POLICE DEPARTMENT
TOWN OF DEERING
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2015 Annual Report – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Well, another busy year has passed by for our townfolk and for your Police Department. We started 2015 with new Officer Ethan Vaillancourt adjusting back into the New Hampshire way, as he'd just moved back north after several years in Florida. In June, Officer Vaillancourt left his full time position with us in order to take a position as a Detective Sergeant in Antrim, though he has stayed on part-time/per-diem with the Deering Police.

We were very lucky to quickly find a suitable replacement for this full time police officer position, when we hired Officer Stephen Bell in July 2015. Officer Bell has been a Police Officer in New Hampshire for more than 20 years already, serving smaller communities such as Dublin, Greenfield, Peterborough, and Francestown. Because of his vast experience in serving small communities, Officer Bell was able to acclimate into the Deering Police Department and start serving our community very quickly and easily.

We continue to be blessed with the services of Capt. Thomas Cavanaugh, a part time officer who in the past 13 years has shown unfailing dedication to the Department, his fellow officers, and his service to the Town of Deering. He has been hinting at retirement in the not so distant future, and while I can't blame him after serving nearly 40 years total in Law Enforcement, when the time comes Capt. Cavanaugh's presence will be missed. The Department also has a Cadre of five more Part Time Officers who are all employed as Full Time Officers in neighboring Departments. These Part Time Officers do not have regular schedules, but occasionally help fill open shifts for us.

Although we had some periods of change again this year, you will see from our statistics that our activity in 2015 rose nearly 7% overall (3466 CFS entries in 2014, as compared to 3714 CFS entries in 2015). We also saw a nearly 7% increase in MV Enforcement Activities in 2015. We believe both increases were primarily due to fewer periods when the Department was short staffed. These increases in Calls For Service and related MV Enforcement Activity translated into our Officers being more productive in taking Drunk & Drugged Drivers (11 arrests= 35% increase) and Drugs (20 arrests= 35% increase) off our streets and roads. Of the 20 drugs arrests, three cases involved suspected heroin possession/use, as well as several cases of suspected cocaine and/or powdered oxycodone type drug abuse.

The Police Department continues to actively participate in Community Events, logging more than 130 man hours while attending 33 specific community events in 2015. In addition to this, the Hillcat Police Cadet Post 612, which is a youth organization within the Deering Police Department, also served the community by providing over 290 man hours of Community Service during 18 local & regional public service events.

Finally, we continue to utilize various Grant Programs to offset costs of additional traffic safety patrols, to extend our coverages, and to offset costs of certain equipment items. In 2015, the Department received nearly $19,000.00 in reimbursements from several grant programs. These includes hundreds of hours of supplemental highway safety enforcement patrols and the purchase of new equipment such as replacing worn out protective Ballistic Vests, purchasing "active shooter" ballistic vests capable of stopping high power rifle rounds, and purchasing "Stop Sticks" for our cruisers to have available if a high speed pursuit might be coming our way.

As always, we thank the Town and our residents for their continued support, and remember, we count on you to help us by acting as our eyes and ears…..we are a small Department and just can't be everywhere all the time!