

Village of Cobleskill Police Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) Minutes

Wednesday September 20th, 2023 6:00 PM

Held at the downstairs conference room 378 Mineral Springs Rd. Cobleskill, NY 12043

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman O'Donnell. Present were CAB members Wendy Cook, John Sapovits, John O'Donnell, John Jarvis, Patricia Mesibov, Police Chief James McCrum, and Mayor Rebecca Stanton-Terk

The Chairman read the CAB statement of purpose.

The draft meeting minutes of 4/19/23 were reviewed and two corrections were made. The CAB's review of CPD Use of Force Policy "may" continue beyond "2023". John Sapovitz made the motion with amendments, seconded by Wendy Cook. Motion Carried unanimously.

The Chairman welcomed new member John Jarvis, who gave a brief biographical history, highlighting his community involvement, and years of service.

The Chairman then welcomed the newly appointed Chief of Police, James McCrum. Jim shared a long list of jobs held, and vast experience in policing.

The Chairman asked Chief McCrum who the current staff members within the Police Department are. Besides himself, he answered, Sergeant Joe Rorick, Patrolman Travis Slater, Patrolwoman Kassidee Foland (currently out on leave), and the BOT hired a new part-time Secretary to the Chief of Police, Marsha McHugh. Chief McCrum indicated that there is a great deal of administrative work that needs to be done, particularly relating to evidence. Chairman O'Donnell asked if there were any exit interviews, to which the answer was no. Chief McCrum mentioned civil service difficulties encountered upon submitting approximately eight applications for employment. He further stated that recruitment and retention are widespread policing issues, which have resulted in changing hiring standards. Wendy Cook asked if there has been an uptick in crime in the Village of Cobleskill. The Chief said he would look into the State Police and County Sheriff statistics to try to determine the answer to that question.

Update by the Mayor and Police Chief on speed/vehicle monitoring devices:

The portable sign will be moved again soon. Possibly Rt 7 by the College (would need DOT permit prior to placing), or Grandview Drive. When work is completed on Elm St., a permanent speed sign will be placed at the bottom of the school hill. The data collected for the period 8/28/23-9/24/23 on North Grand Street revealed 522 vehicles traveled 36-40 mph, 2783 vehicles traveled 31-35 mph, and 3209 vehicles traveled 26-30 mph. Only two instances recorded speeds over 41 mph. Chairman O'Donnell would like to know what can be done about trucks utilizing jake brakes, loud motorcycles, and the like. Jim has requested a State Police traffic detail.

Update by the Mayor on the Laberge analysis:

A study initiated and financed by Schoharie County, to investigate the possibility of potential shared services between the Village of Cobleskill Police Department and the Schoharie County Sheriff's Department, is not yet complete. Its purpose is to identify potential cost savings and gain operational efficiencies. The Mayor will let the CAB know when the final analysis is complete and published. Chairman O'Donnell would like members of the CAB to review the final document prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting, where the content will be discussed. He believes there may be a way to assist in the way of a press release.

Status of the Village Board of Trustees Police Department UCR (Uniform Crime Report) going forward:

Chief McCrum is working on gaining access to that information. He expects he may need three to four months to provide the CAB with the requested data. Wendy Cook asked if he had statistics on incidents that happen during the overnight hours. Jim is looking into obtaining that information.

Wendy Cook provided a police report chart via email prior to the meeting.

Discussion regarding policing and background checks:

Discussion was held regarding how an employer may obtain disciplinary records of a potential transfer. Jim is looking for more information and clarity on those laws and procedures, as he prepares to fill vacancies within the department. Chairman O'Donnell expressed there may be weaknesses in some looking to lateral from one agency to another that do not get discovered.

Review Village of Cobleskill Resolution #5-2021, The Village of Cobleskill Police Department Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan, and determine if any recommendations require further action by CAB and the Police Department:

It was determined that CAB accomplished the goals set by that resolution.

NEXT MEETING: 6:00 PM November 15, 2023

Subsequent meeting: 6:00 PM January 17, 2024

Motion to Adjourn made by Wendy Cook, seconded by John Jarvis. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Rebecca Stanton-Terk
Mayor, Village of Cobleskill