

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24th, 2017 MONTHLY POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

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

Brenna Cavanaugh, Chair

Joseph J. Onosko

Joe Plaia

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The January 24th, 2017 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m. in the Wm. Mortimer Room of the police department for the purpose of going into non-public session.

The Chair called for a motion to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91:A, 3-II (c), “Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person...”,

Action: Commissioner Onosko moved to enter non-public session for the purpose delineated above.

Seconded by Commissioner Plaia.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Cavanaugh:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Plaia:	“Aye.”

The motion passed to go into non-public session at 4:11 p.m.

The public session was called to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. (An archived video of the meeting is available on the city’s website.)

The following people were present: Commissioners Cavanaugh, Onosko, and Plaia, Chief David Mara, Captain of Operations Frank Warchol, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque, members of the public and the press.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chief David Mara led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the minutes.

Action: Commissioner Onosko moved to edit the minutes of the November 22nd, 2016 police commission meeting. There was no second for the motion to edit the minutes. There was a brief discussion on the order of the motions.

The Chair asked for a motion to amend the motion to accept the minutes.

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved to amend the motion to accept the minutes of the November 22nd, 2016 police commission meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to amend the motion to accept the minutes of the November 22nd, 2016 police commission meeting.

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved to amend the minutes of the November 22nd, 2016 police commission meeting as follows, and accept them :

Put a 'period' after the word 'form' on page 3, item 2-b "Draft of Rules & By-laws Document". Change, "...pending a final review from Chief Mara and staff members.", to: "pending suggestions from Chief Mara and staff."

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to amend the minutes of the November 22nd, 2016 police commission meeting as follows, and accept them :

Put a 'period' after the word 'form' on page 3, item 2-b "Draft of Rules & By-laws Document". Change, "...pending a final review from Chief Mara and staff members.", to: "pending suggestions from Chief Mara and staff."

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** : (The following is a brief summary of each person's comments and represents the speaker's personal opinion. The entire meeting can be viewed online by going to the city's website and clicking "Channel 22", and then clicking on "Archived 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 meetings.")

Mr. George Dempsey – 42 Dennett Street: Mr. Dempsey thanked the commission for their work. He said the former management nor any of the

officers have been placed on the Laurie List. Mr. Dempsey said we have 23 million dollars in lawsuits and want 14 million for a new police station. He showed the commission a plastic Market Basket shopping bag. He reviewed contents from the newspaper and voiced his disapproval with each item he felt the police department was being irresponsible with.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Chair and Clerk of the Commission for 2017 –

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved to nominate Commissioner Cavanaugh to serve as Chair of the Commission for 2017.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to nominate Commissioner Cavanaugh to serve as Chair of the Commission for 2017.

Action: The Commission voted on the nomination of Commissioner Cavanaugh to serve as Chair of the Commission for 2017 as follows:

Commissioner Onosko: “Aye”

Commissioner Plaia: “Aye”

By Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Cavanaugh was unanimously voted in to serve as Chair of the Commission for 2017.

Action: Commissioner Onosko moved to nominate Commissioner Plaia to serve as Clerk of the Commission for 2017.

Seconded by Commissioner Cavanaugh.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to nominate Commissioner Plaia to serve as Clerk of the Commission for 2017.

Action: The Commission voted on the nomination of Commissioner Plaia to serve as Clerk of the Commission for 2017 as follows:

Commissioner Cavanaugh: “Aye”

Commissioner Onosko: “Aye”

By a Roll Call Vote: Commissioner Plaia was unanimously voted in to serve as Clerk of the Commission for 2017.

2. Representation on the City Ethics Committee: As per City Ordinance, Commissioner Plaia was chosen by lot to serve on the City of Portsmouth's Ethics Committee for 2017.
3. IACP Search Update: Commissioner Onosko gave an update on the nationwide executive search for a permanent Chief of Police through the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
4. Informational item – Media Proposal Received: Commissioner Cavanaugh received an inquiry from a production company about doing a non-scripted reality-type show shadowing officers and detectives. The inquiry was forwarded to Chief Mara.
5. Policy Update – Outside employment: The Commission has drafted a proposed policy update to the Department's outside employment policy as put forth in our Rules and Regulations. Chief Mara told the Commission that our CALEA certification process requires our SOPs and Rules & Regs. meet their standards, and this is one of the items that is being updated. Chief Mara said he would show the finished draft to the Commission first. Chief Mara recommended the Commission wait to see the draft before taking action on this.

