

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 5:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

- A. 5:30: Call to Order. Called to order at 5:30 PM.
- B. Review, and revise or approve the, November 20, 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Stuart Edson and seconded by Mike Stoddard to approve the minutes as written. The motion to approve carried 5-0-0.
- C. Questions or issues brought by members of the public. (Meeting Protocol). No members of the public attended.
- D. Review and Discussion of WCSD activities including patrol hours, bills and reports. WCSD performed 11.5 hours of patrols during 7 different days at a cost of \$747.50. There were two traffic stops for speeding on Ridge Road.
- E. FY 2026 Law Enforcement Budget. The committee will be doing its usual "due diligence" by contacting all of the law enforcement agencies in the surrounding area to determine what might be most cost effective for providing law enforcement services in Brookfield in FY2026.
- F. Speeding and Other Incidents in Brookfield. None reported.
- G. Emergency Management Update. Rich Doolen was at training and not available.
- H. VT Alert Registration Project. No new progress.
- I. E-911 House Number Signs Project Status. The order for over 25 signs has been submitted to Always on Time Signs and the signs are expected after Christmas. There may not be a volume discount in the future from them.
- J. Traffic Control and Road Name Sign Inventory Progress. Stuart Edson has completed an inventory of traffic signs in Brookfield with maps showing their location. He determined that there should be 297 traffic signs on Brookfield town roads and that there are 104 are missing or damaged. Stuart will consult with Tim Higgins, Road Foreman about what the current inventory is of traffic signs at the town garage and how many will need to be ordered. Because of flood damage and vacancies in the town road crew during recent years, the road crew has been unable to install very many signs. Stuart has spoken with Lafayette Highway Specialties of Essex Junction, VT about installing signs in Brookfield. They would charge approximately \$200.00 per sign for installation if the town provided the sign, posts and other hardware. Lew Stowell suggested that the Select Board should also consider hiring one or two part-time, temporary employees (perhaps college students in the Summer) to install new signs. It might be less expensive than hiring a contractor.

There are a variety of causes of the missing or damaged signs. They include theft, vandalism, traffic accidents, plow damage, etc. The committee may recommend prioritizing the installation of some signs. Missing signs such as Stop or Yield signs) can be a traffic hazard. Missing or damaged Speed Limit signs are unenforceable. Missing road name signs can be a problem for emergency service vehicles trying to find a location needing response. As a part of his inventory and mapping project, Stuart hopes to include dry and wet hydrants in town. Stuart stated that his inventory had discovered some issues between what the current Traffic Ordinance called for and what was actually installed on the town roads. Stuart suggested that the committee should review the Traffic Ordinance in 2025 to resolve any conflicts. Committee members will check traffic signs in their area for conflicts with the current traffic ordinance. There are certain areas where traffic signs disappear shortly after being replaced such as Farnworth Lane and Cemetery Street. Further research needs to be conducted to determine why this is.

- K. Traffic, Parking, No Parking and Road Name Sign Installation Progress. The ground will be frozen soon, if not already, and the road crew is busy plowing and sanding roads.
 - L. January 2025 Public Safety Message. The safety message for January focuses on securing your home while on you are on Winter vacation in warmer climates.
 - M. Acknowledging the time and date of the next meeting. 5:30 PM on January 15, 2025.
 - N. Inviting one or more guest(s) to the next meeting (January 15, 2025). The January meeting will focus on FY2026 budget items. No guests will be invited.
 - O. Final Public Comment. No members of the public attended.
- P. Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Stoddard made and Dan Mason seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0-0 at 6:52 PM.