Brattleboro Citizens Police Communications Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 27, 2017

Present: Ken McCaffrey, Ben Coplan, Darah Kehnemuyi, Matthew Wright, Ariel Nelson.
In attendance by invitation: Captain Mark Carignan, Brattleboro Police Department.

Meeting convened by Ken McCaffrey at 5:35 PM (Quorum present.)

Ariel Nelson was welcomed as the Committee’s new member.

Committee reviewed the Agenda. Agenda approved as published without additions or changes.

Committee approved the Minutes of its January 23, 2017 meeting.

Committee reviewed compliments and complaints received by the Brattleboro Police Department (BPD) since the Committee’s last meeting. One complaint was reviewed based on handling of one call by BPD staff. The Committee discussed history and professional training of the subject of the complaint. The Committee was informed that the complaint had been resolved informally to the complainant’s satisfaction by the appropriate Shift Supervisor at BPD. It was also noted that the complainant did not wish to be contacted by the Committee, and as a result of the informal resolution of the matter that had taken place, the complaint would be put aside as moot.

Two older complaints were reviewed and the Committee was informed by BPD that they were still in the process of investigating and reviewing those complaints. Each of these complaints pertained to the return of property that was originally lawfully seized. One other older complaint was withdrawn by the complainant.

No compliments were offered as having been received by BPD since the Committee’s January, 2017 meeting.

New Business: the Committee received information from Capt. Carignan in response to the Committee’s request to be informed as to BPD protocols respecting handling of calls involving people with apparent mental health issues. It was explained that BPD provides training to its officers on appropriate ways to deal with people exhibiting mental health issues, and that training is embodied in BPD’s “use of force” training.

Old Business:
Discussion of the Committee’s protocol, outreach and new direction was deferred to allow more time for discussion.
Discussion of Ken McCaffrey’s draft publicity letter was deferred for further consideration.
M. Wright reported on his effort to obtain more information about the National Association for Civilian Oversight. He reported that this is a national organization whose work is to collect information on police oversight committees around the country. Wright reported that there are generally three types of committees working in different locales nationally, and that our current committee's charge and structure were in line with small town committees operating in other parts of our country.

The issue of expansion of the Committee to seven members was deferred to allow more time for discussion.

There was no public comment or participation offered from the community during our meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40

Respectfully submitted,
Darah Kehnemuyi
Recording Clerk