

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

April 21, 2026

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REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING- DRAFT

April 21, 2026

POLICE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD: Jenny Parker, Gwendolyn Evans, Dan Maguire, Lisa Holmes

ABSENT: Nancy Bean, Christina Hagestad

STAFF: Alyssa March & Kristen Wright- Community Liaison, Essex Police Department and Ron Hoague (EPD Chief)

ADMINISTRATION:

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gwendolyn Evans called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

2. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

No additions or changes

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

None

5. CONSENT ITEMS

a. The Board approved the Minutes for the March meeting.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Gwendolyn thanked Alyssa for her work with PCAB.

The Chief introduced the new Community Affairs Liaison, Kristen Wright, to the Board. Kristen has a bachelor's in psychology. She worked in 911 dispatch for almost 15 years in various locations in Vermont. Kristen shared some of her experience of dispatching with the Board.

b. The Chief gave an update about EPD. Yesterday, a dispatcher was supposed to start but an hour before the shift, he notified the department that he would not be taking the position. If anyone knows anyone interested in applying, they are encouraged to apply.

One of the people in the academy ended up leaving the academy due to family so there are currently two left, and they are scheduled to graduate at the end of May.

Two officers are currently on medical leave and two are on military deployment. The Chief is hopeful that there will be support coming back in June. Currently, EPD has 32 full-time

employees, 26 are sworn officers. The PD is authorized to have 31 officers, but the department has 20-21 active officers. There are two more going to the next academy.

The PD will be working on recruitment and different videos like virtual ride along and a virtual PD tour.

The PD will be starting the lieutenant process in mid- May. There are four candidates. The new lieutenant will be working with the current lieutenant.

After that process, the PD will start the sergeant process. The Chief invited PCAB members to be a part of those interviews. Lisa and Gwendolyn seemed interested.

The PD will be getting ready for the Memorial Parade soon.

Lisa praised the Chief for the working memo on Immigration Enforcement. The rest of the Board agreed. The Chief shared that he has received positive feedback and thanked the Board for their help.

c. The Chief suggested the Board think about their work plan for the rest of the year. The Board reflected on past meetings and what the work plan should have been for the year.

d. Next meeting, Kristen will bring back ideas that the Board discussed in previous meetings. The Board members will come up with 3 plans they would like to work on.

e. Gwendolyn and the Chief would still like to be on the radio. Hopefully, sometime soon.

7. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Gwendolyn. The motion was seconded and approved by the Board. The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa March
Community Affairs Liaison