

DRAFT MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
GLYNN COUNTY POLICE ADVISORY PANEL
MARSHE'S OF GLYNN LIBRARY
208 GLOUCESTER STREET
BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31520
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020, AT 5:00PM

PRESENT: Carl Alexander, Panel Chair
Dominic McClinton, Panel Vice-Chair
Teresa Hoyt, Panel Member
Charles Rinkevich, Panel Member
Rickey Walker, Panel Member
David O'Quinn, County Commissioner and Panel Member
Alan Ours, County Manager and Panel Member

ALSO PRESENT: Jay Wiggins, Interim Police Chief GCPD
Stephen Sarnoski, Office of Professional Standards GCPD
Rick Evans, Captain GCPD
Eugene Smith, Captain GCPD
Matthew Kent, Public Communications Manager
Dana Pontello, Assistant to the County Manager

NOT PRESENT: Ralph Basham, Panel Member

Meeting Began 5:01PM

1. Call to Order, Chairman Alexander
2. Opening statement regarding State legislation, Commissioner O'Quinn
3. Minutes approved from May 27, 2020 meeting. Vice Chairman McClinton makes the motion, Rickey Walker seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. Report from members who met with Chief Wiggins, Stephen Sarnoski, Captain Evans, and Captain Smith who met on June 9, 2020, Vice-Chair McClinton and Rickey Walker. Vice-Chair McClinton began with the following five points:
 - a. Dedicated admin assistant to assist Mr. Sarnoski. This point was already taken to the Board of Commissioners. Approval was given.
 - b. The opportunity to have some form of case management system, like Benchmark Analytics or any other.
 - c. Full time recruiter; someone who can go to colleges and universities/ police conferences, etc.
 - d. Accreditation Manager; someone who would be dedicated full time to the accreditation process, not just getting accreditation but maintaining accreditation.
 - e. Training, the immediate need for K-9 officers and SWAT teamMr. Walker added the following few issues:
 - the issue of funding vs. requirements
 - IT innovations are needed (proponent of Benchmark)
 - Morale of officers

- Community engagement

Commissioner O'Quinn asked about Benchmark, what is the current system (Spillman) not meeting that Benchmark would be? In Spillman, you cannot plug other systems into and it is just simply cumbersome. Hard to use and easy to make a mistake. Benchmark could do 30/40 things automatically that are currently done on paper. O'Quinn asked, is Benchmark the most popular program today? Is it what most other police departments used? Walker, because the software is so easy to use and customize for the different police departments it is widely used. Charles Rinkevich asked the cost for the Benchmark system, Mr. Sarnoski does not have the exact cost yet because it depends on which modules will and will not be needed but seems to be around \$20,000- \$25,000 per year. O'Quinn asked, how do we know which modules you do and do not need? Sarnoski, I think we need to continue to compare all the programs, not just Benchmark, although Benchmark has obvious advantages including its variety of modules.

Charles Rinkevich mentioned that he and Mr. Basham spoke with the Director over at FLETC, one of the world's best training centers, to have them work with GCPD on training. Rickey Walker, agreed this was a great idea. Chairman agreed it is a good opportunity.

5. Chief Wiggins report on what has been accomplished so far.:

- With help from Commissioner Booker, Chief Wiggins met with NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives) and great things came from that meeting.
- GCPD has applied with the Georgia Chiefs of Police Association (GACP) to begin the process of gaining state certification for the GCPD.
- Working with HR to hire the administrative assistant just approved by the Board of Commissioners.
- Been discussed already in the meeting but have scheduled meetings with Benchmark and Spillman to make sure the best decision will be made.
- Meeting with Axon (camera and taser provider). Approved to hire eight part-time positions to help fill shortages.
- Mentioned earlier but have met with representatives from FLETC for officers to receive training and be trained by FLETC.
- Patrol Division Watch Commanders meetings to stress the importance of positive interaction by officers in the community.
- Chief Wiggins has started meeting one on one with all individual officers within the agency. Many want more training and have concerns with current climate in Glynn County.
- Working to develop Town Hall style meetings with the community.
- Officers participated at Juneteenth celebration at Selden Park.
- Another officer has resigned since the last meeting. Current officer in charge of recruiting currently has 11 officers in line interested in working with GCPD.
- GCPD is interested in setting up a citizen's academy.
- Working with Cop Logic, a software company, which allows citizens easier access self-reporting to cut back on calls.
- They have provided officers with digital surveys and continues to receive input. Setting up suggestion type box. Working towards a survey for citizens

- Met with a group of local pastors called Community First, interested in working with the GCPD and making it more culturally diverse.

Chief Wiggins priorities include:

- Keep working on policies and procedures, and keep them up to date
- Focus on recruiting qualified and diverse applicants
- Retention of current officers
- Build trust and confidence with citizens

Chairman asked the Chief where we are at with the hiring of the 11 officers, Chief responded that right now they are doing the interviews. GCPD received a grant for 8 additional officers, but they must get up to the number of officers they are allotted and they are down 22 right now so it will take some time.

Theresa Hoyt asked Chief Wiggins regarding the 11 applicants being interviewed, how were these 11 located? Chief Wiggins explained the gentlemen who is doing recruiting right now is very vocal online and letting potential candidates know we are ready to talk to you, especially certified officers.

6. Volunteers to meet with GCPD officers- best to happen at shift change, 6AM/6PM so be at GCPD 5:30AM and 6:30PM to meet with the individual officers. Will be arranged via email.
7. Questions from the audience.
8. Next area of focus, community policing. Working with the community and police department to find areas of focus
Chair Alexander asked about the Bike Patrol Unit. Chief Wiggins explained that the bike patrol unit is restricted by manpower, but they were referred to as a community relations unit and can help greatly in community policing he believes
9. Chair's closing statements, looking forward to the next meeting where we discuss more of the community policing details. Also looking for an update from Steve Sarnoski in the next meeting.
10. Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 6:07PM

Chairman, Carl Alexander

Attest:

****Notice of Possible Quorum** - A quorum of Commissioners may attend this meeting**