

# CITY OF BARRE CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT AND ADVISORY BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

(Monday, February 8, 2021)

**Location of meeting:** Virtual Meeting: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83053276707>

Phone number: 1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 830 5327 6707

1. **Call to order:** 6:06 pm

2. **Consider approval of agenda:**

- Kristin Beaudin motions to approve meeting agenda, Steve England seconds motion. All in favor

3. **Consider approval or adjustments of previous meeting minutes:** Steve England motions approval of meeting minutes, Kristin Beaudin seconds motion. All in favor.

4. **Receive guests:**

- Bob Nelson, Steve England, Kristin Beaudin, Tim Bombardier, Reina Dean

5. **Councilor Waszazak's Report**

- Teddy was not present

6. **Chief's report**

- We have a couple vacancies. Breonna Murphy moved into the detective position, Sabrina Boutin is still scheduled to attend the Police Academy – next class has been moved from April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> and the class is being reduced from about 43-45 to 30. Brian Hoar, 3<sup>rd</sup> shift Corporal. Currently we have some testing going on for the vacancies.
- Steve E, opinions on removal of SRO? The School Resource Officer provides a connection to the community, first point of contact. If the SRO is scaring the kids, you should look at restructuring your officer. What may apply in a different state doesn't always apply in Vermont.

7. **Review "Response to Resistance"** – Direct edits were made to a copy of the policy; these are some Key points that were discussed

- Listed under section I, policy - The agency and all officers recognize that the sanctity of human life serves as the guiding principle in use of force decisions. Policy result of VLCT, look at law enforcement policies. VT Governed by legislature. Federal standard.
- Is there anything singular to Barre? Minor changes when first came out. VT standard, chokehold – deadly force. VT has it worded so it's not allowed which, could revert to using other deadly force. Does anyone think our officers use this? Quite some time ago, that officer is not here anymore. Warrants – not arresting some one on a warrant is neglect. If the warrant is good, you are under arrest. Barre now only holds their warrants. To check for a warrant the name is run through the system, local and national. How could a warrant not be good? One example, not extraditable – cannot arrest.

- De-escalation – someone may not understand that, if you say “slow something down” that might be more understandable. Verbal skills, different levels, personal space, comfort zone, who are you dealing with. There is training on de-escalation at the Academy and then some other training. BCPD has pushed for more money in the budget to train, there might be a different avenue for funding (possibly.) One lawsuit can cost more than training – something to keep in mind. Reina and Tim to look at this and present to group.
- Containment may control a situation so they cannot hurt themselves or others, each situation is unique. Communication skills are number one. Standard is a reasonable officer (be within parameters) prior knowledge, special training, known injuries, mental stability. Takes upon all forms, sometimes removing the instigator can calm everyone down.
- Duty of Care, Vt statue. If an officer sees a person get hit by a car it is their job to provide help for that person; not just due to police actions. Tim to check on this.
- Positional asphyxia – come back with some more language, we may be able to add. Tim to come up with something and send back us.
- Objectively reasonable – trained officer versus someone on the street. Not supposed to be spelled out for civilians, these officers are trained. VLCT has put forth.
- Pre-assault cues can be verbal and physical “I have a gun” “I am going to kill you” a person changing their stance.
- Excessive force – proven to use it, is that grounds for fire? Not always. Will there be action? Yes. levels. Based on totality and why. Beating on someone in custody, not tolerated. Implied in the not tolerated but, can be spelled out
- Conducted electrical device – More verbage, definition. Impact tools, not weapons.
- Ladder of force start at verbal – insinuated, if someone comes at you shooting, you don’t start with verbal. It’s more of a Use of Force continuum.
- Chemical agents – OC, pepper spray – not a lot of people’s first choice. This is the only chemical agent used.

#### 8. Review “Fair and Impartial policing” Policy.

#### 9. Discuss items for next meeting

- Clarification from the Chief on some of the definitions. Bob will send Chief his notes.
- We will resume Response to Resistance at the next meeting, Lower case d on page 4.
- GREAT conversation so far!

#### 10. Miscellaneous

- None

#### 11. Adjourn

- Bob adjourns meeting at 8:00 pm. Kristin Beaudin motions approval, Reina Dean seconds motion. All in favor.