

Summary of January 7th Meeting of the Saranac Lake Police Review Committee

The meeting was held via zoom from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Present were: John Sweeney, Chief James Joyce, Melinda Little, Ernest Hough, Betsy Fuller, Sarah Clarkin, Asst. DA David Hayes, Suzanne Lavigne. Absent: Angela Brice, Chris Morris.

Members Reviewed Master Document Update

Chief Joyce updated committee on the new Procedural Justice requirements for Police Academy, previously a 2 hour course it is now 6 hours in the academy and 6 hours after the recruit has been in field training. NYS is reviewing and proposing a 32 hour instructor course for New Principles in Policing. VSLPD currently has 2 certified training officers. VSLPD will be reviewing how to incorporate additional staff training in the Principles of Policing.

Policies

High Speed Pursuit Policy has been updated to include language allowing the VSLPD to terminate pursuit without authorization from a supervisor.

SWAT Team usage decision tree or check list has been compiled and provided to the committee.

Use of Taser & Pepper Spray policies provided to committee for review, the proposed new policy is more restrictive than previous policy.

Chris Morris provided information on the ongoing Police Interaction Group.

John Sweeney made the point that we need to support better communication and posed the question of how does the Village provide a better process.

Suzanne Lavigne updated committee CALEP (Counselor and Law Enforcement Partnership) Support from Franklin County in collaboration with Citizens Advocates. Currently working with the Village to identify space and location for staff. Suzanne Lavigne and Chief Joyce will be providing update to local paper.

Asst. DA David Hayes provided background on public comment about Trauma Informed Policing. Trauma Informed Policing – Teaches that a victim may have trauma which creates incorrect review from Police or varied response from Police to the trauma. Police are only one of many factors in review and gathering of information.

Police Chief stated that the “Police observe, collect evidence and report”, One of the only conclusions police officers make is who the at fault party of a traffic accident is.

Betsy Fuller explained there are many levels of trauma that individual suffer from and that 90-95% of the population have suffered from trauma.

Suzanne Lavigne offered the County has training for Trauma Informed Approach and that Non-violent training models can be offered with more opportunities to come.

Police Staff training discussion: Mandatory vs Non-Mandatory

1. Annual
2. By Annual
3. Non-Mandatory

Final Master Document will be updated with the CALEP and training needs and add a Findings and Recommendations section

Lexipol – Estimated final policy document will be available and online approximately October 2021.