

# Town of Chester

Citizen Advisory Committee

December 12, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mike L., Roy S., Vince B., Frank K.

Staff Present: Chief Williams, Alicia DiPietro

Visitors Present: None

## 1. Organization:

- a. Review agenda - Changed the Next Meeting item to include a time change.
- b. Review [11.14.23 Minutes](#) - Minutes reviewed, no changes.

## 2. Citizen's Comments and/ or Input: (via email)

*"Thanks for your response. The google form is way too formatted. People should be able to fill in what they need to let you know. I have 2 items that will not fill that format and I used the form for my first item and it was hard to do.*

*Next item:*

*1)Oversight of the holding cell in the public safety building. How often is it used, and for what? This should be printed on the Chester website somewhere. The Chester public should have this knowledge. Also, health concerns in this holding cell, such as an individual experiencing an overdose?(<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/vermont/articles/2023-05-15/man-died-in-a-bennington-police-cell-from-drug-overdose-autopsy-finds>) Is there naran available, and is there monitoring of other health concerns, meaning is someone keeping a close watch?*

*2) More investigation into a police embedded social worker. I saw that in your minutes and there are 101 reasons why this is a great resource, even just to build dialogue with people experiencing social issues.*

*3) Set a date for restorative justice circles at GMUHS. There are many ideas that could be planned around that.*

*Sorry these items do not fit into your google form. Again that form is way too restrictive. Thanks for all that you do!"*

The questions raised will be addressed at different points during the meeting.

## 3. Chester Police Department Comments and/ or Input

•With regards to the holding cell:

- Chester PD can not keep someone in the holding cell overnight.
- An officer is in the building at all times. The person is under surveillance via video camera and during a visual check every 15 minutes. The observations are logged.
- If there is a medical emergency, ambulance is called. The officers are all first responders or above. The officers have naran.
- Exact number of uses was not available. Estimate of 15 - 20 times. There have been no incidents.

- Breast Cancer Awareness patches raised \$2,300. Funds to be presented to Dartmouth later this week.
- Toy Drive established by CHester PD in coordination with Dollar General and Chester Andover Family Center. Multiple boxes of toys and other gifts as well as #200 bouncing balls.
- Radar equipment has been provided by the Governor' Highway Safety Program.
- Motor vehicle stops are coming to happen. Warnings or tickets issued.
- A brief overview of budget was shared.
- Select Board approved the Alarm Policy

#### 4. Sub-Committee Updates:

##### a. Communication

- i. The Citizen Input Form will be reviewed to ensure that it is usable for a variety of topics and inputs. Draft available through the updated email. The form is designed to gather data so some specific details are necessary.
- ii. Restorative justice is something that the CAC thinks is a great idea and should be considered by the schools. It is not something that the CAC will be involved in.
- iii. Frank noted that the CAC gmail account has his name attached to it. Will be getting a new one that is set-up for "Chester Vermont" so the account is then transferable.
- iv. CAC Flood Response Survey - Is ready to go once the new gmail account is established. Data will be collected until March, 2024.

##### b. Interview and Personnel:

- i. Lieutenant position to be posted in the future.
- ii. Awards were given out last week for 16 commendations. 4 were for lifesaving awards.
- iii. An embedded social worker is not in place at this time. Bellows Falls and VSP have them. Chester PD has had a MOU with the Bellows Falls person for the last 6 months. If a social worker is needed, s/he who also works with Bellows Falls, will be contacted. If s/he is not available, the VSP social worker will respond. HCRS Crisis people may be considered once HCRS has the staff/ personnel in place. To date, there has not been an emergency need. There have been people referred to the social worker.

##### c. Data Analysis:

- i. None at this time.

##### d. Community Awareness:

- i. LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) will be offered again at CAES.
- ii. First Aid training to be offered at CAES and GMUHS. First Responder course could be offered in the future.

- iii. Questions raised about potential violations from the Chandler Road quarry.
  - iv. Possible presentation or other information to be provided by CAC at the March 2024 Town Meeting
5. Policy Review Process: Roy and Vince
- a. CAC Policy Review Protocol:
    - i. “Holding Cell” Policy coming next.
6. Other items:
- a.
7. Next Agenda: January 9, 2024 meeting  
Motion made to start the meeting at 6PM at the Town Hall. Motion 2nd.  
Motion passed.
8. Adjournment at 8:00PM.

Attachments: [VCLT Policies to be reviewed.](#)  
[Chester PD Awards Program](#) (draft)  
[Chester VT Flood Response Survey](#)