



# Cobleskill Police Department

378 Mineral Springs Road  
Cobleskill NY 12043  
(518) 234-2923



Chief of Police Jeffery Brown

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## Citizens Advisory Board Minutes

July 20, 2022, 6 pm

Chairman John O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Present were CAB members Wendy Cook, Patricia Mesibov, John O'Donnell, John Sapovits, John Stiles, Police Chief Jeffery Brown, Lieutenant Justin Manchester, Mayor Rebecca Stanton-Terk, Recording Clerk Dorothy Gerdes, and three community members.

The Chairman read the Citizens Advisory Board Statement of Purpose: "The purpose of the Village of Cobleskill Police Citizen Advisory Board (CAB) is to provide the Police Department and the Police Chief with the community's perspective with respect to crime, safety, neighborhood issues, and how the Police Department can better integrate with the community it serves and improve its services."

The minutes of the April meeting, which had been distributed by email, were reviewed, and one correction was made to the next meeting date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Wendy Cook moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Mayor Becky seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman reported that the mayor presented Chief Brown with a plaque and resolution in honor of his retirement on July 29, 2022 at the July Village Board of Trustees meeting. The Chairman thanked the Chief for his thirty years of excellent service to Cobleskill.

### **CAB By-Laws**

The mayor reported that the final draft of the CAB By-Laws was approved by the Village Board of Trustees. The approved By-Laws can be found on the village website at <https://www4.schohariecounty.ny.gov/PdfFiles/VCOB/police/CABbylawsRev.pdf>.

### **Cobleskill Police Department Policy Manual Report and Discussion**

Wendy Cook, Chief Brown: Presented the key points of their meeting regarding Use of Force Policies 300.3, 300.3.5, and 300.3.3:

- 300.3 Introduction to "Use of Force" Section. Wendy and the Chief added this paragraph at the beginning of this section: "Officers regularly respond to tense or emotionally charged incidents. It is the mission of this department to bring such situations to the most peaceful resolution possible. Research and experience show us that officers are more likely to accomplish this goal if officers are able to assist with the de-escalation of individuals and/or situations. De-escalation is always preferable to use of physical force, and de-escalation techniques should be employed whenever possible and practicable to help achieve compliance or help resolve a situation."
- 300.3.5 Carotid Control Monitoring. "a. At all times during the application of the carotid control hold, the response of the individual **shall** be monitored." The Chief agreed with Wendy that the word "should" be changed to "shall." Change made as above.
- 300.3.3 Factors Used to Determine the Reasonableness of Force. "When determining whether to apply force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors

should be taken into consideration, as time and circumstances permit.” This policy names 18 factors for officers to consider when it is necessary to control a subject for the purpose of preventing injury to self or others. Committee members agreed by consensus that the policy, as written, gives the officer and their supervisor broader scope to report and evaluate any incident that might necessitate the use of force. No changes necessary.

### **Old Business**

- Excessive Speed and Vehicle Noise. Different devices for excess speed deterrence have been ordered and will be installed. The devices will inform drivers when they are driving too fast, encourage slowing down when speed limit is exceeded, and identify streets where speeding is a problem. Chief Brown was asked about vehicle noise enforcement. Drivers are stopped and cited for inadequate mufflers according to the law. New York State enacted the “Sleep Act” April 1, which will require adequate vehicle noise mufflers for vehicles to pass NYS inspections.
- Monthly CAB and Board of Trustees Report. Chief Brown explained the use of the Police Blotter at the department and how incidents and actions are counted month to month. The department counts an average of 1,000 incidents and actions per month. Not every action is a call for service.
- Cobleskill Police Department Ride-Alongs. Two CAB members and one community member reported their ride-along tours were interesting and informative.

### **New Business**

- Mayor Becky thanked the committee for its letter of support of the Iorio Park Project.
- A local reporter alleged that the Village of Cobleskill was experiencing more frequent incidents of drug overdoses, shots fired, etc. Chief Brown researched the allegations and found them to be untrue. The perception that incidents are happening more frequently is enhanced by social media.
- While the mayor maintains the relationship between the village and SUNY, the CAB role will be relative to the CAB mission.
- Wendy Cook has compiled month to month UCR data into a spreadsheet and will share the spreadsheet with Dotty Gerdes and any CAB member who would like it. Wendy and Dotty will continue to compile the data and develop a method to report and analyze month to month trends.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Citizen’s Advisory Board will be Wednesday, October 19, at 6:00 pm, at 378 Mineral Springs Road, Cobleskill.

Mayor Becky moved to adjourn the meeting. Pat Mesibov seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Gerdes  
Secretary to the Chief of Police