

**MINUTES**  
**Police Advisory Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**  
**5:00 – 6:30 PM**  
**City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room**  
***DRAFT***

**Board Members Present:** Jamie Pinkham, Chair; Danielle Mitchell, via Zoom; Marcus Neabar; Winnie Wilkinson, via Zoom; Melinda White, Vice Chair;

**Board Members Absent:** John Nicholls; Kris Lukens;

**City Staff Present:** Chief Maurice Lamothe, St. Albans Police Department; Dominic Cloud, City Manager

**Members of the Public Present:** Dr. Jen Williamson (via Zoom); Taryn Haas (via Zoom); Tracey Sweeney; Katy Hemmingsen (via Zoom); Marie Bessette (via Zoom); Jeffrey Nulman.

**1. Call to order - J. Pinkham at 6:35pm**

**2. Agenda Introduction & Review**

November Minutes Tabled

**3. Open Brief Public Comment on Agenda Items (limit 2 min. per person)**

T. Sweeney feels policing needs to evolve and change. T. Sweeney read about the experience of sharing with daughter about safety. T. Sweeney's daughter has experienced racial profiling.

J. Nulman has a degree in secondary education. J. Nulman shared some history of black Vermonters experiencing discrimination and racism.

Dr. Williamson read a letter from neighbors and residence of St. Albans. The letters thanked for the work and shared some fears of possible interactions with police.

**4. Mission Review**

Mission was read in letter, was not reread

**5. Consider approval of November 2022 Meeting Minutes (D&V)**

Tabled

**6. Discussion with City Manager on City/Town law enforcement arrangement and PAB future**

D. Cloud explained the agreement between the city and the town. With water infrastructure, there will be a need for more policing in the future. Should help compete for the best police officers in the state. One of the conditions will add the town to the PAB. All expenses will be

divided evenly. There will be equal representation from the town and city as terms end.

J. Pinkham expressed fear of Town not allowing the same opportunity for the board implementation as the City.

There were questions of how members would be selected from the city and town.

D. Cloud said the charge will not change. If there is an amendment necessary, it will be discussed and brought before the council.

D. Cloud states the target audience will always be the city council. The town is an even stakeholder, but the city is responsible for running it. Policing starts in July '24 and they are starting to fill the positions now.

J. Pinkham said it has come up many of times over the years and it is good to bring the communities together. It is very exciting.

## **7. Discussion of impact of Memphis murder on St. Albans Community**

J. Pinkham stated there is a fear that this could easily happen here. This is not politicized, but raw feelings and fears.

J. Pinkham thanked Chief Lamothe for his online statement on the incident.

M. White stated it is a huge blessing to hear the voices through the letter and the people who showed up to the meeting.

M. Neabar shared he personally experienced being pulled over by police and racially profiled. Understands that these are isolated incidents that need to be addressed.

W. Wilkinson shared from Zoom thanks to everyone speaking out and not wanting an instance like that in our community.

Dr. Williamson stated that 35-50% of people murdered by police have a disability and she has a child with autism. Make sure citizens are engaging to make sure it doesn't happen here.

T. Haas has a concern of how we are making sure we aren't bringing in bad apples from another community.

D. Mitchell stated they are more interested in hearing from community members.

Angie Sturm shared questions of whether there were similar teams in St. Albans.

Chief Lamothe answered in the negative.

Chief Lamothe and Angie discussed drug amounts and city/state laws that creates arrestable offenses.

J. Pinkham paraphrased the conversation with Angie having questions about arrests and scorpion squads and how police interaction based on being called to crimes. Once there is a call, there is rules of what the police are required to do.

J. Nulman stated it's easier to be realistic and not to take it personally thinking it couldn't happen in the community.

J. Pinkham states they have done a lot and created policy and accountability asking what else can we do?

Chief Lamothe states that changing and creating a culture is important.

J. Pinkham asked is there an example of the training that they could see.

Chief Lamothe explained some of the training and stated he wasn't sure. He can provide certificates and other items to show the training.

T. Sweeney stated it is important to remember that even if there are no bad apples, these systems were created to target certain individuals.

Vermont requires all the information to come from an officer's previous agency to serve in Vermont.

W. Wilkinson stated there are instances happening every day. St. Albans is working so that the police and community can coexist.

#### **8. Brief review of 2022 SAPD Data, Internal Affairs Data and identify areas of focus for deeper dive**

J. Pinkham stated that the presentation went before city council.

M. White thinks it's great that officers hold their partners accountable and then move on.

J. Pinkham stated some future topics will be looking at use of force, internal affairs, and homelessness.

Chief Lamothe went over some of the items from the internal affairs investigation summary chart.

J. Pinkham asked for data quarterly.

#### **9. Update on SAPD recruitment/interview process. Chief Lamothe & Winnie Wilkinson**

Chief Lamothe states they are investing a lot of money in recruiting.

There are several pre certified individuals that were interviewed. They are filling the last academy slots to be able to place officers before the city/town agreement takes place. There

were six total.

**10. 2023 Committee Focus and meeting schedule.**

**11. Public Comment**

**12. Adjourn**

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