

Citizen Advisory Committee
July 8, 2025
5:30 p.m.

1. Organization:
 - a. Review agenda.
 - b. Members present: Barry F., Mike L., Frank K. (Note taker)
 - c. Members of the public: Julie Hance, Sgt. Noah Rheume, Alicia DiPietro, Chief Tom Williams
 - d. Other organizational items -
 - i. Approve minutes from April 8th, 2025
 - ii. [04.08.2025 Notes](#)
 - iii. 04.08.25 Minutes approved

2. Citizen's Comments
 - a. Leslie Thorsen. Everyone is aware of the email. Chief Williams was going to reply but Ms. Thorsen went to work. The questions about the WCSD needs to be directed to WCSD according to Julie H. and the Chester Selectboard. Julie H. has not heard back from her since sending her the email on 07/02/25. Mike L. Brought up that we, CAC, do not have the information about the WCSD. WCSD follows their own guidelines/ protocols. Similar to the State Police or another agency coming into the community. All general statutes for outside agencies are in place.
 - b. Our response to questions about staffing etc.... should be to direct the Town Manager and/ or the Chief.
 - c. The CAC response was appropriate to this question/ issue.
 - d. The CAC will be sending a response. The CAC response will be cc'd to Julie H. and Chief Williams.
 - i. The emails can be found below. [05/25 LT/ JH Emails](#)
 - ii. The response to LT and her response to the CAC which was forwarded to Julie H. And Chief Williams are in the 05/25 LT/ JH Emails doc.

3. Chester Police Department Comments and/ or Input
 - a. See the above comments.
 - b. The staffing issue. Julie and the Selectboard have another press release coming out about the staffing issues. Mike shared that we are fortunate that we have such fine officers over the time. Details about why officers are leaving can not be shared. There is a salary differential as well. The vetting process takes time.
 - c. Chester PD is currently covering all the shifts. The potential exists that there are 5 - 6 officers in the queue. The timeframe is 6 - 12 months.

- d. Chester PD is trying to balance costs and the satisfaction of the staff.
 - e. The intent is to continue to hopefully cross train the new officers.
 - f. The crushed cruiser is back on the road. Everything got replaced. All paid for the insurance.
 - g. CERT program graduated six members.
4. Sub-Committee Updates:
- a. Communication: See above
 - b. Personnel: See above
 - c. Community Awareness:
 - i. Police Night Out - August 5th, 4:30 - 7:00PM. Free to attendees. All first responders will be in attendance. Barry F. And Mike L. will try to attend. Frank K. is away. Alicia D. has the press release and the other details.
 - ii. Mike brought up about Kids First and the resources that they provide. The funds are donated by the Kids First people involved.
 - d. Policy Review:
 - i. Julie H. Shared the language about the Chester PD website about the Immigration Policy. After discussion of the intent of the policy and the Fair and Impartial Policing Policy, the CAC recommended to Julie H. that the statement be removed from the Chester PD website.
 - e. Barry reviewed 66 pages of policies (Use of Force, CEW - Conducted Electrical Weapon, Domestic Violence, Fair and Impartial Policing, and Internal Affairs Statewide)
 - i. Use of force has multiple layers of documentation that is required. It is the starting point that then engages other policy details with the best practices being the guiding principle.
 - ii. Chester PD is not presently carrying the conducted electrical weapons.
 - iii. Embedded social worker is available to us that is shared with BF. The VSP social worker is 2nd backup. Chief Williams explained an example of how the social worker is used.
 - iv. Internal Affairs Policy has an annual report. There has been no complaints and/or officer misconduct that would require a report. Given that there has not been any issues, the Chester PD responds to emails from the state about these matters.
 - v. Other policies can be introduced at the local level. There is a CERT/ Volunteer Policy in place.
5. Other Items:
- i. CERT will be at Police Night Out and Festival on the Green.
 - ii. Another CERT group might be in the works in the fall.
 - iii. Ludlow is interested in the details. Possible co-training? Regional CERT group? Ludlow is no longer interested.
 - iv. Frank raised a question about ICE agents. Yes, they will always be identifiable.
6. Next Meeting:
- a. Police Night Out, August 5th, 2025
 - b. October 14th, 2025 - Public Safety Building at TBD. 4PM?
7. Adjourn at 7:01PM. Motion by Barry F., 2nd by Mike, All in favor.