

New Paltz Police Commission Meeting

August 8, 2023, 7:00pm

Town of New Paltz Community Center

3 Veterans Drive

I. Meeting Details

Chairperson: Cindy Sanchez

Secretary: Haley Nechamkin

II. Roll Call

Present:

Tara Fitzpatrick

Steve Ford

Chief Lucchesi

Cindy Sanchez

Janice Butcher

Haley Nechamkin

Absent:

Karrie Rahaman-Bunce

Esi Lewis

III. Call to Order

7:01 PM

Announcements:

- Conversations with the Police- 8/16, 6pm at Moriello Pool
- NP Opioid Prevention and Response team has resumed Narcan training at NP Farmer's Market, every Sunday from 10-1. Free Narcan kits and training offered and other substance abuse prevention and literature.

Approval of Agenda: Steve motions, Tara seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

Cindy motions, Steve seconds to approve February and July Minutes. All in favor. Motion passed.

IV. Public Input/Community Comments:

(See Chokehold Policy and Carotid Restraints discussion below).

V. Old Business

No old business to review.

VI. New Business

Discussion regarding recommendations of Reform and Reinvention Committee (From NPPRRC Report):

- Chokehold Policy and Carotid Restraints:
 - The policy that was in place before the NPPRRC amendment in the Fall of 2020, followed model policy. The only time when a chokehold is mentioned in current policy is in its definition, and to say it is prohibited. Wording used in the policy mirrors the NY State Penal Law regarding chokeholds. The chief shared that a chokehold policy has never been a part of training and is not authorized. There have been no complaints about chokeholds made to the department.

Diana Armstead (member of the NPPRRC) brought up speaking with the chief about the chokehold policy. Asked about language for previous policy and current policy. Had a discussion that interpretations of changes to the Chokehold Policy may be viewed differently by different individuals. (Spoke during the Chokehold Policy and Carotid Restraints discussion).

- Decrying Misuse of Force Incidents:
 - The department responded publicly when George Floyd was murdered and held a listening session. This is something the department is aware of and takes seriously. Also needs to be looked at on a case-by-case basis. Sometimes the department might not make a public statement but will take pieces of cases to work into training to try to mitigate these things from happening in our community. The department believes it is vitally important to figure out what happened in tragic incidents and how the chance of that happening in NP can be mitigated.

Monthly Report:

- Two commendations
 - Officer Jeremiah Childs- Commendation thanks him for his professionalism, and thoroughness; he took a pleasant professional approach.
 - Officer John Miller- Took a lost property complaint, and the person in this case wanted to thank John for his follow-up, in particular.

- One complaint against personnel.
- One Defensive Action Report (will be reviewed at next month's meeting).
- One new officer sworn in, and began field training.
- One Detective Report
 - Occurred at McGillicuddy's. Someone was using a firearm inside the establishment- the gun was an airsoft bb gun.
 - An Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) was filed with Dutchess county. These orders must be filed in the county of residence of the individual, so this case is being adjudicated outside of Ulster County. The individual in this case was charged with a criminal violation.

Monthly Training Report- Two officers (Cabrera and Rosales) have begun their field training and graduated Phase Two at the Police Academy. Hopeful that they will be ready to go out in the field in November.

- The department is down three people until officers Cabrera and Rosales are operational, and then there will be one position needing to be filled. The department is hoping to conduct more interviews next month to fill the last position available.
- Steve mentioned his ride-along was last Friday and he was with an officer at P&G's when fights were breaking out, and they were already there. Everyone, including the person being taken into custody, was handled professionally. Steve mentioned concern about newer officers being out there.
 - The chief mentioned that 75% of the department has less than four years of experience. Trying to give less administrative duties to the Sergeants so they can spend more time in the field. Turnover has led to this problem of little officer field experience. This is a concern of the department and is being prioritized.

VII. Other Items

No additional items at this time.

VIII. Move to Executive Session

Cindy motions, Steve seconds to go into Executive Session at 7:41pm.

IX. Return from Executive Session

Janice motions, Tara seconds for the return from the Executive Session at 8:19pm.

X. Adjournment

Tara motions, Steve seconds to adjourn at 8:20 pm. All in favor. Motion passed.