

**Wolfeboro Police Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2024**

Members present: Chairman Shawn Coope, Commissioner Steve Wood and Commissioner Kevin Duffy

Staff present: Chief Chris Warn, Captain Mark Livie, and Recording Secretary Sherri Moore

Chairman Coope called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Coope entertained the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consideration of Minutes

Chairman Coope entertained a motion to accept the February 15, 2024, minutes as written.

Commissioner Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to accept the February 15, 2024, public minutes as written. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Members voted, all in favor, the motion passed.

Captain's Items

None

Activity Reports

Captain Livie reported on the following activity reports for the month of February:

Incidents: He reported a decrease in the number of incidents, with 31 incidents from the previous month.

Offenses by month: He reported 41 offenses for the month.

Arrest status report: He reported a total of 11 arrests for the month, which is a decrease of 10% in arrests from the previous month.

Collisions report: He reported a decrease for the month; there were 10 collisions.

Traffic stops report: He reported 152 traffic stops, an increase from last month, and 21 tickets were issued out of those stops...which equates to a 13.82% chance of receiving a ticket.

Personnel Analysis report: The report is a synopsis of each officer's activity for the month.

School Resource Officers (SRO): Report read into minutes. See attached.

Chief's Items

Chief Warn shared that he is still getting used to the meeting format. His intent is to share what he has experienced since the last meeting. He has had ongoing conversations with folks from Town – finding out concerns, comments etc. He attended the deliberative session, the candidate's night, and polling (voting) day. He went on to share that the Town went to a default budget, and the police department is working diligently on the budget. Some other meetings the Chief shared that he attended were: the County Chiefs' monthly meeting and he held his first department meeting on March 11th. He feels it was well attended and went well. Since that time (and before) he has taken time to speak to each employee one-on-one. Outside of the police department he met with Chairman Coope and newly re-elected selectmen, Paul O'Brien. He has also had several meetings with the Town Manager regarding budgets and expectations. The meetings have gone really well, and he wants to be available to the department heads. Also, the department had candidate testing and that worked out well...offered one offer of conditional employment. Lastly, the Chief will be publishing the department policies (S.O.P.'s) next week on the department webpage. That came to be by way of a 91-A (right-to-know) request. Most of the policies are public information but some will be redacted. As the new policies get signed off by the Commissioners, the old policies will be removed and replaced with the current policies.

Chairman Coope asked the Chief if the Commission needs to take a vote on publishing the S.O.P.'s to the website.

Chief Warn replied that they don't because it's public information.

Commissioner's Items

Chairman Coope shared that over the last couple weeks he has learned how public meetings (such as the Commission meeting) get released to the public. He asked Jake Cantrall, the cameraman from Wolfeboro Community TV, how quickly does a video get released when recorded at the library.

Jake Cantrall replied that it can take up to a week. However, when recorded live it is almost the day after.

Chairman Coope shared that in thinking for enhanced transparency that the meetings should be switched to the Great Hall so information could get out quicker.

Commissioner Wood asked Jake if that would speed things up?

Jake Cantrall responded yes it would if we record live...due to the technology that is at the Great Hall it is faster process because they have all the equipment there.

Commissioner Wood inquired about availability of the Great Hall.

Sherri Moore shared that the Great Hall is available...she had contacted Amy...it's available for the rest of the year on the second Thursday.

Chairman Coope also shared about keeping the meetings consistent with other Town meetings to also change the time to 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Duffy shared that the motivation to change the meeting time is to afford the public (more) opportunity to attend.

Chairman Coope shared yes and to give people who may work the opportunity to attend because 4:00 pm may be tough.

Commissioner Wood shared that the Commission use to meet at 6:00 pm...years back he had inquired about why the meeting time was changed but did not get any clear and concise reasons why. He agrees that 6:00 pm is a good time.

Chairman Coope entertained a motion to change the meetings to the second Thursday, next meeting will be April 11, 2024, at the Great Hall at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Wood seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

The next Police Commission meeting is Thursday, April 11th, at 6:00 pm in the Great Hall at Town Hall.

