

CITY OF PORT JERVIS

P.O. BOX 1002
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PORT JERVIS, NEW YORK 12771



Police Committee Meeting Minutes 19 May 2022 6:15pm

Meeting of the Police Committee opened at 6:18pm with the following members in attendance: Mr. Foster, Ms. Miller, Mr. Decker, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Simmons, Ms. Newhauser.

Public Comment:

- No comments received.

Chief's Report:

Crime Statistics

- The Chief of Police provided an update of current crime trends including Part I and Part II crime statistics, accidents, decreased regular overtime levels due to staffing, increased court related overtime due to prisoner transports and court appearances, specific call type and calls for service.

Traffic Safety & Signage

- The committee reviewed product specifications provided through Elan City for solar powered radar speed signs that can provide electronic speed warning information and small customizable messages with a price range of \$6,199 for two mobility packs that can be deployed in neighborhoods experiencing excessive speeding complaints.
- No Stopping in Roadway Signage has been ordered for both lanes of traffic on East Main Street near Dunkin Donuts to prevent drive thru traffic from backing up into the roadway impeding thru traffic.
- A "Warning-Stop Sign Ahead" street sign has been ordered for Seward Avenue near intersection with Orchard Street.
- Annual Border to Border Buckle Up Campaign scheduled for March 23-June 5th. Overtime enforcement activities funded through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee Police Traffic Services Grant.
- Speed study currently being conducted on a remote section of Canal Street leading to the entrance of Tow Path Road.
- Speed enforcement activities still being focused on West Main Street to address speed conditions.

Training Report

- Officer Andrew Haniuk and Officer Christopher Mehedin are graduating from the Instructor Development Course on 20 May. In 2021, several department instructors retired from service necessitating the need to train new instructors.
- Members are completing Spring firearms and use of force training and tactical medical training.
- Four officers are scheduled to attend a three-day drug interdiction training course and several officers will be scheduled to attend a Youth Mental Health First Aid Course.
- All sworn officers recently received an electronic training bulletin on disengaging suicidal subjects.
- Chief Worden and Det Sgt Sargente recently attended the Project Safe Neighborhoods Conference in partnership with the United States Department of Justice.
- Detectives attending an in-service training hosted by the Orange County District Attorney's Office pertaining to the drafting of Search Warrants.

Youth Bureau Funding- An \$8,000 assistance grant was obtained from the Orange County Youth Bureau to provide program assistance to the Juvenile Aid Bureau.

E-Bike Community Policing Program

- The committee reviewed the goal of upgrading the current police bicycle patrol unit to include two E-Bikes to increase patrol mobility, community policing opportunities and officer presence on the Watershed Trails. The committee was advised of a recent incident involving an Outdoor Club volunteer who was physically harassed by several subjects operating off-road motorcycles on the trail system. The cost of purchasing two E-Bikes through a local vendor, Action Bikes, is \$8,999.98. Chief Worden has spoken with PBA President Kyle Mitchell and DA Hoovler regarding potential donations to off-set the cost of this program and recommends implementing the program for summer community policing patrols using City Asset Forfeiture funds to purchase the E-Bikes. The Chief requested the committee formally forward this request to the Common Council for a formal approval. Committee to move to Council for approval of this program.

Community Outreach:

- DARE Graduation scheduled for June 2, 2022, 10am at ASK School
- ASK 2nd Grade Walking Trip scheduled for June 2nd at 10am at City Hall, Police Department, Engine 2 Fire Station and Port Jervis Library.
- ASK 1st Grade Safety Day being planned for June 21 or 22.

- PJPD Open Gym and Volleyball at Port Jervis High School was held today at 3pm. The event was well attended by students and officers. This event is the first open gym held by the department resulting from student input received during the police reform and collaborative process.
- A meeting was held with PJCSA Administrators pertaining to school safety and further outreach projects. Det. Washalski is working with school officers to develop an after-school law enforcement explorer type club.

New Business:

Bola Wrap

- The committee reviewed BOLA Wrap less lethal technologies for potential implementation. Two department trainers attended a train the trainer workshop sponsored by the Orange County Sheriff's Special Operation Group. The BOLA Wrap System is a remote restraint tool that allows officers to discharge Kevlar cords to restrain non-compliant subjects without injury. The unit is effective from 10-25 feet. Each unit is currently priced at \$925.00 per device, \$70.00 per device holster and \$30.00 per cartridge. To become certified, officers will be required to undergo in-service training and deploy two cartridges. In addition, officers will be required to recertify annually on the device and deploy one cartridge during recertification. The total cost to implement five BOLA Wrap devices this with sufficient holsters and cartridges for uniformed officers and supervisors including training is approximately \$8,200.00. The cost to maintain certification annually is approximately \$1,350.00.
- The Chief and Committee discussed the prospect of phasing in the technology as budget funds are available. Further review required.

Safety Drills- The Department is working with representatives from the School District, Bon Secours Hospital and Kolmar Labs to conduct updated safety training and workplace violence, active shooter drills.

DCJS Drone Application – Missing Persons Searches Evaluations- The department submitted a grant application to the Department of Criminal Justice Services to obtain a drone and training to be used under the DCJS Missing Persons Program to enhance search capabilities and mutual services.

Annual 2021 Awards

- The 2021 Awards report was provided to members of the committee. Committee members reviewed various awards including traffic safety awards and the formal awards that will be presented in the form of ribbon bars to members of the department. A report will be provided to the Common Council and highlights of award presentations posted on social media.

Sergeant's promotional exam for department members is being held on June 11th by the Port Jervis Civil Service Commission. The current list of eligible candidates expires in September 2022. The new eligibility list should be active by October 2022.

Old Business:

Grant updates

- DOJ Body Camera Grant- Awaiting approval from DOJ to expend funds for camera infrastructure purchase.
- PSN Safe Neighborhoods Grant- Working with the John F. Finn institute for Public Safety to implement performance measurements and reporting mechanisms. Chief Worden and Sgt Sargente completed the two-day PSN Training Conference. Grant related projects scheduled to begin during month of June.
- Range Training Building- The department is working with the project architect to finalize plans for submitting the first RFP Bid for the project which may entail only the building foundation at this time.
- Camera Grant Application- Congressman Maloney's Office- Grant Request denied seeking funding for cameras to be installed at the Transportation History Museum, Kingston Avenue/Culvert Street, and the Pump track.

Year One Reform Report

- The Chief received feedback by Ms. Valerie Maginsky who reviewed the Year One Reform Report and provided recommendations for additions or changes to the report.
- Report is currently being completed with edits and forwarded to Common Council for approval in June.

Police Officer Business Contact Cards

- The committee reviewed the updated proposed business contact cards to be purchased for officers. Minor changes were suggested for the cards. Cards ready for purchase.

Surplus Radios

- A quote was received from Positive Equity to purchase six boxes containing department surplus radios (mobile, portable, base and radio charges and microphones) totaling \$1,300.00. The committee agreed that the quote was very low for the volume and condition of equipment. Further options will be explored.

Committee Member Comments:

Mr. Decker requested a speed study be conducted for River Road near the Little League Field Complex.

Public Comment:

- No public comment received.

Executive Session: Lieutenant's Vacancy

- The committee developed the following promotional plan for the vacant lieutenant position:
- Interviews of two sergeant candidates will be held by the Council and representatives of the Police Advisory Committee on June 16, 2022, at 6:15pm. Appointment for the lieutenant's position will be addressed by the City Council based upon the recommendation made by the hiring committee during the regular Common Council business meeting scheduled for June 20, 2022, with an effective start date of September 6, 2022.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 740 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

William J. Worden

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Chief of Police