

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 17, 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. Guests attending were LT Jerry Partin, VSP, Sgt Austin Soule, VSP, Sheriff Ryan Palmer, Windsor County Sheriff's Department, Chief Kevin Wheatley, BVFD, Ann Hunt, Ed Neas, 2nd Constable, Amy Ingrassia, Assistant Town Treasurer.

- A. 5:30: Call to Order.
- B. Review, and revise or approve the March 20, 2023 meeting minutes.
- C. Questions or issues brought by members of the public.
- D. Lt Jerry Partin, Vermont State Police- Guest: Status Report- What can be done for Brookfield. LT Partin and Sgt Soule explained that a lot of the time spent by their troopers was taken up by responding to incidents, and post incident processing. In response to questions they made a number of suggestions that would make for better investigations such as on-site cameras, calling in suspicious activity, and local area/neighborhood email groups to keep neighbors informed of road conditions, power outages, suspicious activity. The Royalton barracks is currently short of troopers.
- E. Sheriff Ryan Palmer, Windsor County Sheriff's Department-Guest: Status Report- What can be done for Brookfield. Sheriff Palmer explained that he had been the sheriff in Windsor County for a little over a year. He is willing to consider offering Brookfield a law enforcement contract until the Orange County Sheriff's Department recovers and is able to provide more service. He explained that he is already providing service in Chelsea, may get the contract in Tunbridge so Brookfield is not out of his current service area. He provided answers to questions about various situations. He will get back to the committee chair about whether he can provide a contract. There was discussion about a contract that provided more hours to the months of May through October.

- F. Review and Discussion of OCSD activities including patrol hours, bills and reports. Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) provided 20.5 hours of patrols for \$1127.50 in March. Deputy Caldwell has left the department and Deputy Hotchkiss has taken over the Williamstown-Brookfield patrols.
- G. Orange County Joint Select Board Law Enforcement Committee Status. Lew Stowell reported on the remote meeting conducted on April 11, 2024. Trevor Whipple of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) provided some sample law enforcement contracts and suggested liability coverage for contract providers to protect towns receiving law enforcement services. The OCSD accountant provided a financial status of the department which is facing a deficit of over \$270,000 part of which will be covered by one time money this year from the Orange County Court budget of \$170,000 leaving a shortfall of about \$100,000. OCSD would need to increase current rates by 70% and contract an additional 1183 hours per year to break even. Sheriff Contois explained some of the challenges the department is facing such as aging 40 watt cruiser radios, aging and high maintenance cruisers and an end of life radio console at the department headquarters. The Lamoille County Sheriff's Department was visited by___
- H. Emergency Management Shelter Volunteer Program Status. Some volunteer shelter workers are looking for general training in disasters. Lew Stowell is assisting Rich Doolen to get them a menu of free courses from FEMA and Vermont Emergency Management.
- I. E-911 House Number Signs Project Status. Dan Mason reported that the correctional facility in St Johnsbury is not doing to provide them. Michael Rutkovsky will check again on prices with a firm in Berlin.
- J. Traffic and Road Name Sign Progress. Stuart Edson will inquire of Keith Sprague whether the road crew can do an inventory of missing or damaged traffic signs this Spring as they do other work on the roads.

- K. May 2024 Public Safety Message. Mike Stoddard made and Michael Rutkovsky seconded a motion to accept the safety message. Approved 5-0-0
- L. Acknowledging the time and date of the next meeting. May 15, 2024.
- M. Inviting one or more guest(s) to the next meeting (May). No guests for the May meeting.
- N. Final Public Comment. Ed Neas, 2nd Constable in Brookfield, requested to join the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Mike Stoddard made and Michael Rutkovsky seconded a motion to accept Ed Neas joining the committee. Approved 5-0-0.
- O. Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Mason made and Stuart Edson seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Approved 6-0-0.