Chairman Coope shared another issue he wanted to bring up is for the public's ability to email or call a member of the Commission, or if they have a 91-A request or get on the agenda. He wants to have a clear concise way, so nothing is missed. He asked Chief Warn what the process looks like at the Police Department.

Chief Warn shared the process for the public for getting information from the Police Department. A form is required to request information (to include a 91-A request). When it comes to 91-A it is necessary for the request to be specific to limit looking through volumes and volumes of information. The form also helps to keep track of 91-A's – helpful for record keeping. Other than that, if someone wants to speak to the Captain or the Chief the information typically goes through Dispatch.

Commissioner Wood shared currently if you want to get on the agenda you have to reach out to the Captain, Chief or a Commissioner. He thinks it would be good to change that, to contact Sherri.

Chairman Coope shared that having one person as a point of contact – Sherri, it will help to make sure nothing is missed. It will go to her and then she will reach out to specific person from there as needed.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to update the Rules of Procedure for the Commission, regarding a meeting contact and 91-A requests to include Sherri (Commission Secretary) as a resource, a point of contact.

Chairman Coope asked the Chief sees any conflict with that?

Chief Warn shared that he would just ask that he in the Captain or any sworn officer be removed from Commission's arrangements.

Chairman Coope said that they will, and it would go directly to Sherri.

Sherri Moore read from the current instructions on the agenda and shared that the Chief and Captain will be removed that language.

Commissioner Duffy asked if contacting Sherri would be email or phone or both?

Sherri Moore shared that she can put “during the hours of such and such” and give the police number. As well as her email address.

Chairman Coope asked Chief Warn if he could brief everyone on the RSA 106-L - police conduct complaint procedures to the State.

Chief Warn asked with regard to 91-A. He didn't have it in front of him but gave an explanation...sharing that any complaint, criminal or misconduct, needs to go to Concord for review/investigation. The investigation is not a public document during that time. At the end of the investigation, they are limited to what they can do (the police conduct review committee). They are limited to exonerate and up to de-certification...like being disbaring or removing a medical license. Once the investigation is returned to the Town it then falls under 91-A requirements...some information is redacted, and some is released.

Chairman Coope asked that the Citizens Review Committee, what they control is certification and nothing at a municipal level.

Chief Warn affirmed that question and said it would be up to the Police Commission.

Chairman Coope inquired about the police department becoming accredited and when it does will the policy need to be updated?

Chief Warn reviewed that the 2.5 policy in the S.O.P.s that stands was updated back in June because of the response to the Police Academy's requirements. Any change to that would be slight because it was created out of the joint workings of the Attorney General's office and the Police Academy...and taking into consideration the RSA. Some of the language may need some cleaning up for the benefit of the officers' understanding.

Questions from the Press

None

Board of Selectmen's Representative

None

Budget Committee's Representative

Tom Bell shared that his understanding is that the Selectmen and Town Manager are working with the departments on the default budget. The Budget Committee is standing down during the process but if we have any questions or need anything to let him know.

Public Comment

Police Union members, Patrick Spera (President) and Kenneth Paul (Vice President), came to the Commission as a follow up to the February meeting.

Commissioner Wood shared that he had something to read to them. See attached.

Patrick Spera reminded the Commission that it was agreed upon during negotiations, but the Commission failed to do it.

Commissioner Wood shared that he felt both parties are guilty and reviewed what has happened over the last year. Feeling that both parties let it slip through the wayside.

Patrick Spera shared that they brought items for the Commissioners to review and respected all the other things that have gone on. He desired to stay on the task at hand.

Commissioner Duffy offered to get back to the task at hand and come up with a date.

Patrick Spera and Kenneth Paul, both clarified it was supposed to be tonight.

Patrick Spera shared expectations of getting something back tonight. His concern is that the Union will be going into negotiations, and they want to have decisions made.

Chairman Coope shared that he wanted to clarify that he and Commissioner O'Brien did meet with the Union, but it was brief. Then with all that occurred within the department it took the Commissioners in a different direction.

Chief Warn asked at the conclusion of the meeting if we could have the Union members come to the non-public meeting to discuss.

It was decided and agreed by the Commission members and Union members for them to hang around and come back in during the non-public meeting.

