

This is sum of the information that was available in a handout at the Deliberative Town Meeting February 1, 2014

The purpose of this summary is to inform the Board of Selectmen and the Budget Committee of the types of crimes and quality of life complaints the police department has investigated over the last nine years. Because of the type of activity Rye has had through those nine years, I am recommending an additional officer in 2014. I make this recommendation in order to ensure the police department will be able to keep up with the increased calls for service, severity of crime, number of arrests caused by a rapidly growing use of our beaches, increased year around population and roads and the increase of quality of life complaints by residents.

The police department has a staff of nine full time officers, five part time officers, five part time parking enforcement employees, one part time animal control officer and one full time secretary. For approximately fourteen years, the police department has operated at this level of staffing. If one full time officer is added, it will bring our staffing level to that of other agencies of comparable size and activity in the State. For us to continue at the current level of staffing, we are placing officers and residents in danger.

On 08/06/04 at approximately 4:10 AM Officer Blais responded to a residential burglar alarm. When he arrived at the home, he found someone had forced their way into the home, making this the fifth residential burglary in two weeks. During one of the burglaries, a female was asleep while her home was being invaded. Because there was only one Rye Officer on duty at the time, we had to rely on other police agencies to help. Officer Blais secured the property and started a search inside the home while a North Hampton unit checked the neighborhood before going to the burglary scene. North Hampton got the license plate of a car parked in the area. This license plate enabled Rye PD to identify suspects and solve all five burglaries. Arrests were made, one person was sent to state prison and another was sent to the county jail.

On 08/24/07 at approximately 3:00 AM Rye Police were dispatched to 200 Sagamore Road for a shooting. At this time of night there is only one officer on duty. The sergeant's shift ends at 1:00 AM. Officer Doyle discovered the family at 200 Sagamore Rd was sleeping when someone drove by and fired several bullets at the house. It took several minutes for back up officers to arrive.

In August of 2009 at approximately 3:00 AM Officer Cote was dispatched to 785 Central Road for a shooting. Again, the Sergeant ended his shift at 1:00 AM leaving Officer Cote as the only officer on duty. Officer Cote arrived to find multiple bullet holes in the house. It was obvious someone had fired an automatic weapon at the home. There were two people inside the home at the time of the shooting. In her report, Officer Cote said as she approached the scene, she could still see smoke in the air, which she believed was from an automatic weapon. It took several minutes for back up officers to arrive.

On December 6, 2009 at approximately 1:44 AM Officer Cote was dispatched to a burglary in progress at 15 Sea Road. Sergeant Blaisdell's shift ended at 1:00 AM leaving Officer Cote as the only officer on duty. The home owners heard someone in their home and called police. Officer Cote called requesting dispatch call neighboring police agencies and off duty Rye Police Officers for back up. At the time of this call it was snowing heavily and it took 15 to 20 minutes for the first back up officers to arrive. Two suspects were arrested near the burglary scene. They both pleaded guilty to the burglary charge and were sent to the NH State Prison. One person who was convicted of the burglary is Charles

Normil. Recently, Normil was arrested in a Bedford, NH home invasion. It is alleged he physically assaulted both home owners who both received permanent injuries from Normil. This shows the type of people your police officers are dealing with all too often.

Over the next year Sergeant Blaisdell, Officers Cote and Blais continued to investigate the case producing what Assistant County Attorney Howard Helrich called novel and creative evidence against the defendants. Due to the outstanding work of these officers, the defendants realized there was no benefit in taking the case before a jury and they pleaded guilty.

The police department has been receiving requests from residents to become more aggressive in doing extra patrols for motor vehicle laws and town ordinances. The complaints of littering, alcohol violations, fireworks, loud motorcycles, dog violations on beaches and bicycle violations are increasing and have added work to the patrol officers. The department does not have a detective which means each officer is responsible to follow up on criminal and motor vehicle investigations. It has been difficult for the officers to keep up with their investigations of criminal mischief, burglary, theft, phone harassment, stalking, criminal threatening, sexual assaults and domestic violence while continuing their patrol duties. It is for these reasons I am requesting an additional patrol officer. This will enable officers to handle the increased work volume and have a new officer concentrate on the requests for more aggressive enforcement during the summer. It will also add an officer for the late night shifts when there is only one officer on duty.

Since 2006 the Police Department has operated under two philosophies. The first is aggressive enforcement of Motor Vehicle Laws. Constant patrols in order to maintain a high level of visibility with the hope of preventing criminal activities. Studies in Kansas City, Chicago and Duluth have shown this does not work. We also know from these studies and experience the way to prevent further crime is to aggressively investigate, solve and arrest the perpetrators. This also applies to those who violate town ordinances, such as alcohol, dog violations and other quality of life complaints. Having another officer will allow officers more time to find critical evidence at crime scenes that will assist in solving crimes and arresting those responsible. This is labor intensive and time consuming, but proven to lower crime rates and quality of life complaints. The following are some examples of the type of calls for service officers are investigating and were pulled away from doing aggressive enforcement:

The Rye Police arrested a person for violation of a restraining order. At the time of his arrest he was a convicted felon. During a search of his home, police officers found seven long guns hidden underneath the insulation along the roof line of the home. In a second search an Uzi replica, an automatic weapon, was discovered. These weapons were turned over to the Federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for follow-up. We are assisting New Hampshire and Maine Probation Departments with bringing forward several charges of Felon in Possession of a Dangerous Weapon.

