

Town of Montague
Meeting of the Community Engagement Police Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Held Remotely VIA Zoom Conference
November 18, 2020

Attendees:

Community Engagement Advisory Group: Kathleen Burek, Thomasina Hall, Colin Mitchell, Chris Pinardi.
Absent: Natan Cohen, Denise Aiken, Kwamane Harris

Montague Selectboard: Michael Nelson

Town of Montague: Walter Ramsey

1. **Meeting called to order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. Roll call was taken.
2. **Approve minutes of November 4, 2020 and November 11, 2020:** Thomasina asked for separate motions for each set of minutes because she was not present for the meeting on the 11th. For the November 4th minutes, Michael made a motion to approve and Thomasina seconded. There was a roll call and everyone approved. For the November 11th minutes, Michael made a motion to approve and Colin seconded. There was a roll call and Thomasina abstained but everyone else approved.
3. **Review preliminary survey results:** We reviewed the initial results of the survey. At the time of the meeting there had been 234 responses.

We discussed a few issues with some of the options on mobile devices, where some people had a problem seeing all of the options available. We added some help text for the radio button range options that should help guide anyone who is having problems filling out the survey on a phone.

We also discussed how we want to reach out to people who filled out the survey and wanted to be contacted by the Committee. Chris had sent an email to Steve Ellis with this question and we discussed his response. Steve's suggestion was that it would make sense to appoint a few people from the committee to make those contacts, handle the interviews, and then produce a summary for the rest of the group to review, without any personal information included, and the committee agreed. Kathy volunteered to do that, although there was a general consensus that we wouldn't start that work until we'd received more responses.

We spent some time making sure that all members of the committee have access to the results of the survey, and we discussed some details of how to filter through detail, export to a spreadsheet, view responses, etc.

We discussed the Spanish version of the survey. Chris had spent some time making a printable version of the Spanish survey and also mentioned that he is working with someone to reach out to the Latinx community.

Chris pointed out that there haven't been many responses from people of color. We also discussed that the number of young people who have responded is pretty low. Chris asked Mike if he knew whether the local schools had sent the survey out. Mike said that the tech school was planning to send it out but wasn't sure if/when, and that that the GMRSD was also planning on sending it out, and that they were planning to have a meeting about it on Monday morning. Chris thought we might get 50-60 responses from the Latinx community via the person he's working with.

Colin's letter to the Greenfield Recorder was in the paper on Monday or Tuesday, and we think Natan's letter will likely be in the Montague Reporter this week. Chris also suggested putting the survey on the schools Facebook pages.

- 4. Review MPD Data:** We spent some time asking questions about the reporting of race statistics, etc. Colin mentioned that certain numbers don't add up. Chris mentioned the data that Jeff Singleton had sent last week and how certain data comes from the officer who is filling out a citation as opposed to how someone might self-identify or be identified in census data.

Thomasina asked whether the data we got from the MPD is also shared with the state. There was some conversation with Ariel about sharing data with the other police committee and overlap of work between our two committees.

5. Establish questions to ask the Chief of Police:

There was some conversation about whether we should send questions to the Chief of Police and hope to get written answers in advance of a meeting with him, and then have a later meeting where we could ask followup/clarifying questions. Chris asked if it was ok to give the questions in advance. Thomasina wanted to make sure that this didn't exclude having an actual meeting with the Chief, but it seemed very likely that there will be a meeting. The questions we established were:

- Is data reported to the state, and if so, what?
- How does the police department handle juvenile non-criminal interactions? Juvenile records, how do they keep kids from getting records.
- What sort of outreach is the MPD doing? What things did they do in the past that they would like to do again?
- More in depth response about ICE involvement
- Chris: some questions about the SRO but maybe we would wait until we got more responses to the survey since we are hoping to get more youth response. Thomasina: Let's get copies of the SRO contract with the district

At this point, there was some further discussion about the data Jeff Singleton sent last week.

- 6. Topics not anticipated:** Thomasina raised some concerns about the fidelity of the data. Chris mentioned that there are definitely some low-quality responses.

Chris brought up the issue of public participation in committee meetings. There was some conversation about how and when to allow public participation. Chris was concerned that having members of the public interject during the meeting was very distracting. Thomasina agreed and mentioned that zoom chat was very distracting. Mike mentioned that it's always a balancing act between trying to stick to an agenda while allowing public input. There was some conversation about when to allow public opinion. The general consensus was that around 10 minutes at the beginning makes sense. There was a motion to add public participation to the beginning of meeting, 10 minutes total, 2 minutes per person. Thomasina made the motion, Kathy seconded. There was a roll call and everyone approved.

We agreed to meet again on the 25th, with the agenda of reviewing any new survey data again, and continuing to review MPD data and any answers from MPD.

- 7. Adjournment:** Thomasina made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Kathy seconded. There was a roll call vote, everyone was in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

