

Minutes of the Hopkinton Police Commission Meeting of 4/13/2023

The meeting was called to order at 3:31pm. Present: Chief Palmer, Howie Mills, Geoff Cook and Phil Scalise. No parties acknowledged their presence on the provided conference line.

Old Business: Review of the past two month's activity

Chief Palmer reported from the March docket, that the dept. responded to ten mental health calls, with four arrests resulting. There were four dui's last month, which is an uptick in the 1-2/mo. that the dept. had been encountering. On 3/8 Det. Ahern and Forbes went to Smithfield PD to accept our accreditation award, the culmination of a huge effort by many in the dept. The 'dogs for donuts' event was very well attended at the Crandall House Rec. center. Also the "Plunge" was very well supported. Mac Hindle and six other officers supported the worthy cause – among them were Chief, Alex Boulais, and our two newest recruits, Sam Kershaw and Ryan Ahern. In other commemorations, it was noted that it was local Police Chief Elwood Johnson's tenth year of service to that town, and that event was duly noted. There was a report of an atv on public roads. An initial attempt to apprehend was made, but was not pursued as mandated in dept. policy due to safety concerns. Later he was contacted as his place of residence, was brought in to the station and charged.

There was one "swatting" issue 3/27 where 19 schools were called with false bomb scares. The missing person noted in last month's minutes was found in CA but has now returned to RI under her own cognizance. There was one suicidal subject the dept. responded to on two consecutive days; there were no sudden deaths, and no od's. One of the dui's noted above came in to the station voluntarily to discuss treatment options through the "Hope project"

911 numbering Project Status: The dept. has a supply of numbers and will begin distribution. Chief placed this latest batch of numbers on the station to verify adhesion and durability.

New Business: Body worn cameras are working very well. The above noted atv arrest was entirely captured on body cam footage. There were a couple minor technical issues where the micro switch that activates the cameras doesn't activate, but the issue is being addressed by Axiom and should be rectified soon.

Both new officers are in fire arms training and are on schedule to be in service at the end of May. The issue noted last month with the surveillance cameras have the battery backups in place now, and that issue is resolved.

The minutes of 3/09/23 were reviewed. Det. Mills made a motion to accept them as presented, the motion was seconded by Geof Cook and the motion carried. .

In other updates, the latest new police car is back from outfitting, and is now in service.

Employee Retention: Not covered at this meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 4:40 pm by Geoff, seconded by Howard, and the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted for review

Philip Scalise, Secretary,

Hopkinton Police Commission