Being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Wood entertained a motion to enter non-public session to discuss RSA 91-A: 3, II (I) legal advice.

Commissioner Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to enter into non-public session RSA 91-A: 3, II (I) legal advice. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Roll call vote: Kevin Duffy – yes, Steve Wood – yes, and Shawn Coope-yes, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 6:17 P.M.

Commissioner Wood entertained a motion to seal the Non-Public Minutes.

Chairman Coope moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to seal the Non-Public Minutes. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Roll Call vote: Shawn Coope – yes, Steve Wood – yes, and Kevin Duffy-yes, the motion passed.

Chairman Coope entertained a motion to re-enter non-public session to discuss RSA 91-A: 3, II (b).

Commissioner Duffy moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to re-enter into non-public session RSA 91-A: 3, II (b). Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll call vote: Kevin Duffy – yes, Steve Wood – yes, and Shawn Coope-yes, the motion passed.

The Commission re-entered public session at 6:32 P.M.

Commissioner Duffy entertained a motion to seal the Non-Public Minutes.

Chairman Coope moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to seal the Non-Public Minutes. Commissioner Wood seconded. Roll Call vote: Shawn Coope – yes, Steve Wood – yes, and Kevin Duffy-yes, the motion passed.

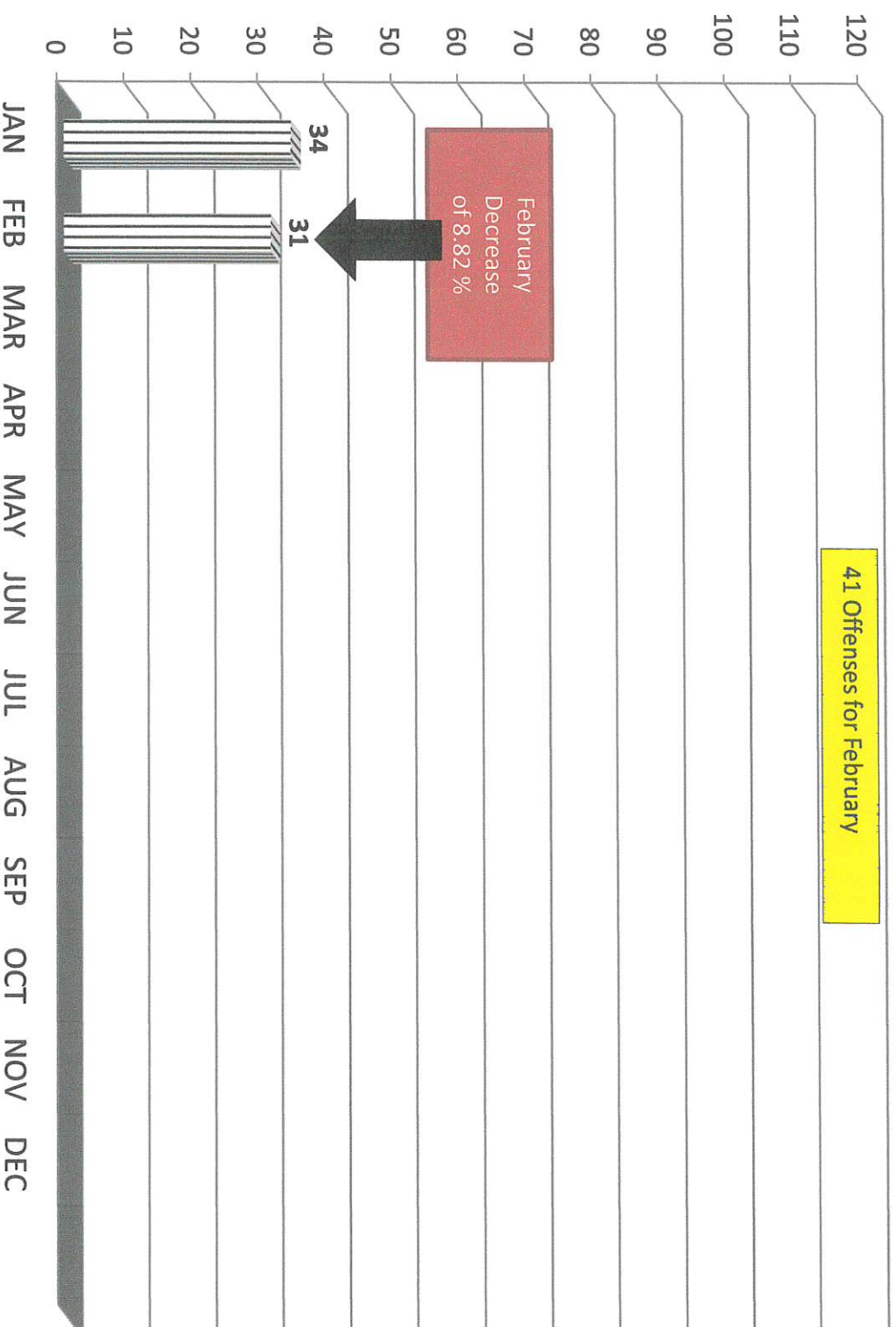
Being no further business before the Commission, Chairman Coope entertained a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Wood moved the Wolfeboro Police Commission to adjourn at 6:33 P.M. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Being none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherri Moore