On June 29, 2012 Rye and Portsmouth police officers were dispatched to try to locate a male and female in a vehicle. They called OnStar threatening suicide. Both subjects were located on Pioneer Road. One person was taken into protective custody for intoxication and the second

person was inside the house, refused to come out of the house and refused any communication with officers. Because the police had information this person may have a firearm, the neighborhood was evacuated and the Emergency Response Team was activated. Rye Officers were at this scene while other officers were at the station drafting a search warrant and talking with a judge. It took approximately seven hours to get this person out of the house and safely transported to Portsmouth Hospital. At the same time, Rye Officers received a call for a person threatening suicide at Rye Harbor State Park. Rye Officers and members of the Emergency Response Team were split in order to handle both calls. The suicidal person resisted the efforts of negotiators and suffered a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The Emergency Response Team doctor and a Rye Fire Department paramedic were able to give first aid. The person was transported to the hospital, but later died. It took several officers approximately three weeks to complete both investigations.

I am asking the residents to approve funding for an additional police officer. The Rye officers and I feel it is important that the residents of Rye decide the police budget for fiscal year 2014, based on their understanding of the demands placed on the department. It also needs to be based on people's own expectations of the service they require from the police department. I feel I would be remiss in my duties as the Chief of Police if I did not supply the residents with the facts they need to make an informed decision on the staffing they want for their police department.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kevin Walsh
Chief of Police

Local Area Comparisons (Current 2013)

Jurisdiction	Number of fulltime employees	Population
Newington	10	950
Portsmouth	61	22,000
Seabrook	27	8,500
Newcastle	4	1,039
Exeter	26	14,539
Hampton	34	15,376 in summer 100k plus
North Hampton	12	4,596
Newmarket	15	9,156
Hampton Falls	4	2,200
Greenland	7	3,549
Stratham	10	7,200
Rye	9	5,271 in summer 24 k plus
Brentwood	6	4,600

New Hampshire Towns with Population of 3,500 to 8,000 (Current 2013)

Jurisdiction	Number of fulltime employees	Population
Auburn	9	4,828
Swanzey	12	7,230
New London	8	4,397
Newport	12	6,521
Henniker	8	4,000
Nottingham	6	4,850
Hillsborough	13	6,011
Thornton	4	2,510
Litchfield	11	8,000
Moultonborough	11	4,040 in summer 24k plus
Hanover	12	11,870
Belmont	16	7,800

The following are some of the statistics from 2009:

8,698 - calls for service	193 - arrests	328 - alarms
1,648 - motor vehicle stops	139 accident investigations	396- animal control calls
68 - 911 hang-up calls	393 medical aid calls	44 - domestics
19 - juvenile offenses	9 - burglary reports	77 - theft reports
\$43,520 in parking fines collected. \$9,708.91 in court fines collected		

The following are some of the statistics from 2010:

8701 calls for service	141 arrests	353 alarms
1,692 motor vehicle stops	120 accident investigations	422 animal control
66 911 hang up calls	294 medical aid calls	40 domestics
25 juvenile issues	7 burglary reports	84 thefts

The following are some of the statistics from 2011:

8632 calls for service	118 arrests	362 alarms
1,429 motor vehicle stops	118 accident investigations	465 animal control
671 911 hang up calls	343 medical aid calls	28 domestics
19 juvenile issues	1 burglary reports	83 thefts
\$54,295.00 Parking fines collected	\$2,192.62 in court fines collected	

The following are some of the statistics from the year 2012:

8,531 calls for service	181 arrests	316 alarm responses
1,327 motor vehicle stops	97 accident investigations	489 animal control
60 911 hang-up calls	265 medical aid calls	23 domestics
13 juvenile offenses	3 burglary	109 theft reports
\$43,162.00 in parking fines collected.	<u>\$0.00</u> in court fines collected	<u>\$0.00</u> Details

Average arrest/booking times

The following is a breakdown of times:

DWI with breath test (calculated from the time of the motor vehicle stop)

High booking time, two hours and fifty minutes. This includes transporting to jail.

Low booking time, one hour and twenty five minutes. This includes bail and release to sober adult.

Average booking time, one hour and forty minutes. This includes bail and release to sober adult.

DWI refusal (calculated from the motor vehicle stop)

High booking time, two hours and ten minutes. This includes transporting to jail.

Low booking time, 30 minutes. This includes bail and release to sober adult.

Average booking time, one hour and twenty minutes. This includes bail and release to sober adult.

Other motor vehicle arrests (calculated from the time of the motor vehicle stop)

High booking time, one hour and forty minutes. This includes transporting to jail.

Low booking time, forty minutes. This includes bail.

Average booking time, one hour and ten minutes. This includes bail.

Protective custody arrest

High booking time, one hour and fifty minutes. This includes transporting to jail.

Low booking time, twenty minutes. This includes releasing to sober adult.

Average booking time, One hour twenty minutes. This includes releasing to sober adult.

Criminal Arrest

High booking time, one hour forty minutes. His includes transporting to jail.

Low booking time, forty minutes. This includes bail.

Average booking time, one hour ten minutes. This includes bail.