

TOWN OF NORTHWOOD
POLICE COMMISSION
3/15/2022

Vice-Chair John Schlang calls the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the town hall.

PRESENT: Vice-Chair John Schlang, Commissioner Scott Bryer, Chief Glen Drolet, Police Commission Administrator Linda Smith. Selectman Jim Gufoski is present in the audience.

Election of Officers: Motion to nominate Commissioner Schlang as chairman is made by Commissioner Bryer, second by Commissioner Schlang. Vote: 2/0. Motion to nominate Commissioner Bryer as vice-chair is made by Commissioner Schlang, second by Commissioner Bryer. Vote: 2/0.

Minutes:

Motion is made by Commissioner Bryer, second by Commissioner Schlang to approve the minutes of 2/25/2022 as written. Vote: 2/0.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Drolet reports the following statistics for February 2022:

Calls for Service	Arrests	Motor Vehicle Accidents	MV Warnings Issued	Motor Vehicle Summons	Business/Property Checks
273	8	11	86	14	378

Budget: Chief Drolet distributes the expenditure detail report and explains the report format based on the new accounting software. He notes he does not have the commission report. Currently there is 85.74% remaining in the department budget and 99.43% in the ACO budget.

Purchase Orders:

Chief Drolet distributes one purchase order for review and signature:

1. 13,500 Prosecutor Di Croce, prosecuting services for 2022.

Cruisers: Chief Drolet reports that the Ford F-150 pickup is in service and they have been waiting for the cage to come in; anticipate it may be installed tomorrow. 2022 SUV is at 2 Way waiting for parts. Car 1 struck a deer March 6 causing \$5776.48 in damage and is currently at Carney Auto Body.

SRO Meeting:

Chief Drolet notes that SRO Potter will be leaving the position at the end of the school year. He states he would like a volunteer from the commission to participate in a meeting with Coe-Brown Academy representative(s), Finance Specialist Cheryl Eastman, Town Administrator Walter Johnson, and member(s) of board of selectmen to discuss the school resource officer position going forward. After discussion on the timing of the meeting, it is agreed that Chairman Schlang will participate for the commission at the meeting.

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Personnel:

Sign on Bonus: Chief Drolet states he spoke with Town Administrator Johnson to get his opinion on offering a sign on bonus and he is supportive. Chief Drolet states he would like to offer a sign on bonus as an incentive to recruit a certified officer. He states that it currently costs the town \$16,000 for the salary of an officer while they are at the academy. He notes that one of the officers recently did not complete the academy. He adds that during the 16 weeks officers are in training at the academy they are not working as officers in town. Chief Drolet states he would like to offer a \$10,000 sign on bonus in an effort to get a full time certified officer.

Discussion is held on the amount of a sign on bonus and when it would be paid-all or partial payments and the timing of the payments. Discussion is held on contractual agreements and how enforceable they would be in this situation. Additional discussion is held on the current rate of pay for a certified officer with two years' experience and what other surrounding towns pay for sign on bonus. **A motion is made by Commissioner Bryer, second by Chairman Schlang to support a \$6000 sign on bonus upon hiring with an additional \$6000 after two years. Vote: 2/0.**

Chief Drolet notes that he has received additional Right to Know requests.

Chief Drolet states that the proposed budget did not pass so the default budget will be in place for 2022. Commissioner Bryer states that he understands that the 2% raise warrant article did pass. Chief Drolet states yes but he has not heard how that will be paid to employees. Discussion is held on the increase in fuel/gas costs will be handled. Chief Drolet states it is a concern that he is addressing as best as possible but it is a problem for other departments town-wide.

Correspondence: Ms. Smith states no correspondence has been received. She asks the commission if they would like her to schedule Attorney McGee to come to a meeting. After discussion, it is agreed for her to contact his office to see if he can attend in April.

A discussion is held on Special Duty rates and the setting of fees. Commissioner Bryer states any changes to the fees should go to the selectmen for a public hearing.

Motion to adjourn is accepted at 5:36 pm

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Smith, Police Commission Administrator