INCIDENTS (CASES) YTD 2024

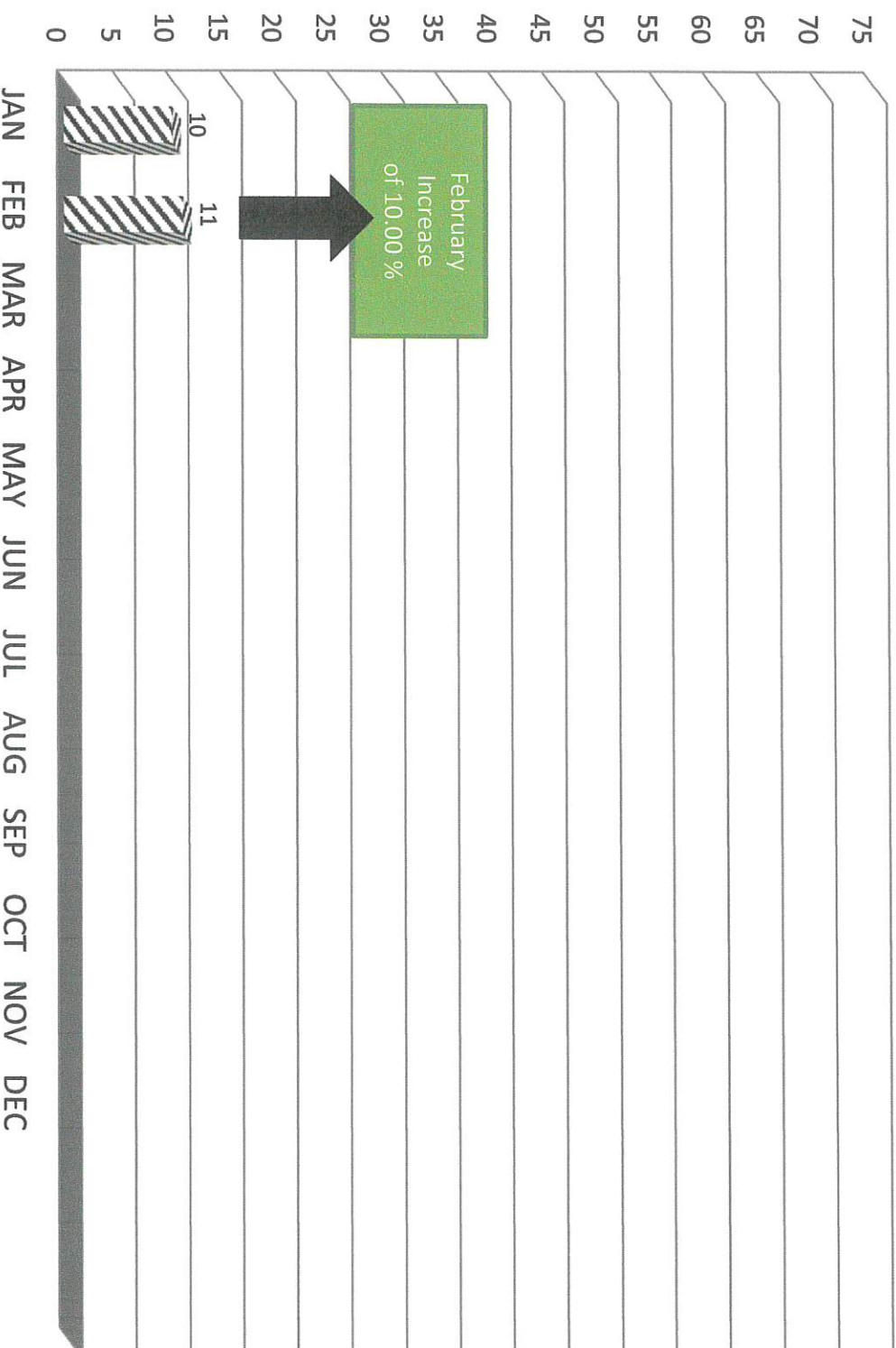


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