

Minutes of the Hopkinton Police Commission Meeting of 8/11/2022

The meeting was called to order at 3:38 pm. Present: Chief Palmer, Captain Carrier, Geoff Cook, Howie Mills, myself, and Bob Marvel. No parties acknowledged their presence on the provided conference line.

Old Business:

1. Review of the past month's activity

Chief Palmer reported that there were six mental health calls; six dept. head reviews; two sudden deaths; and two overdoses, that were fielded last month. Chief attended a meeting with some of the local town's Police Chiefs to review body cam policies, and means of implementation. (specifically Chief Johnson, and LT. Arnold) HPD was also afforded a copy of Westerly's policy statement and is reviewing/vetting as we develop a process for Hopkinton.

E911 MOU: The department received three checks so far to cover the cost sharing agreement. One other dept. payment is imminent, and Ashaway Ambulance will follow after they have time to get organized following their recent funding update.

Chief made six awards to department personnel for exemplary service. Our newest officer is finishing up her field program and will be fully in independent service later this month on 8/15.

New Business

Bob Marvel informed the group that there is a communication group/feature that is part of the Town's new website called "Civic Ready", which provides multiple ways of providing communication to residents. Additionally, there is another means of communication called Code Red which is intended to be used primarily by EMA for emergency or urgent notifications (i.e. severe weather, etc.)

On the 911 number purchase and pricing, Sherri Desjardins had reported that a local vendor in town was still working on putting together a quote for us at this time.

It was also noted that the marijuana dispensary question, shall be on as a November ballot question, as indicated by the town council.

Personnel retention: A discussion of issues the department is faced with regarding retention of employees was had. There is a lot of pressure from other departments in town's with more substantial tax bases, and smaller departments in the state can have difficulty competing. Other considerations include the fact that the Police academy alone costs the town \$30k pp. in addition to other training expenses. (relative to the costs of replacing an officer)

Phil made a motion supporting the Chief's efforts to work with local union representatives (HPD) to find ways forward to minimize the gaps in equity, and hopefully set up HPD to become more in parity. The motion was seconded by Howard, and the motion passed.

The commission also reviewed the minutes of 7/14/22. Geoff Cook made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Mills. The motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 4:50 pm by Howie, seconded by Geoff, and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted for review

Phil Scalise  9/8/22

Hopkinton Police Commission