June 18, 2024

9:00 AM

Zoom Meeting

**Members in Attendance Public Session:**

Bill Sorrell – Governor Appointed

Daniel Guerra – Governor Appointed

Karim Chapman – Governor Appointed

James Whitcomb –Proxy for Commissioner Jennifer Morrison, Dept. of Public Safety

Chris Herrick – Commissioner for Department of Fish and Wildlife

Tim Lueders-Dumont – Proxy for Director Campbell, States Attorney and Sheriffs

Justin Stedman – Proxy for Commissioner Herrick, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Wade Cochran – Proxy for Commissioner Wanda Minoli, DMV

Jay Greene –Proxy for Executive Director, Office of Racial Equity

Lori Vadakin – Proxy for Commissioner Hawes, Department of Mental Health

Mark Anderson – Windham County Sheriff’s Department

Domenica Padula – Proxy for Attorney General Charity Clark

Tom Chenette – Vermont Police Association

Karen Tronsgard-Scott – Executive Director, VT Network

Mike O’Neil – VT Troopers Association

Cassandra Burdyshaw – Human Rights Commission

Jennifer Frank – VT Chiefs Association

Jennifer Poehlmann, E.D., Center for Crime Victim Services

Sadie Donovan – Proxy for E.D. Jennifer Poehlmann, Center for Crime Victim Services

Trevor Whipple (1-802-318-6516)– Vermont League of Cities and Towns

**Other Attendees:**

Christopher Brickell – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Kim McManus – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Lindsay Thivierge – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Kevin Lane – Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Doug

**Call to Order:**  VCJC Chair Bill Sorrell 9:00 AM

**Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:** No additions or deletions to the agenda.

**Executive Director Updates:** *Vermont Criminal Justice Council Chair Bill Sorrell –*Heather Simons is no longer Executive Director; the resignation was a complete surprise. Chair Sorrell gave a summary of events from the time of resignation. The Chair and Vice Chairs requested Deputy Director Chris Brickell to fulfill the role of Acting Executive Director.

*Mark Anderson –* Is there a difference in the State of Vermont between acting and interim?

*Bill Sorrell –* Kim is working with DHR on this issue.

*Kim McManus* – Generally speaking, acting is meant to be temporary and interim tends to be a defined period. My understanding from DHR is if the Council wanted to appoint an interim, we would need to get that approved through DHR.

*Mark Anderson –* Is approval necessary because of compensation?

*Kim McManus* – I don’t have confirmation from DHR, but I believe that is part of it.

*Bill Sorrell –* Depending on the action of the Council I will be speaking with DHR regarding compensation. My priority is to have a period of stability for a number of weeks before we need to get into whatever our process will be to appoint a permanent executive director. Time is of the essence with the IADLEST report. Sometime soon I will meet with the vice chairs regarding the executive director process.

*Cassie Burdyshaw –* I think part of feeling welcomed to VCJC has been Heather, I appreciate the need to be looking forward but looking back needs to be a big part of looking forward. I would like to know more about what led up to this big change and if the appropriate place to do that is executive session that is fine but I would like to be a voice where it is important to look forward but there needs to be an opportunity for reflection.

*Bill Sorrell –* To discuss performance of a public official then it would be appropriate to go into executive session.

**Executive Session**: *Vermont Criminal Justice Council Chair Bill Sorrell –* Karen Tronsgard Scott makes a motion to move into executive session, Cassie Burdyshaw seconded the motion, no discussion, all in favor.

**General Session:** *Vermont Criminal Justice Council Chair Bill Sorrell –* Mark Anderson makes a motion to appoint Chris Brickell as the acting director of the Vermont Police Academy, Jim Whitcomb seconds the motion.

*Discussion ensued* – pay will be commensurate with the duties of the position and the chair will be in consultation with DHR to make that happen. Justin Stedman pointed out that it may be difficult to get higher assignment pay due to the wording of the Deputy Director job description. The chair stated that if unsuccessful through DHR he would discuss this with the Secretary of Administration and if necessary, the Governor.

*Mark Anderson –* Since Deputy Director Brickell has taken over the amount of communication coming to the law enforcement community to the academy has been remarkable. I truly appreciate what he and the staff have been doing. It isn’t just him but the whole team to pull everything together. I know there is a lot more work on their shoulders but this change in leadership has also brought new energy to the rank and file of law enforcement.

*Vote –* Karim Chapman (yes), James Whitcomb (yes), Daniel Guerra (yes), Wade Cochran (yes), Lori Vadakin (yes), Domenica Padula (yes), Tim Lueders-Dumont (yes), Jay Greene (yes), Mike O’Neil (yes), Chris Herrick (yes), Tom Chenette (yes), Mark Anderson (yes), Trevor Whipple (yes), Sadie Donovan (yes), Cassie Burdyshaw (yes), Karen Tronsgard-Scott (yes), Kelly Price (yes), Jen Frank (yes). (18 yes, 0 No)

*Chris Brickell –* Thank you to the Council for your vote of support moving forward. The biggest thing for me is communication and you knowing what is going on. I have had conversations with law enforcement and have gotten a positive response. There are a lot of big initiatives and a lot of work ahead of us. I can thank Heather for starting those initiatives. I would ask that moving forward anybody on the Council that has any concern or is curious about something please reach out. I look forward to taking some positive steps moving forward, thank you.

Next week we will have an in-person meeting at the Fire Academy from 9AM-12PM for those that can make it. We will be hearing from IADLEST. Documents will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

*Bill Sorrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Cassie Burdyshaw, no discussion, all in favor.* Meeting adjourned.