

**MINUTES**  
**ST. ALBANS POLICE ADVISORY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**ST. ALBANS CITY HALL, 100 NORTH MAIN STREET**  
**5:00 PM TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024**

**DRAFT**

**Board Members Present:** Melinda White, Vice Chair; Winnie Wilkinson; Kris Lukens; Justin Couture;

**Board Members Absent:** Marcus Neabar, Chair

**City Staff present:** Paul Olshan, Minute Taker;

**Members of the public present:** Linda Coulombe; Chris Hodgson; Kay Cook; Karen Scheffler; Lyndsay Demag

1. **M. White started the meeting with a quorum at 5:05.**
2. M. White opened up the agenda and added a point to discuss PAB recruitment.
3. **Motion made by J. Couture to add a discussion of PAB recruitment to the agenda. Seconded by K. Lukens. The motion passed with all in favor. No additional discussion.**
4. No public comment.
5. M. White read the Mission Statement:
6. **K. Lukens motioned to accept the June minutes. Seconded by J. Couture. The motion passed with all in favor. No additional discussion.**
7. M. White discussed the status of leaving PAB members and introduced the new PAB Member, Justin Couture. She mentioned the breakdown of members being from the city and town, and the importance of new members. She also discussed what the PAB does and the role of this board in advising police hiring practices.
  - There was a conversation clarifying the boundary of the city and town.
  - J. Couture introduced himself and discussed the recruitment process. J. Couture is a retired police officer from Burlington and St. Albans.
  - M. White then discussed how PAB meetings take place and the kinds of questions that are posed to Chief Lamothe.
  - The PAB welcomed J. Couture to the board.
8. Future Goals for PAB.
  - **W. Wilkinson joined the meeting at 5:22.**
  - J. Couture brought up officer wellness as an important goal for the PAB in the

future.

- K. Lukens offered to be a part of a subcommittee to survey the public.
- M. White mentioned reviewing policies as they come up and support with hiring. She also mentioned the history of the PAB and past goals that were successful.

9. M. White discussed some upcoming training Opportunities.

- K. Lukens suggested a program that provides help with domestic violence that could be useful for future meetings and should be on a future agenda.

10. Public Comment

- A member of the public commented with their experience being a victim of abuse and addiction. They shared their passion for dealing with addiction and their support of the local police department.
- There was further discussion about methods for policing and addressing drug addiction in the local community.
- The PAB went around and took public comment from each participant.
- There was a discussion about “defunding the police” and a member of the public was concerned about this affecting St. Albans Police Department.
- There were discussions about where recent funding went and how the police agreed to hire a second crisis worker in the first year the board was founded.

**11. K. Lukens motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 6:12. Seconded by J. Couture. The motion passed with all in favor. No additional discussion.**