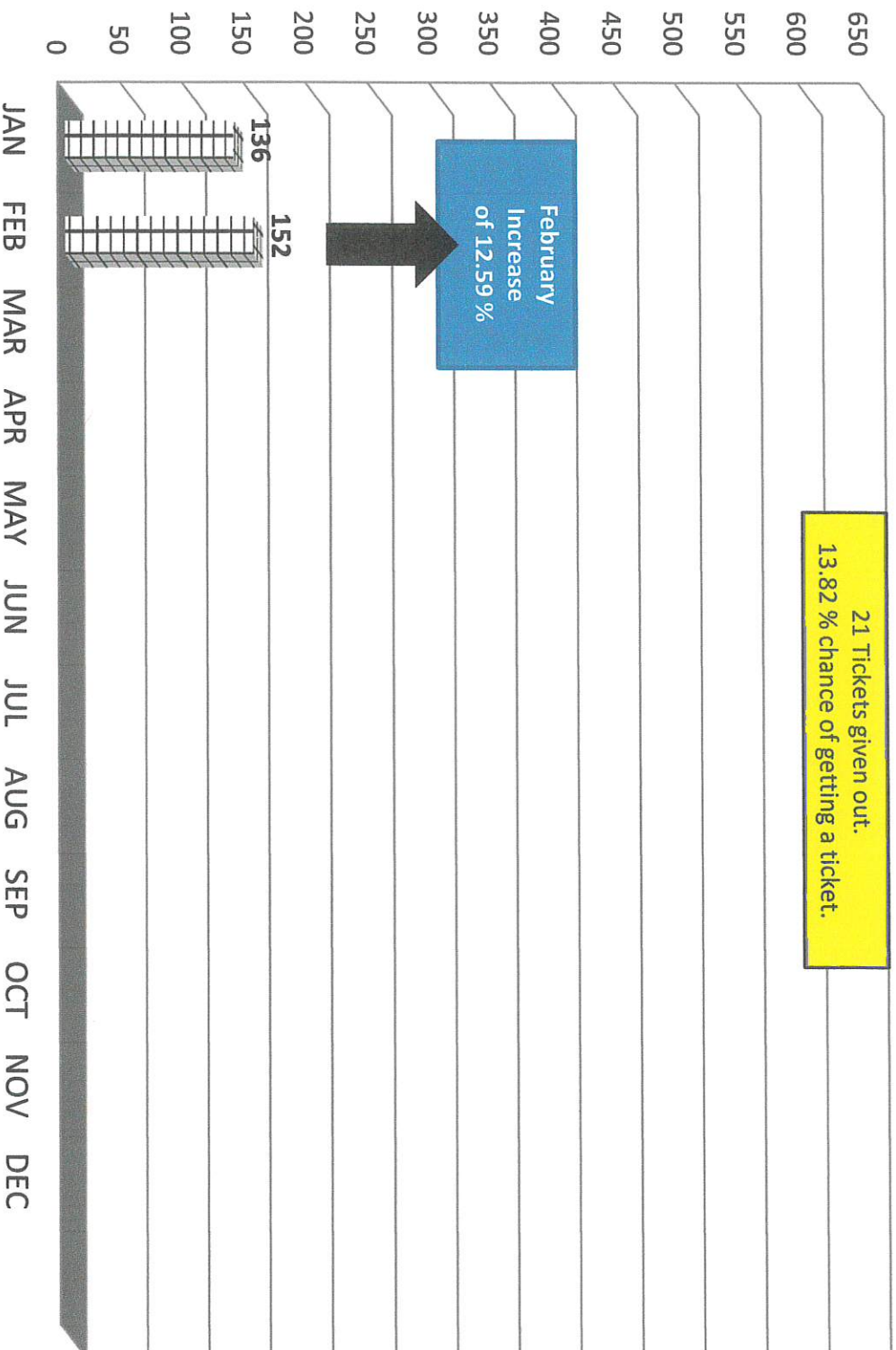
Offenses (State Law) By Month

