



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2021
10:00 AM
Zoom Meeting

Members in Attendance:

William Sorrell, Chair – Governor Appointed
Brian Searles – Governor Appointed
Tammy Boudah – Governor Appointed
Maira Tungatarova, Governor Appointed
Heather Simons – proxy for Interim Commissioner James Baker, Dept of Corrections
Anthony Facos – proxy for Commissioner Wanda Minoli, Dept of Motor Vehicles
Col. Jason Batchelder – proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, Vermont Fish & Wildlife
David Scherr – proxy for Attorney General TJ Donovan, Attorney General's Office
Xusana Davis – Executive Director Racial Equity
Sgt. Erin Hodges - Vermont Troopers Association
Chief Christopher Brickell – Vermont Chiefs' Association
Sheriff Mark Anderson – Vermont Sheriffs' Association
Trevor Whipple – Vermont League of Cities and Towns
Elaine Boyce – proxy for E.D. Chris Fenno, Center for Crime Victims Services
E. D. Karen Tronsgard-Scott – Network DOMV/Sexual Violence
Cassandra Burdyshaw - Vermont Human Rights Commission
Michael Major - Vermont Police Association
Karim Chapman - Governor Appointed
Major Ingrid Jonas - proxy for Commissioner Michael Schirling, Dept of Public Safety

Other Attendees:

Major Justin Stedman – proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Fish & Wildlife
Jacob Humbert - Assistant Attorney General
Interim Director William Sheets - Vermont Police Academy
Gail Williams - Vermont Police Academy
Cindy Taylor-Patch - Vermont Police Academy
Lindsay Thivierge - Vermont Police Academy
Robert Ryan – Vermont Police Academy
Christopher Conway – Vermont Police Academy
Steven Coote – Vermont State Police
Kevin Lane – Vermont State Police
David Dewey – Colchester Police Dept



Vermont Criminal Justice Council

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Call to Order: VCJC Chair Bill Sorrell 10:03

Review of February 17, 2021 VCJC minutes

Approval of minutes:

Christopher Louras made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from the February 17, 2021 meeting, second by Elaine Boyce. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chair Sorrell: Announced Heather Simons will be the new Executive Director starting on April 12, 2021.

Director of Training Updates: Cindy Taylor-Patch

- Updated the Council on some upcoming dates. April 9th is orientation and the physical fitness (PT) test for the 111th applicants, April 12th starts the three week pre-basic for VSP, and May 3rd is the starting date for the 111th.
- There is a Level II class in process this week and the Academy has continued to have in-service and canine trainings as needed.
- Cindy announced the resignation of TC Leslie Bodette. Leslie's position will be posted, and she has asked permission to post the program services clerk temporary position that has been vacant.
- Shared a PowerPoint and gave an overview of the training side of the Academy.

VCJC Sub-Committees/Working Groups:

- **Highway Safety Sub-Committee:** Christopher Conway gave an overview of the trainings he oversees as well as what the sub-committee is and does.
- **Canine Sub-Committee:** Robert Ryan and Dave Dewey explained the canine certifications and trainings. At this time there are 42 teams, 10 in-service instructors, and five new teams being trained this year. The sub-committee consists of 12 members that meet quarterly to review bites, look at trainings, and update standards, along with giving out annual awards.

Director of Administration: Lindsay Thivierge announced on March 29th there will be a new look and updates to the website. Presently working on Rule 13 collections, facility projects, entrance testing, and Act 56 complaints.



Vermont Criminal Justice Council Council Meeting Minutes

Interim Executive Director Updates: Bill Sheets informed the Council at this time there are seventeen sub-committees and working groups. He will be creating a timeline for work that needs to be done and will be taking a comprehensive look at sub-committees.

VCJC Co-Vice Chair: Chair Sorrell explained the need for co-vice chairs. Sheriff Mark Anderson volunteered and Xusana Davis was asked and accepted. On July 1, 2020 the chair of each committee and Council will be revisited.

Motion to accept Sheriff Anderson and Xusana Davis as co-vice chairs was made by Chief Brickell. Second by Brian Searles. All in favor. Motion passes.

Break 11:00-11:10

Professional Regulation Sub-Committee: Chief Christopher Brickell welcomed Elaine Boyce as a member of the sub-committee to replace Heather Simons. The committee has been looking at several cases. There are Category B offenses to act on and a couple Category C offenses that will eventually need to have hearings with the Council. At this point they are working on drafting letters that will be sent out to the officers. Chief Brickell is anticipating these cases being ready late April or early May. These hearings will be two weeks before/after regular Council Meetings.

Fair and Impartial Policy Review: Bill Sheets is working with stakeholders on suggestions for draft policy. There are two requests for proposals on Fair and Impartial data collection and better education. David Scherr explained that VT State Law requires a uniform model policy for all departments to adopt and be looked at every two years. The updated final draft will be completed soon and will go to the Fair and Impartial Committee for review.

Interim Executive Director William Sheets:

- **VCJC Council Rules Working Group:** Council Members were asked if they had interest in being on this working group.
- **Entrance Testing Working Group:** Any Council Member wanting to be on this working group is welcome and next week an email will go out to Chiefs and Sheriffs for anyone wanting to be on this working group.
- **Military Equipment Working Group:** Council Members were asked if any have an interest in being on this working group and helping create a model policy as it relates to use of military equipment by law enforcement.
- **Model Body Camera Police Working Group:** The LEAB has worked on construction of a policy and signed off on it. The Council now needs to review creating the need for a sub-committee if anyone is interested to work on this sub-committee and reporting to Council by January 1, 2022.



Vermont Criminal Justice Council Council Meeting Minutes

- **Facial Recognition Technology Working Group:** Bill Sheets expressed his concern that this topic will not be simple and will take work.

Testimony Update: Interim Director Bill Sheets has testified 10-11 times now and says we are being heard. The Academy has asked for three positions. An attorney, and investigator, and a Training Coordinator/Canine Training Coordinator.

American Rescue Plan Requests: The Academy has asked for \$570,000 to update and purchase needed supplies and equipment and has asked for \$13,000,000 for renovations to the building. Chair Sorrell has asked for an email to go to Council Member's after next Friday's crossover to let members know where we stand.

Covid Vaccination: Interim Director Bill Sheets has asked all members to share with their groups the need for recruits coming into the 111th Basic class to be vaccinated against Covid. Agencies can use the codes previously sent out to get these recruits an appointment. The Academy is doing everything possible to keep everyone safe and healthy and will continue to social distance, wear masks, etc. He is hoping to have 95% of the incoming recruits vaccinated upon arrival.

Open Discussion: Bill Sheets announced this is his last Council Meeting as the Interim Director.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion was made by Brian Searles and a Second was made. All in favor. Motion passed.

Adjourn: 12:02

Next Meeting date: April 21, 2021 at 10:00 Criminal Justice Council