



POLICE DEPARTMENT

TOWN OF DEERING

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2017 Narrative Report – Deering Police Department

Once again the year flew past, though perhaps not quite as fast as the fighter jets and refueling planes that buzzed over the Town during training missions in late September... they were impressive to watch coming up out of the West Deering Valley and climbing right over “The View” at very low altitudes! It was quite an airshow for the fortunate few who happened to be in the right place at the right time.

We did have a small turnover of personnel this year, as two of our Part Time Officers, Mark Philibert and Travis Bennet resigned, as their full time jobs and family needs weren’t giving them enough time to commit to regularly covering shifts in Deering. In June though, we welcomed Officer Tom Forsley to the force as a Part-Time Officer. Officer Forsley is a retired State Trooper, and has served as a Police Officer in some capacity in New Hampshire since 1991.

The Supervisory core of the Department remains strong, with Chief James Pushee (since 2002) and Part Time Capt. Thomas Cavanaugh (since 2003). Our Patrol Core includes Full Time Officer Steve Bell (since 2015), Part Time Corporal Nick Hodgen (since 2004), Part Time Officer Chris Parsons (since 2007), Part Time Officer Ethan Vaillancourt (since 2015), and Part Time Officer Thomas Forsley (since 2017).

During the late summer months of 2017, Deering and several surrounding towns experienced several daytime residential burglaries. Thanks to some good luck on the part of Francestown Police and the vigilance of several local residents, followed by investigative efforts by Officer Forsley working alongside the neighboring agencies, we did make an arrest of two brothers in relation to two of the burglaries that occurred in Deering.

One of the key components to closing these cases was the eyewitness identification of one suspect by a resident of Deering, who saw one suspect walking on her roadway at the time one of the neighboring burglaries occurred. Because that young woman said something we were able to follow up and find additional compelling evidence in that case. It was one of those cases of “If you See Something – Say Something!” We can’t urge you enough to help us out by reporting any suspicious activities in your own neck of the woods, because as you know, we are a small Department and we certainly cannot be everywhere all at once.

We continue to utilize Highway Safety Grants to help augment our own budgeted patrols, which allows us to occasionally have dedicated Traffic Safety Enforcement patrols. Unfortunately, the Federal Budget in 2018 was slashed significantly in the area of Highway Safety funding, and the trickledown effect is that this year we have only about 55% of the additional patrols that we’ve had in past years. In past years, Traffic Safety Enforcement efforts sponsored by these grants spoke for (at times) as much as 70% of our Department’s entire traffic enforcement activities. The loss of these Federal moneys will mean a cutback in dedicated traffic enforcement, at a time when Speeding, DUI, and Distracted Driving issues account for 80% of our annual vehicular crashes in Deering. We can only hope that in future years funding is restored back to these areas of need.

Finally, I would like to speak to the warrant article to add an Administrative Assistant position to your Police Department. Since coming to Deering in 2002, Chief Pushee has been handling 100% of the Administrative, Clerical, Staffing and daily paperwork duties, as well as taking up slack for part-time officer’s whose

availability doesn't always allow them the time to come in to complete all of their own tasks. Because of this, for several years Chief Pushee has been asking the Selectman and the Budget Committee's to consider a Part-Time Administrative Assistant to help ease the burden. This year, both have agreed to support this request.

In describing the request and need, Chief Pushee is would like a "very" part-time assistant, equating at this time to an average of 6 hours weekly, spread over 2-3 mornings each week. The primary duties would be clerical in nature, and the Assistant would be aiding the members of the Department by typing dictated reports, data entry into the Police Records System, general office organization, reviewing and coding invoices and purchase orders, and other such tasks as assigned. While assuming some of Chief Pushee's administrative and clerical workload burden, another primary benefactor of this assistance would be our Part-Time Cadre of officers. These are officers whose available time has them limited in relation to completing required reports and activity files. By helping with these matters, our officers would have more time to spend "on the road" doing patrol, community policing, and enforcement duties.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our officers for their dedication to serving the Deering Community through your Police Department. I would also like to thank the Townsfolk, the Town Administration and the Board of the Selectman, and the Budget Committee's for continuing to support us in our mission. We look forward to continuing our service to the Deering Community.