	<u>FEB</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Simple Assault; Physical Conta	3	3
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; ASSAULT	1	1
DV; Simple Assault; BI or PC	1	1
DV; False Imprisonment	1	1
DV; Obstructing Report of Crim	1	1
Criminal Threatening - Conduct	3	3
Criminal Threatening - conduct	1	1
Unauthorized Use	1	1
Theft by Deception \$1501+	3	3
Identity Fraud; Pose as Anothe	2	2
Criminal Mischief	2	2
Loitering or Prowling	1	1
Disorderly Conduct	1	1
DUI - impairment	1	1
Criminal Trespass	3	3
Violation of Protective Order	1	1
Violation of Protective Order	1	1
Manufacture/Possess False Govt	1	1
Negligt Discharge/Gun, Bow,et	1	1
Dog at Large	2	2
Bench Warrants	1	1
Breach of Bail	1	1
Stalking; Domestic Violence; O	1	1
Resist Arrest/Detention	1	1
Involuntary Emergency Admissio	1	1
Suspension of Vehicle Registra	1	1
Drive after Rev/Sus	1	1
Drive after Rev/Suspension	1	1
Conduct After Accident	1	1
Duty to Report	1	1
TOTALS	41	41

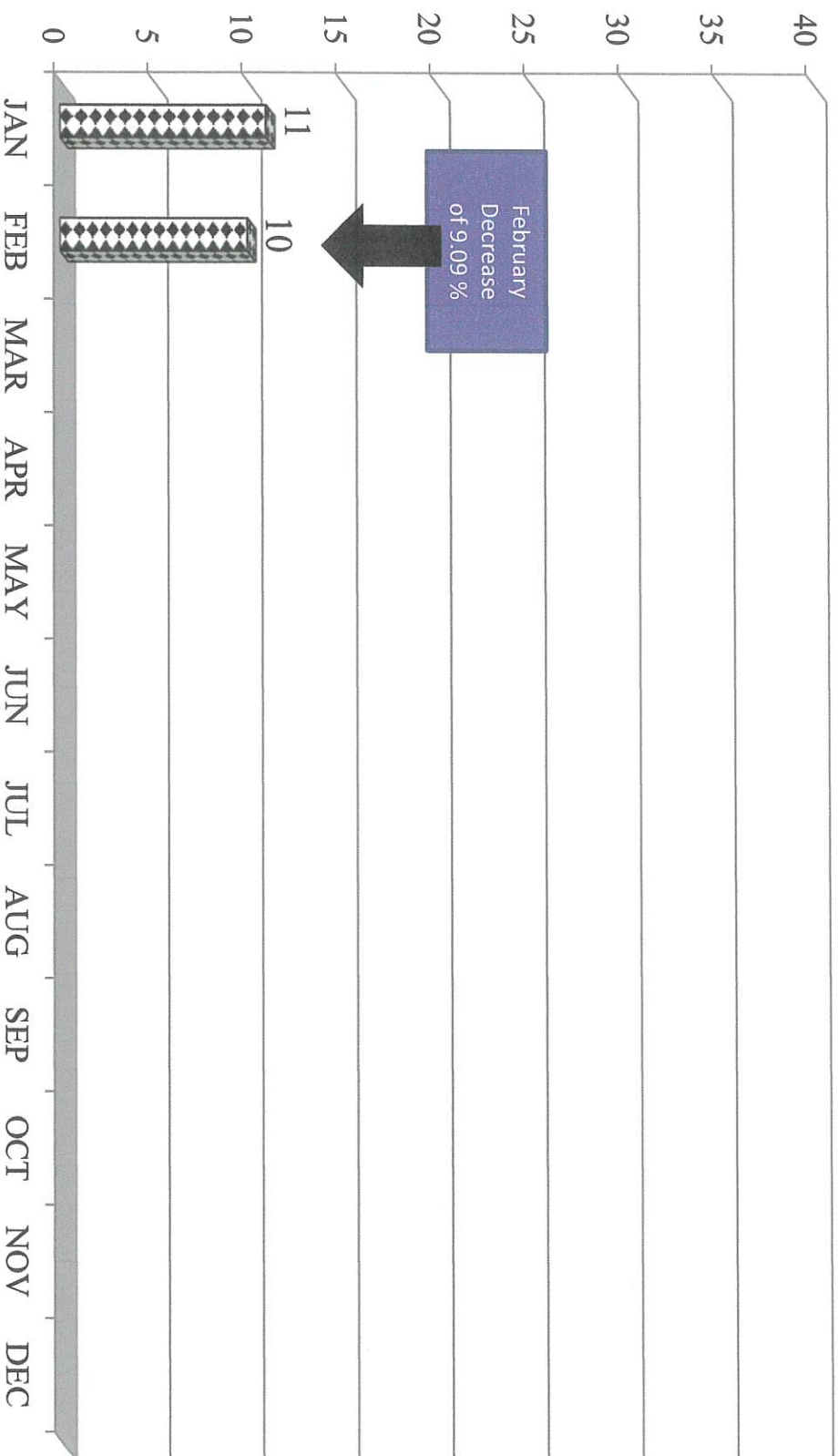
ARRESTS YTD 2024



TRAFFIC STOPS YTD 2024



COLLISIONS YTD 2024



WOLFEBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER ERIC LAROCHELLE

MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 2024

February was the sixth month of school for SRO Eric LaRochelle with seventeen days (17) days of school. This month included February vacation for the last week of the month. SRO LaRochelle responded to several incidents in Middle School and High School as SRO Mary Gabrielli was placed on light duty, and Corporal Joseph Shanks was out for medical reasons.

SRO LaRochelle learned of a disruption during school drop off between a high school student and her father. SRO LaRochelle notified the guidance department who interviewed the student.

SRO LaRochelle worked as a resource with High School staff and spoke with a parent about having a CHINS (Child in Need of Services) petition placed for a high school student.

