

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 5:30 PM
Brookfield Free Public Library, 40 Ralph Road, Brookfield, VT 05036
Unapproved Minutes

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

- A. 5:30: Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.
- B. Review, and revise or approve the, July 15, 2026 meeting minutes. Mike Stoddard made and Ed Neas seconded a motion to approve the minutes as written. Approved 4-0-0.
- C. Questions or issues brought by members of the public. (Meeting Protocol). No members of the public attended.
- D. Guest: Jacob Held Candidate for Orange County Sheriff. Corporal Held OCSD described his varied law enforcement experience in Minneapolis and his recent experience in the Orange County Sheriff's Department. He was responsible for several improvements such as body camera certification, computers and printers in cruisers, Star Link connections, etc. He has an associates degree in business with a strong concentration in information technology. He described his intended goals for the OCSD should he be elected Sheriff in November; to include possibly expanding patrols beyond the current Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 4 PM hours of operation.
- E. Guest: Game Warden Jeffery Whipple, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. Was not able to attend.
- F. Review and Discussion of WCSD activities including patrol hours, bills and reports. The July report showed six activities totaling 28 hours at a cost of \$2164.00. One traffic stop on Ridge Road occurred.
- G. Speeding and Other Incidents in Brookfield. No other incidents were observed.
- H. Radar Speed Sign Acquisition and Implementation: Ed Neas. Ed Neas has the unit set up and functioning at his home. The next step is to determine the best way of providing coverage. The town road crew is currently reduced to two full time staff and unable to assist. Lew Stowell

is working with Work Safe to find affordable methods of installing the unit on poles. After discussion, a motion to purchase a cart to make the unit into a speed cart was made by Ed Neas and seconded by Stuart Edson with the proviso that it be coordinated with Kristi Ehlers, Treasurer with a cap of \$2,000.00. Motion carried 5-0-0.

- I. FY 2027 Law Enforcement Contract WCSD is still providing patrols.
- J. Emergency Communications- Mesh Radio Options. No new information
- K. Emergency Management Update. Rich Doolen was unable to attend.
- L. Reflective Vest Program. One vest provided to a pedestrian by Michael Rutkovsky. Lew Stowell will order more vests with coordination with Kristi Ehlers, Treasurer
- M. E-911 House Number Signs Project Status. Lew Stowell to place a notice on Front Porch Forum for another order of reflective E-911 House Number signs.
- N. Traffic Control and Road Name Sign Progress. No progress because of the reduced staff of the road crew.
- O. September 2026 Public Safety Message. Stuart Edson made and Mike Stoddard seconded a motion to approve the September Safety Tips presented by Lew Stowell. Approved 5-0-0.
The current plan is to use a variety of methods to implement the radar speed sign on roads in Brookfield.
- P. Acknowledging the time and date of the next meeting. September 16, 2026 at 5:30 PM.
- Q. Inviting one or more guest(s) to the next meeting (September, 2026). Game Warden Jeffery Whipple, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.
- R. Final Public Comment. (Meeting Protocol). Stuart Edson explained that committee member email addresses might have to be standardized. No members of the public attended.
- S. Entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Neas made and Mike Stoddard seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Approved 5-0-0.