

New Boston Police Department 2009

The New Boston Police Department met all but one of its goals for 2009. We conducted a community survey to get the communities pulse on how we were providing services and where we could improve. We conducted an open house to provide the community an opportunity to meet our officers, showcase our equipment and answer any questions the community might have. The Community Emergency Response team has been initiated and members are trained. We have decided to forgo the last goal of CALEA accreditation for budgetary reasons. In addition to our goals we saw the completion of our new radio repeater, provided us through a federal grant. These tasks were completed despite the heavy work load experienced by all our employees.

Your police department continues to face challenges at every turn; the economy, doing more with less and officer retention to name a few. Our biggest challenge continues to be officer retention. The challenges for young officers working in a small community can be daunting. Our officers don't just answer calls and move on as in most larger agencies, but rather they investigate, conduct interviews / interrogations to determine if a crime has been committed and if probable cause exists for an arrest, and then complete affidavits and warrants. All the while, the officer juggles a hefty case load and is required to complete daily tasks such as traffic enforcement, directed patrols and building security checks. Officers are also assigned other tasks such as motor vehicle maintenance, evidence officer, DARE and many other job tasks. Our officers met these challenges and it reflects in the department statistics.

As you will read in the following pages, we experienced a 24% decrease in motor vehicle stops, but on the converse, there was 65% increase in Criminal complaints. Criminal complaints are often the most time intensive. There is a 30% increase in service related calls with an over all increase of calls for service at a 13% as compared to 2008.

This past year we welcomed entry level officer Justin Pearse. Justin graduated from the New Hampshire Police Academy in July of 2009, completed field training and went on solo status in November. In December we filled the additional position provided us in the 2008 budget by hiring entry level officer Justin Fournier. Justin is currently attending recruit training at New Hampshire Police Academy and is scheduled to graduate April 9, 2010. Unfortunately Sergeant Frank Kochanek resigned from his position as Executive Officer for personal reasons. He will be missed and we wish him success in his future endeavors. As a result of this vacancy I have promoted Corporal Richard Widener to Sergeant to fill the vacancy of the Executive Officer.

As I have reported to the selectmen, we will always struggle with officer retention as it is hard to compete with larger agencies. We currently have a three-year training agreement contract in place to help combat this. This contract helps ensure that we retain the officer for a period of three years from the date the recruit goes on solo status.

This agency has made a valiant attempt at becoming accredited. Many of the plant and operating procedure changes and improvements were made to stay current with accreditation standards. After much deliberation and in light of our budget constraints, we have decided to postpone this effort indefinitely. I want to assure the community that despite not having the title; this agency has been and will continue to meet the same standards required that of an accredited agency. Currently this will save \$9,000.00.

I am happy to report that the 2007 Homeland Security Communication Interoperability Grant (\$28,000.00) we were awarded to install a new repeater is complete. It is in operation and has provided much improved radio communications particularly in our dead spots. With this improvement we were also able to meet federal mandates that would require us to be digital by 2013, thus saving the community money for these future upgrades.

In collaboration with The Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management, Daniel MacDonald and the New Hampshire Volunteer Corps, we have started a Citizen Emergency Response Team. The Team is headed by the Director William Thompson and it is comprised of fifteen trained volunteer responders. This team supplements Police and Fire personnel so our emergency services can be better utilized during an emergency. We have utilized their services several times

throughout this past year. The New Boston CERT has recently been certified as a non-profit and can accept donations. If you would like to join New Boston's CERT Team or donate funds, contact myself, Fire Chief MacDonald or Director William Thompson (wp.thomson@comcast.net). I applaud William and all the members for their service to the community. Thanks to the community for the continued support you have shown your police department. We look forward to serving you further in 2010. Should you have any question, concerns or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me or one of my officers.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher L. Krajenka
Chief of Police