissioner Tollner asked when the HVAC project will be completed.

Deputy Testaverde replied that the company plans to complete the project in one year.

Chief Carignan stated that the company installing the system is very punctual, efficient, polite and clean. They have been a pleasure to have in the building.

Chief Carignan also confirmed that all employees were vetted prior to them beginning the project.

MOTION: Commissioner Tollner made a motion to accept the activity reports. Motion seconded by Commissioner Plante. 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:

- Citizen-Officer Howe and Officer Colby
- Londonderry Police Department-William Pease
- Student from Patriot High School, Jurupa Valley, CA
- Citizen –Sergeant Gilbert
- Board of Education- multiple officers
- New Fellowship Baptist Church- Officer Rosario and Officer Olson
- United State Marshall- Sergeant Stone and Officer Dunn
- Citizen-Officer Tyo
- Citizen-Officer Olson

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

**REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER DAHL:**

***For the record:***

At the Governor and Council Meeting, held on August 18, 2021, Commissioner Nicholas Dahl was reappointed as a Nashua Police Commissioner. His term will expire on September 1, 2024.

**AWARDS:**

***For the record:***

- On August 2, 2021, Officer Matthew Belletete and Officer Alex Mann were awarded a Letter of Recognition for rendering first aid to a victim with a gunshot wound.
- On August 2, 2021, Officer Alex Mann and Officer Brendan Whalen were awarded a Commendation for Life-Saving for rendering lifesaving medical aid to a victim with a laceration.
- On September 16, 2021, Lieutenant Carlos Camacho was awarded the P.A.L. Volunteer of the Year.

**SWORN NEW HIRES:**

***For the record:***

On August 2, 2021 Ryan Linehan and Adam Teets were sworn in as First Year Special Officers.

**CHANGE OF POSITIONS:**

***For the record:***

- Jonathan Amaral from a Probationary Dispatcher to a Communications Technician I effective July 25, 2021.
- Brittany Benjamin from a Communications Technician I to a Records Technician I effective August 1, 2021.

**MPO II CERTIFICATION:**

Master Patrolman Ian Day-Lewis to Master Patrolman II effective November 19, 2021.

MOTION: Commissioner Tollner made a motion to certify Master Patrolman Ian Day-Lewis as a Master Patrolman II effective November 19, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Plante. All in favor

Master Patrolman Steven Hallam to Master Patrolman II effective December 21, 2021.

MOTION: Commissioner Dahl made a motion to certify Master Patrolman Steven Hallam as a Master Patrolman II effective December 21, 2021. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tollner. All in favor

**SWORN RESIGNATION:**

***For the record:***

Senior Patrolman Matthew Alarie effective August 27, 2021.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

***Chief Michael Carignan reported the following:***

On Saturday we held a recruit test for new officers. We had 154 people send in applications, but only 63 people showed up for the test. We had to dismiss 2 applicants for tattoos and 10 applicants failed the physical fitness portion. From this test we will have 17 oral boards; 16 men and one woman.

We are trying to recruit officers to match the demographics of our community and have been successful the last 2 years. What is most important is we hire the best candidates, who have passed the physical fitness test and have completed the background process.

Deputy Testaverde is going before the Board of Alderman tomorrow night to discuss our contract for the language line. Access to this plan would help us attempt to reach all members of the community no matter what language they speak. We currently have access to use the language line for investigations, but we want our officers to have the ability to use it on the streets. If we do not receive the grant we are going to try and figure a way to pay for the contract out of the budget. We are trying to be culturally effective at the police department.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Stacey Geesey stated that when she went to the Nashua Police Department by accident for the meeting she witnessed a sergeant dealing with a very agitated gentleman in the lobby. She stated the sergeant did an excellent job dealing with this individual. (After the meeting it was determined that the sergeant was Sergeant Christopher Ditullio)

Laurie Ortolano stated she has been going door-to-door speaking to the citizens of Nashua about the proposed change to the City Charter in regards to the Police Commission. She stated the vast majority of citizens did not know about the proposed change. Not only did they not know about the proposal, but they did not have any complaints against the Nashua Police Department and their view was very positive. A number of the citizens had concerns about what was happening at City Hall, but not at the Police Department. Several people who signed the petition did not back the change and one person who was approached to sign did not because they liked the current Chief of Police.

Ms. Ortolano stated she was concerned about the signs that are up around the City to oppose the change in the charter have too much information and are not easy to read.

Ms. Ortolano stated that in regards to the issue of there not being enough diversity on the Board of Police Commissioners, there is not enough diversity on the Board of Alderman as far as political affiliation. She stated that she enjoyed going door-to-door talking to the citizens of Nashua and found people are very polite and willing to talk. This is going to be a hard fight

and everyone is going to have to work hard for a month.

George Denault thank the Police Commissioners for what they do and stated he thinks 3 Commissioners is perfect.

Alderman Dowd asked if the Chief and Deputies would be present at the Special Advisory meeting on Thursday.

Deputy Testaverde confirmed he would be present.

Alderman Dowd stated he was glad the HVAC project was going well and he also mentioned that the School Department used language programs and stated the police department may want to look into that.

Chief Carignan stated that the Police Department has had discussions with the School Department.

Deputy Testaverde stated that this language line charged \$2500 for unlimited licensing. It can get pricey per minute, but we have free devices and data. It also can get very expensive when we have to hire outside interpreters.

**TENTATIVE DATE OF NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING:**

The next tentative date for the Police Commissioners meeting will be Monday, October 25, 2021 at the Nashua Fire Department on 177 Lake Street. The Police Commissioners meetings for the remainder of 2021 will be held at this location.

**END OF PUBLIC SESSION:**

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

Time: 6:36 pm

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner Nicholas Dahl, Clerk