

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

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REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING- DRAFT

May 19, 2026

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD: Gwendolyn Evans, Dan Maguire, Nancy Bean

ABSENT: Lisa Holmes, Christina Hagestad, Jenny Parker

STAFF: Kristen Wright- Community Liaison, Essex Police Department and Ron Hoague (EPD Chief)

ADMINISTRATION:

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gwendolyn Evans called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

No additions or changes

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None

5. CONSENT ITEMS

a. The Board approved the Minutes for the April meeting.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. Chief gave an update about town traffic operations changes that are being discussed with the Select Board.*
- b. The Chief discussed the upcoming Memorial Day Parade and the changes made this year; including the route and the food vendors.*
- c. Chief discussed an increase of Property Crimes as the weather has shifted to being warmer. What specific areas were being targeted, and how unlocked vehicles seemed to be an easy target.*
- d. Chief discussed the upcoming Lt promotional process and how Gwendolyn would be joining the interview panel on 5/27. All four of the current Srgts applied for the Lt position. The LT promotion will lead to two Srgts being promoted. Chief invited PCAB members to participate in that process as well.*

- e. *Chief discussed the CJC changes and how the last day for the Essex CJC will be June 30, 2026 and then it will become the Chittenden County CJC. Discussed having someone from the Chittenden County CJC attend a PCAB meeting and present after they get their footing post merger.*
- f. *Two recruits are graduating on 5/29 from the Vermont Police Academy and will then be on Field Training. Two people are anticipated to join the upcoming Police Academy class in August.*
- g. *Discussed the positions allowed versus which positions are filled and what types of leave staff are on: FMLA, Military, Paternity. Recruitment tools were discussed, including how to appeal to out of state applicants*
- h. *Kristen discussed the proposed PCAB goals and how the committee could achieve them. The committee liked the idea of hosting a community forum. Potentially setting up a forum on the Use of Force Policy and invite the public to better understand the role, rights and responsibilities of the police department as it relates to use of force. Gwendolyn offered having a community forum / post incident debrief IF/WHEN there is a major incident in town.*
- i. *Filling the upcoming vacancy positions for the PCAB board and how to best appeal to minority groups to apply to fill those positions. Continued discussion on reaching out to the radio and possibly the Essex Reporter to see if they would be interested in featuring an article about PCAB and the vacant committee positions opening up. Dan asked about how much of the Essex population was part of the group of people who would not be actively utilizing social media and what the PCAB group should do to reach those folks.*

7. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Dan. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wright
Community Affairs Liaison