

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 5:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The following members attended, Mike Stoddard, Michael Rutkovsky, Stuart Edson, Dan Mason and Lew Stowell.

- A. 5:30: Call to Order.
- B. Review, and revise or approve the January 17, 2023 meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes with a date correction was made by Mike Stoddard and seconded by Stuart Edson. It was approved 5-0-0.
- C. Questions or issues brought by members of the public. No members of the public attended.
- D. Review and Discussion of OCSD activities including patrol hours, bills and reports. The OCSD patrol reports were passed around to the members. It was agreed that significant improvement was required. Lew Stowell is to request from Captain Zenonos more complete and legible reports be provided in the future. To fulfill a promise made at the March town meeting to look at all options in Law Enforcement; Lew Stowell will contact Barre Town Police Department and the Windsor County Sheriff's Department and Dan Mason will contact the Northfield Police Department.
- E. Orange County Joint Select Board Law Enforcement Committee. Lew Stowell and Stuart Edson reported on the March 7, 2024 (First Meeting). A positive result of the meeting was Trevor Whipple, Law Enforcement Consultant, Vermont League of Cities and Towns providing Lew Stowell with Law Enforcement contract insurance and liability language recommended by the VLCT. This language will be requested to be in future law enforcement contracts. Holly Groschner, Corinth Select Board and John Freitag, Strafford, co-chairs of the committee are pursuing information on best practices from the Lamoille County Sheriff Roger Marcoux and obtaining a model law enforcement contract from the VLCT. Stuart and Lew will continue to attend the Joint Select Board Committee meetings on Google Meet for now.
- F. Emergency Management Shelter Volunteer Program Status. Stuart Edson reported that Rich Doolen provided a full report at a recent Brookfield Select Board Meeting. The program is working well.
- G. Flooding Recovery Progress in Brookfield- Discussion. No further activity reported.
- H. Parking and Speed Limits in Pond Village. Stuart Edson offered to confirm at the next Select Board meeting that the No Parking signs will be installed on Stone Road in Pond Village as soon as the ground thaws and the road crew are able.
- I. High Risk Voluntary List Program. More work is needed.
- J. Reflective Vest Program. The funds were approved at town meeting and Michael Rutkovsky is researching the best sources of the reflective vests which will be purchased in small amounts after July 1, 2024.

- K. E-911 House Number Signs Project Status. Dan Mason is continuing to determine if the Correctional facility in Saint Johnsbury will provide E911 house number signs.
- L. Traffic and Road Name Sign Progress. More signs will be installed once the ground thaws. The road crew is fully staffed now and will be able to make good progress.
- M. April 2024 Public Safety Message. A draft April safety tips was presented and approved. Because it is about Mud Season, it may be published before the end of March depending upon the weather.
- N. Acknowledging the time and date of the next meeting. April 17, 2024
- O. Inviting one or more guest(s) to the next meeting (April). LT Jerry Partin, VSP Royalton Station Commander has agreed to be a guest in April.
- P. Final Public Comment. An email sent to the committee by Rebecca Dezan on March 8, 2024 was discussed. She complained about the North end of Stone Road near Kevin Wheatley's. A rut forced her car off the road into the swamp where it struck a tree on March 8, 2024 even though she was proceeding at reduced speed. She stated that there had been a number of accidents on that portion of Stone Road in the past two years. Her email was forwarded to Keith Sprague, Select Board Member and Road Commissioner by Lew Stowell on March 9, 2024. In discussion the committee members mentioned that that stretch of road is built across a swamp and has been a problem during mud season for many years. Many of the accidents there require a wrecker because there is nothing to stop a vehicle dropping off the shoulder into the swamp. Stuart Edson offered to bring this up at the next Select Board meeting. Possible solutions offered were installing cautions signs on either end of that stretch of Stone Road, grading the road in the Winter to be flatter, with less crown, applying a road fabric, or to erect guard rails on one or both sides of the road.
- Q. Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Stoddard and seconded by Stuart Edson. Motion carried 5-0-0 at 6:40 PM.