City of Port Jervis Police Committee

September 3, 2013 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm with the following members in attendance: Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Belcher, Mr. Hendrick, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Oney.

Public Comment: No public comment received.

Chief's report:

1. Orange County Prescription Pain and Opiates Safety Task Force meeting scheduled for September 11, 2013 from 10am-12pm. The Chief of Police has been appointed as a member of the task force by the Hon. Edward Diana, County Executive, to study drug abuse in Orange County.
2. The joint patrols conducted by the Orange County Sheriff's Department and the Port Jervis Police have concluded for the year. The patrols were highly successful and well received by the public.
3. The Chief updated the committee regarding a probation compliance check held on August 23, 2013.
4. Back to School Safety Initiatives were discussed pertaining to school safety and pedestrian safety.
5. A review was conducted regarding the NYS SORA Laws and Sex Offender Registry.
6. The Department will begin the process of obtaining price quotes and purchasing equipment for the following major projects: Installation of cameras in patrol cars and radio communications system enhancements.
7. A Review of Fall Training activities:

- Crossing Guard In-Service
- Fall Firearms Qualification and Use of Force
- EVOC
- On-Line Training
- Dispatcher Training
- Civilian Employee CPR

8. The Chief requested the committee move a proposed IMA between the City and the County be approved for the acceptance of two Mobile Data Terminal Computers for two patrol vehicles valued at $10,000. IMA has been sent to Corporation Counsel for review. Items moved to the Common Council.
9. The Chief reported that the department will forward several candidates for appointment consideration for Police Clerk for Council consideration.
10. The Chief requested the approval of a prospective Intern from SUNY Orange to assist the department with Operation Pride be considered by the Council for approval. Item moved to next Common Council meeting.
11. A grant application for a funding opportunity with the Orange County Youth Bureau is due on September 13, 2013.
12. Crop Walk is being held on October 20, 2013.
13. Shop Rite "Bag for Hunger Campaign" – September 18, 2013. Officers will be bagging groceries for hunger and provide outreach.

14. The Chief apprised the committee of a potential problem with relation to future lieutenant candidates. A promotional civil service test is being offered on October 5, 2013 for the purposes of establishing an eligibility list for future promotions. Six out of seven sergeants are eligible to take the examination with a filing dead line of September 5, 2013. As this date, no candidates are expressing interest in taking the examination due to the base pay reduction associated with the position from Sergeant to Lieutenant. This condition may potentially present a problem with filling future lieutenant's vacancies from the sergeants ranks.

Committee Complaints-Updates:

The Chief advised the committee of a complaint received by a resident of Reservoir Avenue requesting a four way stop sign at the intersection with Reservoir and Hudson Street to address concerns of children playing in the road, traveling through the intersection with their bikes and speeding cars. The speed monitor will be deployed in the area to study speed conditions. The Chief reported that children must stop at the stop signs located at intersections with their bicycles.

Elizabeth Street/Ridge Avenue. All signs are in place. DPW applied line painting to further mark the no parking and fire hydrant locations on the west side of the street near the intersection with Ridge Avenue.

Water's Edge Traffic Light: The Chief reported that this complex intersection would require a traffic engineer to study. Mr. Oney reported that he brought the intersection complaint to the DPW Committee. Potential solutions include a pedestrian count down for the crosswalks, the addition of a crosswalk, and a left hand turn sensor. Complaint under review.

A complaint was discussed pertaining to an email memo sent from Mr. James Hendry, ESQ, to Councilman Robert Ritchie, pertaining to complaints received regarding the parking situation created during Cruise Night. The Committee will discuss the complaint at a later meeting.

The Chief advised the committee that several parking tickets have been issued to over limit parking occurring on upper Pike Street.

Committee Comments:

Mr. Oney inquired about communications (radio, phone) available to crossing guards while on post, and requested a traffic speed and count study be conducted of Stoll Street resulting from complaints of excessive traffic near the Stoll Street Hill.

Mr. Siegel reported complaints pertaining to persons operating electric wheel chairs in the roadway, parking on the sidewalk at PJ Tire, pedestrians walking in the middle of the street and vehicles failing to yield right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks. Mr. Siegel additionally reported a condition occurring on Bennett Street where tractor trailers are operating in the neighborhood possibly resulting from faulty GPS or the bridge.

Mr. Ritchie reported on a complaint of dogs defecating on the public properties located on Mary Street and Ferguson Avenue. Item to be referred to ACO Murray. Additional complaints reported include the dead end of Kellogg Avenue is dark and may need a street light, and problems involving disorderly youths in the area of Clark Street and Mount William Street, playing in street, skateboarding, destroying property.

Mr. Decker reported on an incident that occurred on the top of Pennsylvania Avenue due to street lighting and request that trees be trimmed to enhance lighting. Mr. Decker additionally inquired about the status of line painting at designated intersections (Kellogg / East Main and Ferguson and East Main Street).

Mr. Hendrick requested the speed monitor and attention to potential speeding issues on Erie Street during the times of 7am-8am, and reported that the road will soon be paved likely fostering additional problems related to speeding cars. Mr. Hendrick additionally reported that homeless persons are residing in a patch of wooded area located adjacent to the Heritage Trail located on Ferry Street / River Road and that the police have been patrolling the area.

Mr. Belcher requested patrols keep a watch of the Kellogg Avenue/Neversink Avenue intersection for cars speeding through the neighborhood attempting to circumvent the traffic signal located at Kingston and East Main Street.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

Respectfully Submitted,

William J. Worden

Chief of Police