

Webster Police Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes 7/15/13 brought to order at 6:30pm

In Attendance: Jeanette Baker, Kevin Sullivan, Lt. Phil Mitchell, Carol Creighton, Chief Dupuis, Selectman Mason Donovan, Richard Inman, Linda Clark and Kate Merchant

We received a letter from the town Attorney regarding the committee's inquiry into previous complaints. The town attorney gave a written explanation stating that we cannot inquire about complaints made against Officers, as the Chief "shall have the authority to direct and control all employees of his or her department in their normal course of duty. A ruling of Ingersoll v. Williams was cited. We can discuss how the town processes complaints, but cannot discuss actual events. There was much discussion as to how we can attempt to move forward without knowing specifics or even know what the complaints were.

Selectman Donovan sees our committee as "community relations" group- bring town issues to the table and bring information back to the community. He will be compiling all of the data from the Town Questionnaire (town received 150 responses). He will share the results at the next Selectboard meeting. We will be able to review. Linda will be printing copies of the Policies for committee members (at each members own cost). Kevin spoke about the small blurb in the Grapevine regarding the Advisory committee and comment from Chief about the committee having an agenda. Will that comment make the committee be perceived as unbiased? The Chief did respond stating that his how he felt, as at our first meeting prior to electing a Chairperson we were asking about complaints and policies. It was reiterated by several members that that was not the case and we were trying to figure out what exactly our role would be and what we could discuss. We feel it is important for us to know the "history" in order to move forward. There is no agenda against Officers, but perhaps Policies. Can we help to adjust policies? Chief doesn't disagree; he feels that he is a buffer between Officers and the citizens. He doesn't believe he can generalize without giving confidential information out.

We discussed the Mutual Aid policy, specifically about Officers stopping vehicles in other towns. Under the mutual aid agreement if an Officer observes an offense he/she must call the Police Department with jurisdiction and asks permission to stop; if ok'd the will proceed with a traffic stop. Where does the liability lay? Can the mutual aid policy be added online? The Chief is working towards getting a Webster Police Dept. website up and running that is separate from the town.

All mutual aid assistance, including motor vehicle stops are seen as department assists on the monthly report. State Police respond to approximately 10 calls a year. Last year there were 12 motor vehicle stops in Boscawen. One was for 61 MPH in a 35 zone and another was for a DWI, habitual Offender. The Chief will respond to inquiries regarding motor vehicle stops made in other towns- citizens just need to contact him. IMC logs all calls for service.

The Chief spoke about getting IMC data by street name or area for the committee to review so we can pinpoint what areas of town are the most active for police activity.

Recently a Webster Cruiser was seen in Concord on Fisherville Rd on a paid traffic detail. These details are done before or after the Officers regular shift, or on days off. The town does receive payment to have the cruiser at the location.

The Police Advisory committee will be at Old Home Day. The Chief was able to get a poster donated from Coca-Cola. Kate and Richard will be there from 11-1:30 and Linda, Kevin and Jeanette will be there from 1:30-4. We will available to speak with and citizens can bring any concerns to the committee to be brought back to the Chief.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm