

Claremont Police Commission Meeting

Public Minutes

Wednesday, April 16th, 2014 @ 5:30 PM

@ Visitor's Center/Planning & Development Office, 14 North Street

- I. Roll call & Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm. Commissioner Courtemanche and Commissioner Tremblay were present. Commissioner Raymond was excused. Chief Scott and Captain Chase were present.

- II. Swearing-in ceremony for Officer Burdick and recognition of former Commission Chair, Richard McClintock: Richard McClintock and his wife were in attendance. Officer Burdick's mother and father were in attendance along with Officer Burdick's girlfriend. Reporter Damien Fischer from the Eagle Times was in attendance as well. Chief Scott made the following remarks:

Richard McClintock – Thanks

In 1947 the Claremont Police Commission was established by an act of the New Hampshire Legislature and while it has gone through some changes, the basic duties have remained constant. The Police Commission is the hiring and firing authority and makes the rules and regulations for the government of the police force. When read aloud, it does not sound like much, but those responsibilities are critical to the ongoing success of the Claremont Police Department. They are heavy responsibilities with significant impact. They are responsibilities that Richard McClintock took on with precision, integrity and commitment from January 2005 through December 2013. During that time, he assisted in the review of hundreds of new written directives as we moved towards CALEA Accreditation. He joined the Accreditation Manager and I in Jacksonville Florida when we were awarded Accreditation from CALEA. Eleven of our current officers were interviewed by Commissioner McClintock as part of their hiring process. Commissioner McClintock played a role in the promotion of every supervisor, save for myself, currently serving in the Claremont Police Department. In short, Commissioner McClintock has played an integral role in helping the Claremont Police Department become the agency it is today. I am forever grateful for that help and it seems as though thank you just doesn't adequately convey the appreciation I have for your service to the Department and the City.

The New Hampshire Constitution focuses on a form of government that originates from the people, is founded in consent, and instituted for the general good. The U.S. Constitution starts with the phrase "We the people." Sir Robert Peel, the founding father of modern policing understood that the people are the police and the police are the people. Community Policing talks about the police and the community working together for the general betterment and safety of their community. All these things have strong similarities and are closely aligned with the role of the Claremont Police Commission. Citizen oversight of the police has a long history in this community and is one we can be proud of.

Police Commissioner Richard McClintock can be proud of having been part of that long legacy. He should be especially proud of the accomplishments made during his tenure. Without question the Claremont Police Department's achievement of CALEA Accreditation is a professional milestone without equal in the Department's history. I would like to personally thank Commissioner McClintock for his dedicated service to the Commission and the role he played in helping us to grow professionally and to achieve CALEA Accreditation. He unequivocally played a key role in both accomplishments.

- Plaque Discussion -

Officer Burdick Ceremonial Swearing-In -

The remarks about the importance of the Police Commission and how it ties into the Community Policing model and the New Hampshire and United States Constitutions is certainly fitting as we welcome our most recent Police Academy Graduate aboard. I've certainly made clear from the outset how important I believe an individual officer's oath of office is. Officer Burdick took his official oath of office on December 19th, 2013 before the City Clerk pursuant to the City Charter and City Code.

At that time he swore to bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America and the state of New Hampshire and to support the constitutions thereof. He swore to faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent on him as a police officer for the City of Claremont according to the best of his abilities, agreeably to the rules and regulations of the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Hampshire, the Charter of the City of Claremont and the Claremont City Code. During his time at the Police Academy, Officer Burdick heard me lecture on the importance of that oath during Constitutional Law and Constitutional Violations class. At his graduation ceremony Attorney General Joseph Foster talked again about the importance of that oath. During tonight's ceremonial badge pinning the weight of that oath truly becomes a reality. And based on what we have seen thus far and the reports we received from the academy, I'm confident that Officer Burdick is prepared to carry that weight with professionalism, pride, integrity and most importantly, compassion.

Before we proceed to the ceremonial pinning, I want to acknowledge the family and friends in attendance. Policing is a family affair. To be successful, it requires support. While Officer Burdick has experience a great deal in a short journey through the

academy, he will experience many more challenges along the way. And I know that family and friends experience many of those same challenges along with the officers. I am eternally grateful for the support that I know you will provide to Jeremy during his career.

- III. Citizens Forum: No citizens appeared for citizens' forum.
- IV. Review Minutes of March 19th, 2014 Public Meeting: After review of the March 19th Public Meeting Minutes Commissioner Courtemanche made a motion to accept said minutes, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tremblay and both Commissioners voted in favor of said motion.
- V. Preview of April and May upcoming events: Chief Scott noted that the DEA Prescription Drug Take Back event along with the Twin State Speedway Parade and opening festivities is scheduled for April 26th. On the same day, the Turning Points 5k fun walk will take place. Chief Scott noted he will be a plenary presenter at an opioid addiction conference scheduled for April 29th at the Common Man. Chief Scott outlined that the Primex portable Use of Force Simulator Training program will be made available to all officers between May 6th and 8th. 2014 Police Memorial Week is the week of May 11th and will include the 2014 Employee Appreciation Banquet at 6:00 pm on May 15th at the Simply Comfort banquet facility on Pleasant Street. All Commissioners, Employees and their families are invited. May is topped off with the Memorial Day Parade on May 26th.
- VI. March 2014 Monthly Reports:
 - a. Chief's Office
 - b. Criminal Division
 - c. Patrol Division
 - d. Communications Division
 - e. Statistical Reports

The monthly reports were reviewed with focus on the Chief's Budget Proposal. Chief Scott noted the only major increased request is in the Part-Time line item which includes raises for the part time staff (Wilmot, Casey and Johnson) as well as a slight increase in hours. Part-Time employees are capped at 28 hours. These seasoned and experienced positions are critical, especially in light of the number of inexperienced officers we currently have. Commission also focused on ATV trail use issue. Chief Scott noted that

both NH DOT and Federal Highway Administration have concluded that ATV are not permitted on the section of trail from the gate on Washington Street to the end of the trail at Pleasant Street. The Commission also commented on the Crime Statistics report noting that numbers are up for the first three months in 2014. This will be closely monitored over the next few months. After review and discussion, Commissioner Tremblay made a motion to accept the March 2014 monthly reports, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Courtemanche and both Commissioners voted in favor of said motion.

- VII. Correspondence: The thank you letters from Vermont State Police thanking Accreditation Manager Wilmot for his assistance as they begin the Accreditation process were reviewed.

- VIII. Accreditation / Grants update: Accreditation Manager Wilmot continues to administer the COPS grants including finalizing approval for our most recent COPS grant that has allowed for re-deployment of the School Resource Officer. We were recently notified that we were not successful with our Dispatch Upgrade grant request through the State Homeland Security Grant Office. A.M. Wilmot continues to assist Valley Regional Hospital with planning for a civilian response to active shooter class scheduled to take place this spring at VRH.

- IX. Budget Update:
 - a. Police
 - b. 911

Overall percentages continue to track in an acceptable fashion. Chief Scott continues to work on finalizing the cruiser fleet purchase process. Final build dates are expected soon. Additionally, Chief Scott will be seeking bids for both equipment installation and graphics as well as for financing. Both are expected to be complete prior to the May meeting.

- X. Old Business: N/A

- XI. New Business: N/A

At 6:18 pm Commissioner Courtemanche made a motion to go into non-public session pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3, II (b), personnel, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tremblay and both Commissioners voted in favor of said motion.

XII. Public Session: The meeting returned to public session **at 6:32 pm**.

XIII. Set tentative meeting(s) Schedule for May 2014 meeting: The May 2014 Claremont Police Commission meeting was set for Wednesday, May 21st, 2014 at 5:30 pm at the Planning Office/Visitors Center on North Street. The Commissioners will also be attending the Employee Appreciation Banquet on May 15th, 2014 at 6:00 pm at Simply Comfort on Pleasant Street.

XIV. Adjourn: At 6:30 pm Commissioner Tremblay made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Courtemanche and both Commissioners voted in favor of said motion.

Public Minutes

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chief Scott', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Scott