

Nancy Goss Sheahan, Chair  
Glenn Boyde, Vice Chair

Shirley Jefferson  
Patti Pallito  
Mary Alice McKenzie  
Allison Crowley DeMag  
John Filipek



State of Vermont  
State Police Advisory Commission  
Department of Public Safety  
103 South Main Street  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101

## MINUTES August 26, 2020

The State Police Advisory Commission meeting was held via the Microsoft Teams application during the COVID-19 pandemic and was opened at approximately 2:07pm by Nancy Goss Sheahan, Chair. The following members were in attendance:

### Commission Members:

Present: Nancy Goss Sheahan, Chair; Glenn Boyde, Vice Chair; Shirley Jefferson, Patti Pallito, Mary Alice McKenzie

Others Attending: Commissioner Michael E. Schirling; Colonel Matthew T. Birmingham, Director, Vermont State Police, Lieutenant Robert McKenna, Director of Internal Affairs

Chair entertains a motion to accept the May 20, 2020 minutes. So moved by Shirley Jefferson and seconded by Glenn Boyde. All in favor, none opposed.

Floor was opened for public comment. No one from the public was present.

Chair entertains a motion to go into executive session to discuss records of the office of internal investigations, including new and miscellaneous IA cases of the Department of Public Safety. So moved by Shirley Jefferson and seconded by Glenn Boyde.

**Closed session: 2:09pm**

**Open session: 3:12pm**

Commissioner Schirling brought to the committee's attention that the Department of Public Safety is actively working on modernization strategies for law enforcement statewide, some of which relate to accountability and specifically, the potential adoption of civilian oversight committees similar to SPAC. The Commissioner was expecting conversations about these and other modernization strategies as the Legislature comes back in session.

Chair questioned if there has been any discussion with the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council regarding these and other changes, especially as it relates to training for law enforcement officers in the state. The Commissioner confirmed that there has been and that the Training Council is at present, undergoing some significant changes, including the hiring of a new Executive Director.

Chair questioned if in addition to what the Legislature was mandating, were there any additional policy changes being explored to ensure uniformity across the state to ensure that different agencies did not have different policies regulating like behavior. The Commissioner confirmed this was the case and that a universal "Use of

Force” and “Fair and Impartial Policing” policies were two of the first policies to be worked on in this fashion. The goal is for all Vermont law enforcement agencies to adopt uniform policies on key issues that would potentially be tied to grants and training.

Patti Pallito questioned how law enforcement training was obtained by agencies other than the Vermont State Police and if they are able to receive training from the State Police. The Commissioner explained the function of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council and what the future of the Council may look like. Colonel Birmingham explained that the State Police has numerous instructors that teach on a large variety to topics, but that the agency is not responsible for training other departments.

The next State Police Advisory Commission meeting was set for Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 1:30pm.

With no further business, a motion was entertained by Nancy Goss Sheahan for the meeting to be adjourned. So moved by Shirley Jefferson and seconded by Patti Pallito. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Carr  
Executive Assistant

DRAFT