

POLICE COMMISSION

July 27, 2016 Minutes

PRESENT: Commissioner James Sponaugle, Commissioner Eric Prior, Commissioner Trish Hansen, Chief F. Michael Catalano and Secretary Diane Ferri.

EXCUSED: Deputy Chief Paul Sandy.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Police Commission was held on July 27, 2016 in the Police Department Lounge, City Hall, 25 Court Street, Cortland New York. Comm. James Sponaugle called the meeting to order at 3:28 p.m.

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

B. BILLS –The Commission reviewed the June bills totaling \$20,800.29 and on the motion of Comm. Prior, second by Comm. Hansen, were approved and placed on file.

C. REPORTS – The following reports were highlighted:

1. YTD Budget Balances -

The Commission reviewed the account lines and percentages expended.

2. Vehicle Maintenance -

The Chief reviewed with the Commission on the status of vehicles.

3. Sick Report -

The Chief apprised the Commission of the variances in sick time used, which included baby births, several employees having surgery, and injuries.

4. Overtime –

Accumulated hours worked for the month of June totaled 806.25 hours, compared to 657.75 hours for the same period in 2015, reflecting a 148.50-hour increase for the month from 2015 and a 167.75-hour increase year-to-date. The dedicated Main Street detail, short shifts and trainings attended account for much of the increase.

5. Other Activities Report –

The Commission reviewed the report while the Chief highlighted some of the statistical information. Calls for service increased for the month by 747 calls, year-to-date increase of 3481 calls. The Commission reviewed domestic incidents, totaling 160 year-to-date, and mental health reports, totaling 181 year-to-date.

6. SPCA Animal Control Report –

The report was reviewed, again noting the different nuances in the calls the SPCA receives. After-hours calls total 21 year-to-date; all of which the patrols would be answering without the SPCA contract.

7. Officers Activities Breakdown –

Statistics highlighted by Chief Catalano included 5 DWI arrests, which is low, for the month. He further noted the specific statistics for Ptl. Derrick Edick, with 42 V&T arrests, Ptl. Nathan Moran with 34 V&T arrests, and Ptl. Benjamin Locke, with 22 V&T arrests.

8. Arrest Breakdown -

The Chief reviewed this report with the Commission, noting the arrest totals in 7 of the 16 categories have decreased.

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

OLD BUSINESS

CAMERA ON MAIN STREET - The Common Council approval needed before cameras can be installed on Main Street was discussed at the most recent Common Council meeting. Chief Catalano reported to the Commission approval was given for the purchase and installation of approximately half of those requested with the option of reconsidering approval for the balance of the cameras recommended by Tyco next year.

NEW BUSINESS

A. ACCREDITATION UPDATE - The Chief apprised the Commission of the status of the Accreditation process currently being expedited in the department. New York State officials were here yesterday to gauge our status, with the understanding of their return next month for a "mock inspection" and a final inspection in October. Accreditation demonstrates this department's determination to attain to the highest standards as set by New York State. The Chief further noted Sgt. Penny Guerrera has been going a great job in overseeing the process.

B. SIMULATION TRAINING - Chief Catalano updated the Commission on details of his offer to the Common Council and the Police Commission to participate in the Simulation training. The Simulation Training is tentatively scheduled for some time in the next couple of weeks, dependent upon the responses from the Common Council.

C. COMMUNITY FORUM - An item not posted on the agenda was notice of a presentation tonight at the Cortland Elks Club by Drug Task Force member Todd Caufield of the Cortland County Sheriff's Office on illegal drug activity. The Chief invited members of the commission to attend.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. COMMENDATION, APPRECIATION, CORRESPONDENCE REPORT -

1. Mr. Alex Faraoni sent a note expressing appreciation of Ptl. Patrick O'Donnell for the professional manner in which he handled a parking problem at Mr. Faraoni's business. Chief Catalano responded to his note.
2. The Officers of the Courtland, Ohio Police Department sent a box of ice cream cups to the department as a "random act of kindness" and encouragement to "stay safe and enjoy".
3. Ms. Marilyn Mayer & Mr. Mike Kniffin sent a bouquet of 6 roses to the Department in thanks for all the department does to keep them safe.
4. Mr. & Mrs. Russ Tillotson sent a package of chocolate covered peanut butter balls to the department in thanks for all the department members do to keep them safe.

5. Lt. Richard Troyer sent Sgt. Daniel Edwards a letter of commendation for the manner in which he performed his duties involving a burglary on 4/4/16.
6. Lt. Richard Troyer sent Sgt. Patrick Sweeney and Sgt. Daniel Johnson each a letter of commendation for the manner in which they performed their duties on 5/21/16 in response to a physically abused 4 month old infant.
7. Chief Catalano sent a letter of commendation to Sgt. Michael Nichols for the manner in which he performed his duties on 3/8/15 in response to a call regarding an unconscious female not breathing.
8. Chief Catalano sent a letter of commendation to Sgt. Michael Nichols for the manner in which he performed his duties on 11/28/14 in response to a call regarding an unconscious male.

B. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

1. Comm. Eric Prior stated, on behalf of his family, he is grateful for what the Cortland Police Department does. He has seen the members of this department function in different economic, social, and racial capacities, but has never sensed any of the negativity being seen in other locations via TV and the internet. He reiterated, "It doesn't happen here;" and stated he feels completely safe here in the City of Cortland, and in Cortland County. He noted, in his upbringing in the south, his mother taught him to always respect authority and remain principled. He completed his remarks by affirming his appreciation for this police department.
2. Chief Catalano mentioned new ballistic vests with ceramic plates being purchased for the department. He further mentioned the Junior Police Academy is now in session for the next 2 weeks at the Armory. He noted Ms. Maxine Butler, a long-time school crossing guard who passed away recently, donated \$1000 to the academy prior to her death. She loved her job and the kids.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **August 24, 2016** at 3:15 p.m. in the Mayor's Conference Room. With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Ferri
Confidential Secretary