

CITY OF LOCKPORT
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING – OFFICIAL RECORD

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Monday, July 6th, 2020 - 5:30pm

Present: Commissioners Cheryl Brown, Mark Devine, Flora Hawkins, Thomas Murphy, Timothy Walsh. **Also present:** Police Chief Steve Abbott, Mayor Michelle Roman, Deputy Corporation Counsel Pat McGrath, City Clerk Paul Oates

Meeting called to order by F. Hawkins at 5:32pm

Motion by C. Brown to approve the minutes of the May 26th, 2020 meeting, seconded by M. Devine. Motion passed.

Chief Abbott's Report:

- One officer is out with flu-like symptoms and is awaiting test results. All Covid-19 protocols are still in place. The detectives are back to work. The Records Clerk has self-quarantined after travelling out of state on vacation.
- LPD spent \$166,000 in overtime for the period Jan. 1 thru June 30, 2019. For the same time frame in 2020, overtime spending was down to \$104,000. This will probably go up now that summer vacations are underway. As of last week, the overtime wheel has been in place. It will rotate through the force, giving the younger officers a chance to work overtime, as well. Chief Abbott was asked if this affected the contract, and he replied, "no, it's not contractual. The union is on board with it."
- There is a new Use of Force policy out through Lexipol and it includes all the statutes—what can and can't be done. Chief Abbott is working on getting all other policies done by the end of August. LPD purchased a program about a week and a half ago that will track the use of force. The program allows it to be broken down in many different ways. It is being installed this week. The cost was a one-time fee of \$3,700.

Niagara Falls Police and the Niagara County Sheriff's Department also have it.

- Looking into the, 'Stop It' Complaint Reporting System. Cost would be \$3,000 per year. It's in the form of a free app. Chief Abbott has been testing the demo version, and says he thinks it would be advantageous for the department. It might be worthwhile to try it for a year. 'Stop It' was originally developed as a stop bullying program, and over 7,000 schools currently use it. It would be one more tool for the department to use, and might make residents more likely to come forward with information. Chief Abbott was asked if it would help with accreditation, and he replied, "I think so. It certainly couldn't hurt." The board agreed that the Chief should look into it further.
- The latest CompStat report shows 172 case reports filed in June, 2020, down 10 from June, 2019. There were 33 arrests (down 20 from a year ago), no warrants served, 3 rapes, 2 robberies, 2 aggravated assaults, 7 burglaries, 33 larcenies. Domestic violence is still up—there were 62 in June, a 59% increase over the same month last year. There were 9 shots fired calls, up from 3 last June. The Chief was asked if they're all from the same area and he responded that these were from Genesee, Locust, and John Streets.
- Chief Abbott referred to the new subcommittee for policy review. Mayor Roman explained that it was created as the result of a directive from Governor Cuomo. The Subcommittee on Police Policy Review will hold its first meeting July 20th, 2020 at 5:30pm. The subcommittee will be: two members of the common council, two representatives of the Police Board, two reps of the Human Relations Commission, two reps from the police union, as well as the Police Chief, Community Police Aide, Deputy Corporation Counsel, the Mayor, and the Civil Service/Personnel Director.

6:13pm: Motion by T. Murphy to begin executive session to discuss personnel matters. Seconded by M. Devine. Approved.

6:37pm: Motion by M. Devine to end executive session. Seconded by C. Brown. Approved.

6:40pm: Motion by C. Brown to adjourn. Seconded by F. Hawkins.

Chief Abbott will invite psychologist, Dr. Jay Suprick, to attend the next board meeting in August.

The next scheduled meeting of the City of Lockport Board of Police Commissioners is Monday, August 3rd at 5:30pm.

**Respectfully,
Paul K. Oates
City Clerk**

CC: Police Board, Chief Abbott, Mayor Roman, Common Council and Corporation Counsel