

**VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN  
POLICE REFORM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**The Meeting was conducted in Accordance with Executive Order 202.1**

**PRESENT: (This meeting was conducted via zoom and zoom audio)**

Trustees Duane Jackson

Village Administrator: Marcus Serrano

Acting Police Chief Shane Farrell, Buchanan Police Department

Attorney Harvey Loeb

Members: Awilda Baez, Jeremy Basso, James Ferguson, James Lent, Diane Tangen,  
Linda Willey

**1. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Chairperson Jeremy Basso called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. The Committee reviewed the following policies:**

**USE OF FORCE:** The Committee recommended the continuation of annual training for all officers either/both in-service and through the Westchester County Police Academy. They also recommended that the policy be posted on the Police Information Section of the Buchanan Village website once it is updated.

**Bias Based Policy:** The Committee recommended the continuation of annual training for all officers either/both in-service and through the Westchester County Police Academy. In addition, they recommended that the policy be posted on the Police Information section of the Buchanan Village website once it is updated.

**Crisis Intervention Incidents Policy:** The Committee was informed that Westchester County is planning to provide a Crisis Intervention Team that would be available to all county police departments. The Buchanan Police Department will avail themselves of this service if it becomes available. The Committee recommended the continuation of annual training for all officers either/both in-service and through the Westchester County Police Academy. The Committee recommended that the policy be posted on the Police Information section of the Buchanan Village website once it is updated.

### **3. General Discussion:**

- The Committee discussed the possible purchase of body cams for use by the Buchanan Police Department. It was determined that it would be a great tool but extremely costly especially considering the size of the department. The charge for data storage and information is prohibitive. However, the possibility of a regional approach in the future may make it a practical purchase.
- The Committee discussed how to better serve the needs of the Spanish community considering that none of our police officers speak Spanish. The committee encouraged the consideration of the use of a subscription to a language translation program for phones that could be utilized for many languages including Spanish.
- The Committee agreed that there is a critical need for technology to be updated in order to better serve the residents of the Village. This should include:
  - Accessing existing technology that may provide better oversight by the Village to monitor police statistics and the work done by the police department.
  - Using the Village email and phone system to inform residents of emergencies and important information.
  - Updating the Police Department Information site on the Village website to include the following:
    - Name of chief, address and phone number
    - Bias Based, Crisis Intervention Incidents, Use of Force, Domestic Violence and Traffic Policies
    - An “File a Complaint Anonymously” section
    - Mission Statement

### **Community Engagement:**

The Committee agreed that the Buchanan Village Police Department has an important role in the Village with a highly visible department and has an excellent relationship with its residents. In a spirit of enhancing this relationship the Committee recommended that the Buchanan Police Department:

1. Continue developing the relationship between police and school community by regularly visiting Buchanan/Verplanck School. Participate in educational activities as requested by the principal and/or teachers.
2. Develop a close relationship with senior citizens by reporting to their meetings monthly or semi-monthly. This will create an opportunity for the chief to inform seniors of any problems and have a discussion of their needs.
3. Attend Village Board meetings in order to be visible to the community and to educate residents on police department news and issues.

**5. COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC:**

There were no comments.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

At approximately 8:10PM Diane Tangen made a motion to adjourn and all were in favor.