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved to update the extra employment SOP to comply with CALEA standards and to add language that engaging in outside work while on duty is strictly prohibited.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to update the extra employment SOP to comply with CALEA standards and to add language that engaging in outside work while on duty is strictly prohibited.

Chief Mara suggested it might be beneficial to have the Professional Standards Lieutenant and the Accreditation Manager make a presentation at the next meeting to update the Commissioners on our process. The Chair agreed to have the lieutenant and the

accreditation manager update the commission next month, and to have an accreditation update as a regular agenda item each month.

6. Draft of Rules & By-laws Document: Commissioner Cavanaugh would like to adopt the Commission Rules & By-laws Document as is since it has been over a year since the project was started. She said the Commission can amend the document with the Chief's input.

Action: Commissioner Onosko moved to adopt the Commission Rules & By-laws document as is.

Seconded by Commissioner Plaia.

On a Voice Vote: the motion passed to adopt the Commission Rules & By-laws document as is.

Commissioner Cavanaugh suggested amending the length of time each person may have the floor during the public comment session of the monthly Police Commission meeting from three to five minutes.

Action: Commissioner Onosko moved to lengthen the time allowed each speaker in the public comment session of the monthly police commission meeting from three minutes to five minutes, and to change the word 'three' on line three of Rule #31 to the word, 'five'.

Seconded by Commissioner Plaia.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to lengthen the time allowed each speaker in the public comment session of the monthly police commission meeting from three minutes to five minutes, and to change the word 'three' on line three of Rule #31 to the word, 'five'.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. 5-0 Food Drive – Chief Mara highlighted the work of Officer Lynn Thomas and Officer Seth Tondreault in organizing and hosting the second annual 5-0 Food Drive last December.
2. School Resource Officer Detective Tim Cashman celebrated 20 years of service to the Portsmouth Police Department on January 4th of this year.
3. Police/Fire Basketball game – Chief Mara said the police and fire departments competed against one another in a charity game of

basketball. He said it was good to build that camaraderie between the departments, and it was even better that we won!

4. Strategic Plan – Chief Mara reported that he and his staff have been building a strategic plan for 2017. Karen Senecal has been the point person and done a lot of work on this. After we receive department-wide input, we will present the plan to the Police Commission for review and approval. He said CALEA accreditation requires a multi-year plan, but he did not think it was appropriate under our present circumstances to do a multi-year plan since the agency will be getting a new Chief of Police, and that person should have the input going forward. The Chief has also asked Karen to do an annual report that will be put up on the website for the public to see.
5. Financial Report & Facility Update – Karen Senecal

Commissioner Onosko asked the Chief to elaborate on what the SERT team is, and the Chief did so.

Chief Mara gave more detail on the planned improvements to the lobby and records window area of the police department. He also gave more background on the request for a new police department.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

The Chair asked about the semi-annual report that goes to the city council. Karen said she will compile that this month.

The Chair asked the Chief for an update on the Motorola Radio Project.

Commissioner Onosko spoke about the Women's March on January 21st, and commended the police department and the individual officers at the event for their handling of the event. Commissioner Onosko read a number of the thank yous received on the Department's Facebook page.

Commissioner Plaia wished to publicly acknowledge the loss of retired Corrections Officer Dick Allen, who was also a former Coast Guard officer. Mr. Allen was Commissioner Plaia's neighbor; he ran the alternative sentencing program in Rockingham County and was the board president for the One Sky Program based in Portsmouth. Commissioner Plaia said he was a dedicated public servant, and would be missed.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Before requesting a motion to adjourn, the Chair announced the next scheduled Police Commission meeting would be the February 22nd Public Hearing on the FY '18 Budget at 7:00 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers.

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved the January 24th, 2017 Police Commission meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to adjourn the January 24th Police Commission meeting at 6:38 p.m.

END OF MEETING