

CITY OF BARRE POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

(Monday, May 8, 2023, 6:00 Pm)

Location of meeting: Hybrid meeting: virtual and in-person at the public safety building

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83053276707>

Phone number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 830 5327 6707

1. **Call to order:** 6:00 pm

2. **Consider approval of agenda:**

- Kristin motions to approve agenda, Steve seconds. All in favor

3. **Consider approval or adjustments of previous meeting minutes:**

- Steve motions to approve previous meeting minutes, Abby seconds. All in favor.

4. **Receive guests:**

- Bob Nelson, Kristin Tousignant, Chief Vail, Abby Blum, Teddy Waszazak, Steve England, and Sandy Rousse

5. **Councilor Waszazak's Report**

- Committee Re organization, PAC untouched. Should we think about expanding the committee from five to more?
- Timeline on body cameras? Question for Chief Vail. Waiting on the grant.
- Upcoming press conference & Response to States Ending hotel program for unhoused Vermonters. This is to apply pressure to the state to fix what they have done essentially, multiple municipalities to attend including Barre. Discussing how to respond.

6. **Chief's report**

- Two promotions. Brian Hoar to Sergeant and Brittany Lewis to Corporal.

- New hire, Sarah Kuras. She graduated from Norwich and was part of the intern program at The Barre City Police Department. Sarah will be attending the Police Academy in June
- Three vacancies
- Interviewed three interns, hoping to have two start in the fall.
- We did an unannounced evacuation, lockdown drill, at Barre City School. Will be doing one for Spaulding high School as well.
- Card reader access will be going in at all BUUSD schools.

7. Discuss and consider approving Telephone Communications policy

- No edits made to this policy.
- Abby motions to approve policy, Steve seconds. All in favor.

8. Discuss and consider approving Individuals w/Mental Health issues/Impairments

- Gary Gordon, on call screener. He works at Washington County Mental Health
- “Common symptoms” How does an Officer know some of these symptoms? If they know the list of general symptoms they can ask certain questions which is helpful.
- Mental Health Clinician is shared with Montpelier – currently vacant.
- An Officer can request this mental health clinician respond to a call with them, especially if they are familiar with a case. Officers recognize when to call for this resource.
- Everyone will go through the CIT (crisis Intervention Team) training at The Barre City Police Department. This training is a 40-hour class, not available in the Academy and taught in two locations – Hartford and Washington County.
- Turning Point received a grant for a Recovery Coach.
- There is mental health training at the Barre City Police Department and at the Academy however, it’s not the CIT training.
- Kristin motions to approve amended policy, Sandy seconds. All in favor.

9. Discuss and consider approving Domestic Violence policy

- There is another policy attached to this however, it’s going through Legislature right now so we will not go through it yet.
- The definitions in this policy are statute.
- There is a major alcohol and domestic problem in Barre City. Very high volume of the calls received.
- Long term domestic violence, if the “abused” harms their abuser to protect themselves or others, such as kids, it’s still investigated – affirmative defense.

- Why would an Officer not contact CIRCLE at a call? It may not be possible to ex: after hours.
- Restraining orders can only be issued to household members, there is a severe punishment when these are violated. Whereas a no trespassing is referring to anyone and has a less severe punishment.
- Orders of protection need to be renewed every year. The decision is not up to the Officers but up to a Judge and may or may not be granted.
- Steve motions to approve policy, Abby seconds. All in favor.

10. Discuss and consider approving Radio Communications

- Radio license, FCC procedures.
- ECC = Dispatch
- Emergency Communications Supervisor will be in the next budget.
- When you call 9-1-1 your call will get funneled to the correct place
- Unless your unit is large enough the Patrol Supervisor oversees Dispatch
- Fire Department does not use 10 codes.
- Sandy motions to approve amended policy, Steve seconds. All In favor.

11. Discuss and consider approving Criminal Investigations

- Videography – phones and detectives have video cameras.
- Who has access to evidence? The Detective Sergeant and Detective Corporal.
- Photographic lines ups are done by a “blind” person not the investigating officer – innocence project.
- Polygraphs are only done by VSP and certified polygraphers. It’s a specialty that is costly and not done in house. It’s also rare they use this.
- NIU – Narcotics Investigation Unit – no Officers from Barre City assigned to this unit. Special state team.
- Kristin motions to approve amended policy, Abby seconds. All in favor.

12. Miscellaneous

- Expansion of members to the PAC? Are we interested? Bob to get in touch with city manager to let him know we are comfortable with the five group members.
- We can ZOOM into the meeting if we are away.
- Heavier policies this week – Great job everyone.
- **Next week is National Police Week!!!!**

13. Adjourn

- Steve motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm, Sandy seconds. All in Favor