

POLICE COMMISSION

March 23, 2016 Minutes

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Tobin, Chairman Thomas O'Mara, Chief F. Michael Catalano, Commissioner James Sponaugle, Commissioner Eric Prior, and Deputy Chief Paul Sandy.

EXCUSED: Secretary Diane Ferri.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on March 23, 2016 in the Police Department Lounge, City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland New York. Comm. James Sponaugle called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

A. MINUTES – On the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, second by Comm. Prior, the Commission approved the minutes of the January meeting as written and reviewed.

B. BILLS –The Commission reviewed the January bills totaling \$19,909.24 and on the motion of Comm. O'Mara, second by Comm. Prior, were approved and placed on file.

C. REPORTS – The following reports were highlighted:

1. Vehicle Maintenance -

The Deputy Chief apprised the Commission on the status of vehicles.

2. Overtime –

Accumulated hours worked for the month of January totaled 847.00 hours, compared to 536.75 hours for the same period in 2015, reflecting a 310.25-hour increase for the month from 2015 and a 317.50-hour increase year-to-date. The Short Shift accounted for the majority of the overtime.

3. Other Activities Report –

The Commission reviewed the report while the Chief highlighted some of the statistical information. Overall, 2015 was a record low volume for activity. January calls for service increased for the month by 628 calls, year-to-date increase of 1128 calls. The Commission reviewed domestic incidents, totaling 20 year-to-date, and mental health reports, totaling 30 year-to-date.

4. SPCA Animal Control Report –

The new report was reviewed, which elucidates the different nuances in the calls the SPCA receives. After-hours calls total 4 year-to-date; all of which the patrols would be answering without the SPCA contract.

5. Officers Activities Breakdown –

Statistics highlighted by Chief Catalano included 4 DWI arrests, which is low, for the month. He further noted the specific statistics for Ptl. Derrick Edick, with 25 V&T arrests, and 45 parking tickets. Ptl. Benjamin Locke, whose vehicle now carries the License Plate Reader, effected 29 V&T arrests.

6. Arrest Breakdown -

The Chief reviewed this report with the Commission, noting the arrest totals in 6 of the 16 categories have decreased.

On the motion of Comm. Sponaugle, second by Comm. Prior and carried, the reports were accepted for filing.

OLD BUSINESS

ACTIVE SHOOTER (KILLER) TRAINING - A recent training, sponsored by Homer Police Department and held at the Homer Intermediate School, was conducted by the Firearms Staff. Several agencies were involved in the interactive event, utilizing our new simulator. The Deputy Chief noted the defensive tactics simulator is now operational at the Armory and is available for use. He further offered the Common Council and the Police Commission the opportunity to participate in a simulator session. The Mayor expressed his interest.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MAIN STREET DEDICATED STREET OFFICER - The Chief apprised the Commission of a new detail, started at the request of downtown business and the Mayor, dedicated to a foot patrol of Main Street. The Chief is investigating the possibility of grant funds being made available to help offset the cost of this detail.

B. TOM O'MARA'S RETIREMENT - After 30 years on the Police Commission, Chairman Tom O'Mara submitted a letter indicating his intention to retire effective 3/31/16. Comm. Jim Sponaugle will be the new Chairman and Trish Hanson is being considered for the third commission position. A plaque will be presented to Mr. O'Mara at the next Common Council meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. COMMENDATION, APPRECIATION, CORRESPONDENCE REPORT -

1. Maxine Butler, School Crossing Guard, sent a letter of resignation due to health issues. Chief Catalano responded to her letter.
2. Wyatt Timmons and his mother, Brianna Timmons, sent a note and a drawing, thanking our officers for "keeping" him "safe" during a recent incident at Parker School.
3. Chief Catalano received a letter from David McNeil, thanking him for their recent meeting regarding safety in the downtown area.
5. Chief Catalano received an email from Mr. Cliff Kostuk, Principal of the Randall Elementary School, expressing his heartfelt thanks for a recent DWI arrest effected in the School District during school hours recently. Chief Catalano responded to his email.
6. Mr. Mark Simpson sent a letter of thanks to Ptl. Chadd Hines and Ptl. Kyle Green for their generous financial assistance during a recent time of need. Chief Catalano responded to his letter.
7. Commissioner Tom O'Mara sent a letter stating his intention to retire from the Police Commission, effective 3/31/16.
8. Sgt. Cheyenne Cute received a Certificate of Completion from the United States Dept of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration for successful completion of the *Clandestine Laboratory Investigation/Safety Certification Program*.

