

Nancy Goss Sheahan, Chair
Leo Willey, Vice Chair

Shirley Jefferson
Patti Pallito
Ugo Sartorelli
Glenn Boyde
Allison Crowley DeMag



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

MINUTES

May 7, 2015

The State Police Advisory Commission meeting was opened at approximately 1:37 PM hours by Nancy Goss Sheahan, Chair with the following in attendance.

Commission Members: Present: Nancy Goss Sheahan; Chair, Leo Willey; Vice Chair, Glenn Boyde, Shirley Jefferson, Allison Crowley-Demag
Absent: Ugo Sartorelli, Patti Pallito

Others Attending: Commissioner Keith Flynn, Colonel Thomas L'Esperance, Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Birmingham, Captain Ingrid Jonas, Lieutenant Jeremy Hill, Director of Internal Affairs, Jim Kenyon, Valley News

Nancy Goss Sheahan welcomes special guest Jim Kenyon from the Valley News.

Chair entertains a motion to accept the February 5, 2015 minutes as written, so moved by Allison Crowley-Demag and seconded by Leo Willey and so moved.

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 Leo Willey and so moved.

Closed Session: 1:40 PM
Open Session: 3:07 PM

Jim Kenyon re-joins the meeting and states that one of the flaggers told him Public Safety has the worst drivers out there. He claims one of the flaggers was hit the day before. Jim Kenyon gives the license plate number to Colonel L'Esperance for further investigation.

Colonel L'Esperance gives a rundown as to why Trooper Jonathan Graham resigned. He states someone sent WCAX some Facebook posts from Trooper Graham's account where bias was an issue. WCAX immediately notified the department. We immediately opened up an internal investigation and put Trooper Graham on suspension. Lt. Hill was assigned and investigated the case. Lt. Hill did rule out that his facebook was not hacked. Trooper Graham came in with his union president on Wednesday and

resigned. Shirley Jefferson asks if we were ever aware of any bias prior to the complaint. Colonel L'Esperance states we never had any indication of these thoughts and wanted to make it clear that there were not any complaints from the general public regarding Trooper Graham. We also have not had any complaints since his resignation. Colonel L'Esperance also advised that we will be relooking at our social media policy and tightening it up. This was more a violation of our code of conduct in relation to his bias expression. Shirley Jefferson advises that SPAC could help go over our social media policy.

Colonel L'Esperance goes over the facts of Trooper Eric Radamacher's resignation. Trooper Radamacher signed on for duty and was called out early in the morning for an accident. After leaving the crash scene he was called to another incident regarding a stolen snowmobile where other Troopers also responded. At this time alcohol was detected by another Trooper. The Trooper called the Patrol Commander who arrived on the scene and administered a roadside breathalyzer, which indicated Trooper Radamacher was over the legal limit. He was then brought back to the barracks and processed for DUI. He was immediately suspended by the Commissioner and a relation back was requested and the case submitted to the Attorney General's Office. Our investigation was running parallel to the criminal case. Trooper Radamacher came for an interview with Internal Affairs and prior to the interview he submitted his resignation. Colonel L'Esperance talks about VSP policies in regards to use of alcohol. The Colonel states each case is different. We have had Troopers who were picked up off duty for DUI and survived the job, and others that have not.

The Colonel states that we have a very good clinical program in place to support Troopers dealing with the everyday stress of the job. Public trust is at its tipping point and it's very important to have that trust.

Discussion in regards to the release of the preliminary breath test. The Commissioner states there is a difference of opinion in regards to the release of the breath test between VSP and prosecutors. The Commissioner believes these tests are not evidentiary and that the release is public knowledge. It's important to educate people on the process the preliminary breath test plays in DUI cases.

The Colonel gives an update on our race data collection. We are currently in the process of negotiating with Dr. McDevitt from Northeastern University to analyze the last 3 years of data we have collected. The Colonel would also like to bring in other local and county agencies, but isn't sure if they are there yet.

June 12, 2015 will be the Vermont State Police's annual awards ceremony.

The next State Police Advisory meeting was set for June 4, 2015 at 1:30 PM.

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 Allison Crowley-Demag. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Carr
Executive Assistant