

Law Enforcement Advisory Board
DPS Headquarters, Lab Classroom, Waterbury VT
Minutes of Meeting
November 15, 2017

- Chair Rick Gauthier called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm with the following present: Nelson Tift, Vermont Constable Association; George Merkel, Vergennes PD; Kraig LaPorte, U. S. Attorney Office; Colonel Jason Batchelder, Fish & Wildlife; James Hughes, Franklin County State's Attorney; Gwynn Zakov, VT League of Cities and Towns; Jake Elovirta, Motor Vehicles; Commissioner Tom Anderson, DPS; Chief Jennifer Morrison (via conference call); and Suellen Royea, DPS/CJS. Colonel Matt Birmingham joined the meeting at 1:19 pm. It was noted the quorum requirements were met.

- **Old Business:**
 - **Regionalization of Services Update:** Gwynn Zakov reviewed that a committee bill is being prepared and thought it will include a review of the cost of dispatching, dispatching is a good first step towards regionalization of services, and it will look at full dispatching for police, fire, and ems.

 - **Review Minutes from October 11, 2017 Meeting:** Gwynn Zakov made a motion to accept the minutes. Jim Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

 - **Dispatching Update:** At the last meeting, Commissioner Anderson offered to draft a request for the Board to review dispatching options. He noted that he is waiting to review the Committee bill. Jennifer Morrison reported that the Chittenden County efforts are moving forward and select boards are being asked to add joining the service to ballots for voter votes on Town Meeting Day. A discussion was held regarding how to start the conversation with towns. Suggestions included: to educate the town managers, create a phase-in process, find a way to offer some incentives (grant funding, etc.), and the State take a leadership role. It was noted that regionalized dispatch centers compete, which has the potential to decrease the cost of dispatching services.

- **New Business:**
 - **Fair and Impartial Policing;** Rick Gauthier reported that meetings have been held. Work is being done to modify the language to make it clearer for officers; advocates are concerned that the intent of the bill was being violated; Representative Gonzales was contacted to clarify there was a training curriculum; some instructors are uncomfortable teaching immigrations and border patrol requirements; and they narrowed down the essential and non-essential elements as some of the non-essential elements violate the federal law. A suggestion was made that the LEAB draft a bare bones policy and to create two (2) separate policies; criminal and civil. The draft version will be reviewed at the Council meeting scheduled for December 12, 2017, with the final version ready for January 1, 2018. It was thought that agencies have until March 1, 2018, to adopt the policy.

 - **Annual report:** Rick Gauthier advised that the LEAB's annual report is due January 15, 2018. He proposed meeting every third Wednesday of every odd month starting in January, from 1-3 pm for 2018. A suggestion for the 2018 Business Plan was to research

dispatching. Rick Gauthier offered to contact the Senate Gov. Operations chair to offer our services.

- **Anticipated Legislation:**
 - A question was asked regarding traffic safety/highway deaths. It was noted that H.511 included some traffic safety items, but the bill went to Senate Judiciary instead of Senate Transportation. There will be an effort to get the bill reviewed by the Senate Transportation Committee.
 - Oral swabs for drug testing at roadside was thought to be part of a January 15, 2018, legislative report from the Marijuana Commission. Setting a baseline similar to Alcohol was reviewed.
 - Council will be addressing membership. Rick Gauthier will work on updating the LEAB's membership to include DMV and Fish & Wildlife representation.
 - Commissioner Anderson reported on a Marijuana Commission meeting held on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. It was thought that oral fluids and testing will be included in their recommendations.
- **Adjournment: Jen Morrison made motion to adjourn. George Merkel seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.**