RUTLAND TOWN SELECTBOARD POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 11th, 2026

The Police Committee of the Rutland Town Selectboard met at 4:30 PM on Wednesday November 11th, 2026, at the Municipal Town Hall. Present were Selectboard Chair Mary Ashcroft, Selectboard Member Matt Getty, Town Police Chief Ted Washburn, Town Deputy Police Chief Jimmy Plakas, and Town 2nd Constable John Paul Faignant.

Discussed the depreciation account rate and Cortina Settlement account.

1. With the current rate of contribution, the next cruiser, which is due to be replaced in 2028, is planned to come from that account. No adjustment is requested.
2. No other large expenses to come from that account are planned. The only other special expenditure is south end patrols during the holiday season. This comes from the Cortina Settlement account as well.
3. The directed patrols last year were approximately $6900. This year is projected to go up to $8000 due to the increased compensation rates. The committee is in favor of this and will recommend to the full Board approving the request for a cost of up to $8000.

Discussed the cruiser use policy

1. There is a policy in place now.
2. Officers currently take cruisers home.
3. The Chiefs manage the assignments and adjustments as needed.

Discussed a pay scale, compensation, and sign on bonuses

1. A proposed step scale system was given to the committee.
2. The scale was initially developed off the $34 per hour rate approved by the Board.
3. A step would be $.75 per hour per year to account for years of service. Any cost-of-living adjustment the Board approves would be separate and in addition to this amount.
4. This assumes 2080 hours per year.
5. There was extensive discussion on the pay scale.
6. The scale would also apply to the admin position. Our current admin has plans to retire this coming year. A candidate had been interested but recently withdrew their name from consideration. Our current admin intends to stay on because of this.
7. If the step plus COLA calculation were applied to the draft budget it would represent a departmentwide compensation increase of $85,779.20. This number does not include any of the associated benefit costs. The only position open in the department is the School Resource Officer. An additional position, the expense of which is to be covered by funds received from Walmart, is not included in this. The annual initial cost is approximately $142626.40 including projected insurance costs.
8. Discussed how to account for the compensation plus benefits for this additional position.

Discussed the long-range plan for the K9 program and the drone.

1. K9 Rooster is doing very well.
2. A large portion of the upfront costs were donated, including the dog himself.
3. While the K9 team is called often for work outside the town, the average time spent on site is brief, around 10 minutes.
4. The drone resource has also been called for use out of town, but not very often.

5. The State Police have a drone as well and it is called primarily. Ours can be called a backup.

Reviewed the contract with Motorola for body and in-car cameras

1. Our current 5-year contract is up March of 2028.
2. They have given us a proposal for a 5-year renewal which is $47,647 total up from $42,500.
3. The cost per year now is approximately $8500. The new total would be $9529 and continues to include unlimited storage.
4. Body cameras are replaced by them as part of the agreement every 30 months.
5. New in-car cameras are not provided under the contract. Our department purchases the systems separately and they store the video.
6. An adjustment to the equipment line will be included to reflect the new cost.
7. A $2500 one-time charge is required with the new contract, but this reduces the overall balance for the contract.
8. The renewal is due to Motorola by December 11th. This will be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Reviewed expenses to be included in the FY28 budget.

1. With the fleet of vehicles changing over to newer models, fuel expenses are down and maintenance is less expensive due to our responsibility being routine maintenance costs and any major repairs needed are likely covered by manufacturer warranty.
2. Health insurance totals are being projected, 3 of the current department staff are taking the buyout option.
3. Discussed anticipated income. SRO reimbursement would be up approximately $6000. Funds coming from the Walmart project will need to be accounted for. The projection for reports will be the same.
4. Supplies and uniforms would be up due to the potential hire of 2 additional officers.
5. An increase in training was proposed to include the proposed new total number of officers.
6. Health insurance is projected at $220,000 accounting for the current staff selections with some taking the buyout, and the potential new hires.
7. An increase in the K9 line was proposed. This is to ensure Rooster is getting the proper care, and this line has not increased since the inception of the program.
8. There are overtime costs for patrol and other work which is reimbursable.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.
Respectfully submitted, Bill Sweet