While off duty, SRO LaRochelle worked with Wolfeboro PD duty units when it was learned that a Middle School student had made threats about violence at the school. SRO LaRochelle worked with the Ossipee Police Department where the student lives, contacted the student's parents, and stayed in contact with school officials. After determining that the threats were not credible, the student received school discipline and did not receive police charges.

SRO LaRochelle had a lengthy conversation with a high school student that didn't want to return home. The student was found to be in a safe environment with a biological parent and was just angry. SRO LaRochelle counselled the student about how she needed to stay with her parents and spoke at length about the complications of being a runaway juvenile.

SRO LaRochelle responded to a disorderly Middle School student that was halting all business functions in the main office. Peace was restored, and the student received school discipline.

SRO LaRochelle was called to the High School Administrative wing to take a domestic violence report from a student. It was learned during the interview that the student had been assaulted by her mother at their residence. Because the residence was not in Wolfeboro, the information was given to the police department with jurisdiction and DCYF was notified.

SRO LaRochelle continues to make efforts to eat lunch with seventh and eighth grade students to build relations, answer questions, and encourage dialogue between certain cliques of students that don't typically interact with each other. As well as attending student drop off and talk to and encourage students throughout the day.

During February break, SRO LaRochelle completed the 16-hour course "Following the Evidence in Child Abuse and Child Exploitation Cases."

