

The Police Accountability Board met in an open session at the County Administrative Building, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton Room, Elkton MD on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Stephen Miller, Chairman
Lawrence Scott, Board Attorney
Jamila Mettee, Board Member
John Stricklett, Board Member
Robert McKnight, Board Member
John Thompson, Board Member
Angela Radoszewski, Paralegal

At 5:00 p.m, Chairman Miller called the PAB meeting to order. The Board members introduced themselves, Stephen Miller, Jamila Mettee, Robert McKnight, and John Thompson. It was noted that four out of the 5 members were present, therefore a quorum was had. Mr. Miller advised that the 5th member, John Stricklett was on his way. Chairman Miller stated as this was the Board's first meeting there was no old business.

New Business

Confidentiality Agreement – Lawrence Scott, Board Attorney advised that state and county legislation require that each member of the Police Accountability Board fill out and sign a confidentiality agreement. There will be no discussions of anything of a confidential matter until those agreements have been executed. He noted the agreements would be sent to each member via email.

Motion- to send confidentiality agreements by email (made by John Thompson) (and seconded by Jamila Mettee) All in favor – unanimous vote.

Appointment Terms – Lawrence Scott, Board Attorney, called to attention that per legislation passed by the county council that each member of the PAB was appointed by the County Executive and were confirmed by the Council and that the members serve staggered terms. He asked that if any of the members have questions about their term to let him know.

Let the record reflect that the 5th member, John Stricklett has now joined the meeting.

Training – Lawrence Scott, Board Attorney advised the State requires that the PAB members and the ACC members receive training from the Maryland State Training Commission. He noted that the training runs for five (5) continuous days and must be done continuously without missing a day. The

training can be brought to the county or will be held in Sykesville. Mr. Scott noted that the County Council and the County Executive agreed on a renumeration and as such the Board will be renumerated for the time taken off to attend the training. Mr. Scott advised that he week of April 17th or May 1st has been offered for training. Mr. Scott noted that is important to get the training in promptly because we have a deadline to adjudicate cases within 12 months. Since we started taking cases as early as last July first, we potentially have a July first deadline. Mr. Scott asked the members to review their calendars to see if either of the offered weeks would be acceptable.

Motion– Training to be scheduled for the week of April 17th, 2023 (made by Robert McKnight and seconded by John Stricklett). All in favor – unanimous vote

Statutory Purpose of the PAB – Lawrence Scott, Board attorney referred to the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services subtitle 4 chapter 9 which states that “**A PAB shall ensure public accountability and transparency over the powers exercised by the law enforcement agencies within the jurisdictions that PAB oversees**”. He noted that everything the Board does should balance back against this statement.

Duties of the PAB:

Meetings with Law Enforcement - Specifically, section 3, 102 requires that the Board hold quarterly meetings with heads of law enforcement agencies and otherwise work with law enforcement agencies in the county government to improve matters of policing. The board discussed the interpretation of that requirement as to the combination of meeting with the various agencies one on one versus a group meeting with all the agencies.

Motion – Group and individual meetings will be held throughout the year to implement this duty. (Made by John Thompson and seconded by John Stricklett). Motion passed unanimously.

ACC Members – The statute requires that the PAB appoint two civilian members to the Administrative Charging Committee. The ACC currently consists of, Michael Dawson and Robert Henze, appointed a little over a week ago by the County Executive, and confirmed by the County Council and Chairman Miller. By statute, the chairman of the PAB, Chairman Miller is also a member by prerequisite. Per the statute, The Board has the immediate need to appoint two civilian members, no law enforcement background, to fill the remaining openings. Per Steve Miller, Chairman, these positions were advertised for two months on the county website and applications were received. Mr. Miller has recommendations to make this evening.

Motion – Ms. Jamila Mettee nominated (made by John Stricklett and seconded by Robert McKnight)
* Let the record reflect this motion passed 4 to 0. Ms. Mettee did not participate in this vote.

Motion – Mr. Robert McKnight nominated (made by John Thompson and seconded by John Stricklett)
* Let the record reflect this motion passed 4 to 0. Mr. McKnight did not participate in this vote.

The ACC has now been fully appointed. Lawrence Scott, Attorney for the Board will call the first meeting for the ACC at which time they will pick their own chairman,

Submission of Complaints - The job of this board is to make sure that the complaints received meet the minimum standards and statutory standards by which they get forwarded to the jurisdiction and law enforcement jurisdiction for investigation. A website has been created through which the complaints are electronically submitted. At this time the complaints are automatically forwarded to the legal department. They are reviewed and then forwarded to the proper jurisdiction/law enforcement agency. A status report will be shared at each successive PAB meeting of the detailing the number of complaints and to which jurisdiction / agency they have been forwarded.

Motion –Continue the process whereby the electronic submissions continue to filter through the legal department which will forward to the appropriate agency (made by John Thompson and seconded by Robert McKnight). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion – make reasonable efforts to determine who the officer is and/or the correct jurisdiction 9 made by Jamila Mettee and seconded by John Stricklett). Motion passed unanimously.

Website – a website to place complaints has been created by the county IT department and is located on the Cecil County Government website. Currently, it is bare bones. The members are encouraged to visit the website and try it out. The website falls under the PAB and suggestions to enhance the website are welcomed.

Future Meetings – Discussion was had regarding the meeting schedule for the Board.

Motion – PAB meetings to be held the last Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. here at the Cecil County Administration Bldg (made by John Thompson and seconded by Jamila Mettee). Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.