9. Ptl. Chadd Hines received a Certificate of Completion for *Instructor Certification* from Taser Training Academy.
10. Ptl. Chadd Hines received a Certificate of Completion from the State of New York Division of Criminal Justice Services Municipal Police Training Council as a *Certified Mental Health Instructor*.
11. Ptl. Roger Stafford received a Certificate of Achievement from the ODIN Fund and Ulster County Sheriff's Office for successful completion of *Basic First Aid for the Law Enforcement Canine*.
12. Sgt. Cheyenne Cute, Ptl. Jeffrey Fitts, Ptl. Nathan Moran, Ptl. Chad Knapp, and Ptl. Derrick Edick each received a Certificate of Completion for successfully completion the *Emotionally Disturbed Persons Response Team (EDPRT)* training course.
13. Chief Catalano responded in thanks to an anonymous donor, acknowledging receipt of \$100 to be applied towards Department-affiliated children's Christmas party.
14. Lt. Richard Troyer received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano to honor him with the "Department Commendation Award" for overseeing the successful investigation of 4 homicides from August, 2014 - November, 2015.
15. Sgt. Daniel Edwards received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano awarding him the "Police Officer of the Year" award for consistently demonstrating exceptional achievement and a genuine commitment to the profession, the department, and the public.
16. Sgt. Elizabeth Starr and Sgt. Michael Strangeway each received a letter of commendation from the Chief for their investigative and supervisory skills during an investigation on 12/20/14.
17. Sgt. Elizabeth Starr and Sgt. Michael Strangeway each received a letter of commendation from the Chief for the manner in which they performed their duties involving a brutal homicide on 5/8/15.
18. Ptl. Anthony Natoli received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano for his duty performance on 5/26/15 when responding to a call about a man who overdosed on Heroin.
19. Sgt. Cheyenne Cute received a letter of commendation from the Chief for his professionalism and dedication in his life-saving efforts towards an unresponsive male on 6/26/15.
20. Ptl. Melissa Eccleston received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano regarding the professionalism and keen investigative skills she demonstrated on 7/3/15 in an incident involving an assault rifle and long gun, as well as recovering crack cocaine and marijuana in one of the defendant's possession.
21. Sgt. Sean Byrnes, Ptl. Benjamin Locke, and Ptl. Ryan Gross each received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano for the professionalism, investigative skills, and officer safety tactics demonstrated on 7/3/15 during an incident involving an assault rifle and long gun.
22. Ptl. Melissa Eccleston received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano for the professionalism and pro-active police work she demonstrated on 7/3/15 during a traffic stop, resulting in the arrest of 3 people.
23. Ptl. Ryan Gross received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano for the manner in which he performed his duties on 7/3/15 in response to a call about a Heroin overdose.
24. Ptl. Kenneth Bush received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano for the professionalism and excellent interviewing skills he demonstrated on 9/23/15, which led

- to the successful conclusion of an illegal dumping complaint and a substantial marijuana seizure.
25. Ptl. Kyle Green letter of commendation from Chief Catalano for the professionalism and keen investigative skills he demonstrated on 10/9/15 in the aftermath of a hit and run personal injury MVA.
 26. Ptl. Adam Troyer received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano for the manner in which he performed his duties on 11/11/15 in response to a call about a possible Heroin overdose.
 27. Dr. & Mrs. Syed Pasha sent an email to the Department commending them for the "amazing" job and professionalism demonstrated during the recent Cortaca game. They also expressed "warmest greetings" for the Season. The Chief responded to his email.
 28. Ptl. Derrick Edick received a letter from Chief Catalano commending him for his attention to detail and retention of important information he demonstrated in the weeks following a criminal mischief complaint at Tompkins Trust on 11/21/15.
 29. Sgt. Michael Strangeway and Sgt. Daniel Johnson each received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano commending them for the manner in which they performed their duties on 11/29/15 following a stabbing incident.
 30. Sgt. Daniel Edwards received a letter from Chief Catalano, expressing his sincere appreciation and commendation for the professionalism and diligence he demonstrated in the investigation of the 72 year old female assaulted on Main Street on 12/1/15.
 31. Ptl. Stephen White received a letter from Chief Catalano, expressing his sincere appreciation and commendation for the "professionalism and keen investigative sense" he demonstrated in the investigation of the 72 year old female assaulted on Main Street on 12/1/15.
 32. Ptl. Patrick O'Donnell received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano for the manner in which he performed his duties on 12/15/15 in response to a call about a possible Heroin overdose.
 33. Ptl. Ryan Riley and Ptl. Nathan Moran each received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano commending them for the professionalism, investigative skills and team effort they demonstrated on 12/25/15, where they worked together to develop a suspect responsible for a number of larcenies from motor vehicles.
 34. Ptl. Jeffrey Fitts, Ptl. Kyle Green, and Ptl. Nathan Moran each received a letter of commendation from Chief Catalano commending them for the professionalism, aptitude, team effort and proactive attitude they demonstrated on 12/26/15 where they affected the arrest of 3 individuals involved in illegal drug activity.
 35. Police Officer Mike Palombo sent a thank you card/Christmas card, thanking the Chief and the entire department for their recent assistance with his son, a SUNY Cortland student.
 36. Bobbie Lansdowne sent Chief Catalano a thank you card expressing his appreciation for his help with Mr. Lansdowne's family.
 37. Ptl. Joseph Peters received a Department Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his devotion to duty specifically with 23 felony arrests in 2015.
 38. Ptl. Joseph Peters received a Department Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his devotion to duty, specifically with 313 parking tickets written in 2015.
 39. Ptl. Ryan Riley received a Department Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his devotion to duty, specifically with 154 V&T arrests in 2015.

40. Ptl. Nathan Moran received a Department Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his devotion to duty, specifically with 68 violation arrests in 2015.
41. Ptl. Nathan Moran received a Department Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his devotion to duty, specifically with 38 warrants served in 2015.
42. Ptl. Kyle Green received a Department Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his devotion to duty, specifically with 54 misdemeanor arrests in 2015.
43. Ptl. Kyle Green received a Department Certificate of Commendation in recognition of his devotion to duty, specifically with 10 DWI arrests in 2015.
44. Deputy Gavin Stage received a Department Certificate of Appreciation for the assistance given to the Department while on park patrol on 7/6/15 in helping to locate an endangered elderly and disoriented female.
45. Chief Catalano sent a letter of thanks to Mrs. Maxine Butler, retired school crossing guard, for her donation of \$1000.00 to the Cortland Junior Police Academy.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

Commissioner O'Mara stated his pleasure at serving on the Police Commission for the past 30 years, commenting he enjoyed every bit of it; and he equally is ready to pass this along to Commissioner Sponaugle.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 20, 2016** at 3:15 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room. With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri
Confidential Secretary