

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY JUNE 14TH, 2016 AT 4:15 P.M.**

Board Members Present:

Chair Marty Malloy, Jeff Campbell, Nora Daniel, Susan Gerard, Sarah Hackley, Bob Olson & Chase Powell

Board Members Not Present:

Gene Barner, Cheryl Lawler & Sydney Prevost

Department Staff Present:

Interim Chief Terry Gallagher & Meg Massey

Others in Attendance:

One community member and Debra Vaughn of the Whidbey News Times also attended.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Malloy at 4:16 p.m. in the Police Department Training Room.

AGENDA TOPICS

MEET POLICE DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR (INTERIM POLICE CHIEF):

➤ **Terry Gallagher**

Chair Malloy introduced and welcomed Mr. Gallagher who was hired as the Police Department Administrator as of June 1st. Mr. Gallagher retired from the Port Angeles Police Department in March of this year. He had served as Deputy Chief for seven years and Chief for eight with 31 years of service as an officer. Mr. Gallagher expects to be on staff for three to six months, until a permanent Police Chief is hired. He stated his goal is to make sure the next Chief has a reasonable chance of being successful. He will be implementing some changes, but noted the core is strong, the department has good employees.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves to Mr. Gallagher.

MEET NEW CAB MEMBER:

➤ **Sarah Hackley**

Chair Malloy introduced and welcomed Ms. Hackley who was appointed to the committee on June 7th.

MAY 2016 MINUTES:

The minutes from the May 10th meeting were distributed. Ms. Daniel moved to approve the May minutes as presented, Mr. Olson seconded. The May minutes were unanimously approved.

PERSONNEL / DEPARTMENT UPDATES :

Mr. Gallagher gave the following report:

➤ **Officer Vacancies**

The Officer on military leave is currently scheduled to return to work on August 1st.

The two entry level officers have been hired: Jeremy Andreano started on June 13th and Maurice Taylor on June 14th.

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY JUNE 14TH, 2016 AT 4:15 P.M.**

Ms. Gerard asked if the two entry level officers had been confirmed for a class at the academy yet. Mr. Gallagher stated they had. Their Physical Ability Test (PAT) is on Thursday June 16th. Once they have passed that, they are confirmed for BLEA Class #737 which starts on Tuesday June 28th and they graduate on Wednesday November 2nd.

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **CAB**

Chair Malloy stated that each of us has a unique perspective of what we as a committee can do for the community. There is a disconnect between policing and the community. Our job is to bridge that gap.

Mr. Gallagher agreed and stated that the Officers must be involved in and with the community. Port Angeles is comparable in size to Oak Harbor and has twice the call load. The Officers can be more involved, they need to understand that. Leadership is an issue. Also more communication is needed. Most problems can be solved with communication.

Mr. Gallagher then gave an example of a citizen he met with last week. She had spoken at the Council meeting and was discouraged because there was a parking problem in her neighborhood. The Police Department sent her away stating it was a zoning issue. Mr. Gallagher talked with her about her concerns and we can help. He is assigning an Officer to her, to solve the issues we can. As long as she has someone she can talk to, and understands the limits of the law she will be pleased with the service she is getting from the department.

Mr. Gallagher also stated that random patrolling, just driving around the City, is ineffective. Officers are more effective if given specific tasks. Leadership.

➤ **Upcoming Events**

Mr. Gallagher wanted to keep the CAB members informed of all the upcoming events throughout the year, as each one is an opportunity to reach out to the community:

- 4th of July Parade & Fireworks
- National Night Out ~ Tuesday August 2nd
School Resource Officer Padrta is working with the Lions Club on this event
- Possible Open House ~ To be determined
- Always be open to attend community meetings, service clubs, etc.

➤ **Skateboard Ordinance**

The Committee discussed their concerns with Mr. Gallagher about the existing skateboard ordinance and skateboard activity along Pioneer Way

Discussion included:

- Safety of both pedestrians and skateboarders
- WA law states it is illegal to skateboard in a business district

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY JUNE 14TH, 2016 AT 4:15 P.M.**

- Current Oak Harbor ordinances
 - Current skateboard ordinance is unenforceable because the street names are not current
 - Is Pioneer way designated as a business district
- Assigning cops to foot patrol and address it each time
- Importance of posting signs / notice
- Gizmos Board Shop located on Pioneer, that is their customer base
- Increase in activity now that school is out

The discussion then focused on how cops are only as effective as the information they have. They need good information in a timely manner. An example was given concerning a business just outside City limits and the issues they are having dealing with the clientele from the marijuana store that is now operating there. If the employees don't call the dispatch center with the information the situation is not likely to change. The more calls you get concerning a specific area, the more the department is forced to deal with it. "Boots on the ground."

