

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 5:30 PM

Brookfield Town Office, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT 05036

Unapproved Minutes

The following committee members attended: Mike Stoddard; Stuart Edson, Dan Mason, Ed Neas, Michael Rutkovsky and Lew Stowell. Sean McRae -Democratic Candidate for Orange County Sheriff was an invited guest. No members of the public attended.

- A. 5:30: Call to Order. Called to order at 5:30 PM by Lew Stowell, Chair.
- B. Review, and revise or approve the, June 17, 2026 meeting minutes. Ed Neas made and Mike Stoddard seconded a motion to approve the June 17, 2026 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried 6-0-0.
- C. Questions or issues brought by members of the public. (Meeting Protocol). No members of the public attended.
- D. Guest: Game Warden Jeffery Whipple, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. Warden Whipple was unable to attend.
- E. Guest: Sean McRae Candidate for Orange County Sheriff. Candidate McRae described his back ground as having been a dispatcher, an EMT, a former Orange County deputy, and is a state fire marshal and a police officer with the Royalton, VT police department. He has 7 years of experience as a police officer. He said he would not make promises at this time but would be interested in law enforcement contracts with the four towns in Orange County that have contracts with the Windsor County Sheriff's Dept. He stated that if elected, at least initially he will not take the 5% of law enforcement contracts available to County Sheriffs. He also said that he would provide improved reporting of department activities to the towns with contracts.
- F. Review and Discussion of WCSD activities including patrol hours, bills and reports. A corrected invoice was presented which changed the information presented to the committee by \$78.00 which as revised was \$1560.00 for June. 20 hours of patrols and one public outreach event were conducted. One citation was issued for speed over the limit of 11 to 20 MPH.
- G. Speeding and Other Incidents in Brookfield. Tim Higgins, Brookfield Highway Foreman has reported that speeding on Ridge Road has endangered his crew members conducting their duties.
- H. Radar Speed Sign Acquisition and Implementation: Ed Neas. Ed Neas and Lew Stowell described their efforts to research Radar Speed Signs with the eventual purchase of a solar powered unit from All traffic Solutions with a three-year warranty on the radar sign for \$3682.78. The unit is made in the USA. The purchase was made out of FY 2026 funds from funds left over in the law enforcement contract. Stuart Edson and Lew Stowell will meet with Tim Higgins to coordinate assembly and installation of the unit at multiple locations this year.

- I. FY 2027 Law Enforcement Contract. Patrols will continue as long as WCSD has enough deputies to perform patrols in Brookfield.
- J. Emergency Communications- Mesh Radio Options. Concern was raised that more information was needed before ordering any units. Lew Stowell will contact Bill Donnelly for a presentation or a list of recommended kits.
- K. Emergency Management Update. No update.
- L. Reflective Vest Program. Only two vests remain. Stuart Edson made and Dan Mason seconded a motion to reorder vests in the same quantity as before. Motion approved 6-0-0.
- M. E-911 House Number Signs Project Status. All orders have been received by the town. Another offer will be made to the residents and property owners soon.
- N. Traffic Control and Road Name Sign Progress. The Town Road crew is down to two members and sign installation will be delayed until another worker can be hired.
- O. August 2026 Public Safety Message. Mike Stoddard made and Ed Neas seconded a motion to approve the August safety tips prepared by Lew Stowell. Motion approved: 6-0-0.
- P. Acknowledging the time and date of the next meeting. August 19, 2026 at 5:30 PM.
- Q. Inviting one or more guest(s) to the next meeting (August, 19, 2026). Jacob Held, Republican Candidate for Orange County Sheriff is willing to attend. Warden Jeffery Whipple may also may be willing.
- R. Final Public Comment. (Meeting Protocol). No members of the public attended.
- S. Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Mason made and Stuart Edson seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion approved 6-0-0 at 7:09 PM.