

Policy Statement

2001-06-11-B

Police Chief Goals Committee

The Board of Selectmen has accepted the Recommendations as presented in the *Report from the Police Chief Goals Committee* dated May 25, 2001, and gratefully thanks the members of that Committee for their important work.

After reviewing the report at our meeting with the Committee representatives on May 29, 2001, the Board of Selectmen has decided to attach some additional comments to specifically highlight our thoughts and concerns.

Board of Selectmen Addendum It was noted during the meeting that only approximately 35 questionnaires were received by the committee. Given that this public process took place in April/May when many citizens are preparing for the 'high season', this small level of participation is not surprising. Since this *Report* is composed by a small segment of our community, it must be noted by the next chief of police that an **on-going dialogue** with the townspeople and with its elected officials will be critical in order to constantly re-evaluate the direction the department is taking, both in terms of policies and philosophy.

While we as a Board agreed with the general tenor of the report, we'd like to highlight a few areas where strong opinions of Board members were expressed.

1. The Board reacted negatively to the inclusion of 'addressing morality....' on page 3. We feel that morality is often defined in a very personal and subjective way and is not a matter for the police department. Community standards are set by the community. The police department's standards of behavior and operation should reflect them, not set them.

2. The section that reads 'treating all citizens equally and fairly' was roundly applauded by the Board. We feel it captures many of the situations which have caused citizen concerns in the past.

3. It was noted by the Committee that the items in **Section IV. Goals for the next Police Chief** were not listed in a specific order of priority. The Board of Selectmen feel that #5 and #4 should get top-billing (leadership & recruitment/staffing) and that #7 should be number one.

4. There was also a general sense that while the selectmen acknowledge a palpable level of illegal drug use in our Town, we have not asked for a 'zero-tolerance' policy. Instead, we wish to encourage responsible behavior by both our citizens and our visitors, and reserve the 'zero-tolerance' position for behavior that harms others, be it their person or their property.

Lastly, it is our goal that our townspeople 'know' our police department better. We would like our department members to be more visible in town and to have townspeople know them by name. We would like our next chief to 'know' the department, and lead it in a proud, cohesive manner.

Adopted June 11, 2001

In favor: Steele-Jeffers, Andrews, Avellar, Atkinson

Opposed: 0