During the February break SRO LaRochelle, along with other members of the Wolfeboro PD, and assistance of the Belknap County Special Operations Group (BCSOG), conducted a search warrant on a Wolfeboro residence. The search warrant was the result of information given to SRO LaRochelle from a Crescent Lake School student and a Middle School student. The case is still ongoing.

Union Talking Points

Sgt. Pat Spera, Sgt. Mike Strauch, Dispatchers Ken Paul and Jim Savage, you gentlemen identify as the Union Executive Board representing NEPBA Local #39. Are all Local #39 members aware that you're here today? Was there a vote taken? Were they aware of your attendance here last month, your agenda, the Notice read to the Commission by Jim Savage, the letter from your NEPBA representative and was there a vote taken of the Union body supporting your actions? No, to all.

The letter from your NEPBA rep addressed to me personally, dated January 5, 2024, as I was then the Commission Chair. I received a photocopy of the letter, not the original that was supposedly sent to me, and not until February 15th at our last meeting. No one received the original although I suspect it was emailed to one of you who held onto it until the February meeting. I know the letter is real as I spoke to your rep on the phone this morning. Why was it not provided to me prior to February 15th Commission meeting? Do one of you possess the original? It said the Town Manager was cc'd but did not receive the letter either. He now has a copy as I personally sent it to him.

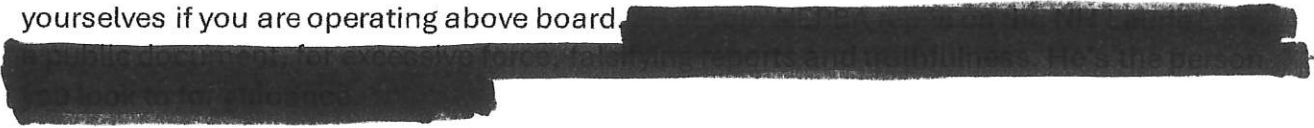
The Petition Warrant Article to disband the Police Commission was written by one of you, and I do know who that is. It was submitted anonymously but certainly by the same individual. We had the list of those who signed in support of the article shortly after it was submitted. Those names are public information, and we were able to immediately determine that the article came from a certain faction within the department. Interestingly, but not surprisingly, none of you spoke in support of the article at the Town Deliberative Session. We are also aware of other actions by some of you to push out your narrative and propaganda, seeking support from the public. The Facebook page "Wolfeboro Police Union Local 39" was created by one of you prior to the town vote. One such posting remains on the page linking our last meeting and how people should vote. Another post which I read as it's a public page went further to discredit the Commission, we were causing good officers to leave, and suggested the voters vote to disband the Commission but that post was removed in short order. The public would certainly perceive that the Facebook page represents the Union as a whole, but you and I both know the union body was not solicited for their approval. In fact, the Union has not been polled for their support for many of the actions taken by the Union Executive Board in recent weeks and months.

It is my firm belief that the four of you gentlemen are operating as rogue unit, weaponizing the "union" to push forth your agenda. I believe this because you lack the full support of the union body for your actions as they are not aware of the actions you have been undertaking.

It is also my understanding that all the votes that have been taken by the Union are invalid since the voting platform was changed a few years ago. Your NEPBA rep advised this

morning that they give union locals a great deal of latitude to conduct their business provided their actions don't violate the Locals bylaws, NEPBA bylaws, and state and federal laws. To change a voting platform for a local, the Union Executive team must solicit approval by the local union body after presenting the proposed change, with the majority approving the change by their vote. The change in voting procedure for Local #39 was not done legally whether you are aware or not.

You came here last month to publicly discredit the Police Commission, before the Town vote, claiming we are guilty of not bargaining in good faith. Based on your actions as a group operating "outside" of the union body, I suggest you look in the mirror and ask yourselves if you are operating above board.



We are willing to sit down with you and discuss Article #5 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and I expect that you four will start to represent the entire local membership as they expect and are entitled. I spent 35 years as a union member, 25 of those were as a union steward. I am well aware of proper union operations, and what I have witnessed does not compare. I certainly hope that will change. If it doesn't, I will exercise my right as a citizen to submit a petition warrant article for 2025 to disband Local #39 and I will stand before the voters and state my reasoning.