➤ **Homeless Camps**

Chair Malloy asked Mr. Gallagher to discuss homeless camps. Mr. Gallagher stated the homeless issue is not unique to Oak Harbor. A recent court decision states that if you remove someone from a public space, you need to have a place for them to go, they have a right to have a place to go. Additionally, when you clean up a "camp" it is someone's property. You can't just take it and throw it away. It must be handled like found property, stored in an evidence room, adhere to retention laws, etc. It has become a very complex issue. The community needs to be involved, invest in their community. Port Angeles had success with a coalition that was formed, community groups, etc. Citizens need to understand the limitations of government. An organized group of citizens can do more, and do it faster than government can.

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Nothing to Report**

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Chair Malloy

Ms. Daniel asked if it would be possible to get a garbage can placed along the strip mall where the dollar store is. Currently, there is not one there and just a lot of trash because there is nowhere to put it. Ms. Massey said she would follow up with the public works department.

Mr. Campbell stated the brush had been cleared away from the Beeksma Gateway park entrance and around Mi Pueblo. He asked if this was something the city was focusing on or the effort of a citizen group. Mr. Gallagher stated he did not know but would find out.

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY JUNE 14TH, 2016 AT 4:15 P.M.**

Mr. Campbell asked what the SRO's schedule is once school lets out. Mr. Gallagher stated he would be assigned to patrol for the summer. Call volume is always up in the summer and vacations need to be covered. It is very useful to have the extra body.

Mr. Campbell stated he had read in the police blotter in the paper that a femur bone had been found. Mr. Gallagher stated it was most likely animal, and that had it been human remains of any type we would all be very aware of the situation.

Mr. Powell noted now that he has graduated, his term has ended. He wanted to thank the Committee and stated what a good program it is and that he has learned a lot. It has made an impact on he and his friends. He also stated what an outstanding job SRO Padrta has done. Officer Padrta is appreciated by the administration and the students and has always been very professional. Mr. Powell focused on helping to find an interested student to apply for the term for the next school year.

Ms. Gerard stated this was a very informative meeting and again welcomed both Mr. Gallagher and Ms. Hackley. She agreed we have a good perspective on the issues, but the problems are not going away or getting any better. Drugs and mental health are huge challenges that she faces daily working with low income housing residents. It's a vicious cycle. Mr. Gallagher stated he agreed but that mental health should not be a policing issue. Some believe if we as a society fix the mental health issue, that we would then also improve our prison system as for now it seems that is where the individuals end up instead of getting the help they need. Ms. Gerard stated that it is a policing issue in that they need a police report to present in court as part of the eviction notice to remove them from subsidized housing. Mr. Gallagher stated he would like to see this department hire some Officers with limited commission. They could help with lower level calls, and thus allow the fully commissioned Officers with the higher level of education, training, and pay to focus on the more complex calls.

Ms. Gerard stated it is so easy for transients and others to get to Oak Harbor with the free bus service. Chair Malloy stated Mr. Barner had the same concerns brought to him by a client asking if he was aware that homeless ("professional panhandlers" are using the transit system to visit Oak Harbor from Mt. Vernon and Burlington just to panhandle. Ms. Gerard stated we just don't have the manpower. Mr. Gallagher stated you will never have enough. It has to be a broader effort throughout the community.

Ms. Hackley stated she is very excited to be a part of this Committee and that with her background in law enforcement she wants to help bridge that gap between the community and the police. Mr. Gallagher stated it is our job to educate the community and help them to understand the limitations and complexities of the law. Ms. Hackley stated the role of the Officer has changed. The lack of respect for Officers impacts how Officers respond. Mr. Gallagher stated that Officers today are better educated, trained and screened than in the past. Police enforce criminal law. Think about how much of what an Officer is asked to do relates to criminal law.

Ms. Massey stated that Ms. Hackley completed the Open Public Meeting training today, June 14th.

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY JUNE 14TH, 2016 AT 4:15 P.M.**

ADJOURN:

Mr. Olson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Powell seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12th at 4:15 p.m. in the OHPD Training Room.

Prepared by Meg Massey