

# Chronicle of the Police Policy Manual

## From the minutes of the town board meeting of April 23, 2007



“Supervisor Brown responded that the town is in the process of reviewing and revising its police procedures, per the recommendation of Town Attorney Jason Shaw. Mr. Shaw responded that the conduct of a uniformed officer must be consistent with the New York Penal Law, that he has reviewed the policies and spoken with the town board and the Supervisor about making sure future conduct is appropriate. In response to a question about a letter that Mr. Davies’ lawyer sent to the town, Mr. Shaw indicated that a response would be forthcoming.”

## From the minutes of the town board meeting of May 21, 2007



“In response to questions from Mark Scherer, representing Peter Davies, about police procedures and a letter he had written to the board about police officers behavior, town attorney Jason Shaw said he didn’t feel it appropriate to comment at a public meeting when potential litigation is at stake.”

### From the minutes of the town board meeting of June 18, 2007



“Supervisor Brown mentioned that the Police Department portion of the Town Policy Manual is under review and the sheriff’s office has offered their assistance, as well as community members, to come up with a rough draft for the board to review.”

### From the minutes of the town board meeting of July 16, 2007



“Supervisor Brown said that the Public Safety Committee is meeting on reviewing the Police portion of the Policy manual, rewriting and finetuning some procedures. Thanks to Jerry Smith for his help. A draft is being composed, the objective of which is for the public to understand what the police force is for and what their obligations are. The Sheriff will be reviewing the draft once it’s completed. The Supervisor also stated that the police department is in good shape budget-wise and well within the budget for 2007.”

### From the minutes of the town board meeting of August 20, 2007



“Supervisor Brown said that Police Policy Manual should be going to the Sheriff’s Department next week and will hopefully be ready by September.”

## From the minutes of the town board meeting of September 17, 2007



“Peter Davies: informed attendees of the anniversary of the Constitution and Freedom of Speech and wants local government to reflect upon it. He hasn’t received an answer to his questions, specifically regarding the Board of Ethics – specifically says Board of Ethics is in charge of revisions or provisions on town employees and wants to know why the Board of Ethics is not involved in the revision of the Police portion of the Town Policy and Guidelines. Town Lawyer Jason Shaw said he felt it’s not appropriate to discuss the matter due to a letter he received regarding potential litigation. Mr. Davies said he would be reluctant to proceed but may be driven to it by the fact the issue has not been solved or clarified; residents have the right to freedom of speech, the problem was behavior and why is Roger Rekow involved in the revision of police policy. He would like to request and see the Board of Ethics involved in the revision of the police procedures. Mr. Shaw noted his concerns.”

## From the minutes of the town board meeting of October 22, 2007



“All annual training has been completed; the Policy manual is still being reviewed by the Sheriff’s Department and they hope to have it back next month.”

## From the minutes of the town board meeting of November 19, 2007



“**Safety** - Lt. James Andrews and Sgt. Michael Morante, representing the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office Law Enforcement Division, were in attendance. Sheriff Harrison had offered the Sheriff Office’s assistance a few months ago regarding the

review and updating of the Town's Police Policy and Standard Operating Procedures. They have met with Commissioner Rekow at least three times since August. The Sheriff's Office has recently received their accreditation from New York State which means they have met 130 standards set forth by the state for Standard Operating Procedures. They report that the Code of Conduct for the Police Officers has to be tailor-made because of the smaller size of the department and it is up to the Town and the Police Commissioner to determine what the Standard Operating Procedures will be. Working on department policies will take awhile and can't be done overnight; it's fair and safe to say that it would take at least a year for the town to be able to adopt its Standard Operating Procedures. Supervisor Brown clarified that the Code of Conduct Part of the Policy is the recommended first step in the process of defining Standard Operating Procedures.

Supervisor Brown thanked the Officers and the Sheriff's Department for working with Commissioner Rekow and the Police Department and said this is something that is sorely needed in Germantown."

