

**Minutes for the a Ticonderoga Special Town Board Meeting held on March 31, 2021
commencing at 8:30 a.m. to adopt a Police Reform Plan and any other Lawful
business that may arise**

Present: (Via Virtually) Joseph Giordano, Supervisor
Mark Russell, Councilman
Tom Cunningham, Councilman
Joyce Cooper, Councilwoman
Dave Woods, Councilman
Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

Others: (Via Virtually) Mark Wright

Supervisor Giordano opened the meeting with the Reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Supervisor Giordano responded to some questions and comments regarding our recent Town Board adopted Pandemic Response Plan which was done at the previous finance meeting. This was mandated by the State for future use with health emergencies. The Town had originally put a plan (Return to Work Action Plan) in place last year in the spring when the pandemic first started. This finalized document was put together with coordination of other organizations and our three collective bargaining units. This plan was adopted by the mandated April 1st deadline. This process was no different than our other plans such as hazard mitigation plans that we also have in place.

Supervisor Giordano announced that the Town of Ticonderoga offices will be re-opening on Monday, April 5th with precautions still in place. Mandatory face masks and social distancing will be adhered to per our Essex County Department of Health regulations. Town Committees will be back to in person but still be held virtually for those who still do not feel comfortable meeting in person.

The Town needs to adopt the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan - accolades need to be given to the Chief for all of his effort that he has put in to get this plan finalized. This is a seven page document with eight key points that were a collaborative effort from stakeholders and questions from the public.

Resolution #94-2021 brought by Tom Cunningham, seconded by Mark Russell to accept and adopt the Police Reform and Reinventions Collaborative Plan. **All in Favor** Joseph Giordano - Aye, Mark Russell - Aye, Tom Cunningham - Aye, Joyce Cooper - Aye, Dave Woods - Aye. **Opposed** - none. **Carried.**

**TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF TICONDEROGA
COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW YORK**

Resolution No. 94 of 2021

Adopted March 31, 2021

Introduced by Tom Cunningham

who moved its adoption

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Seconded by Mark Russell**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND ADOPTING THE TICONDEROGA POLICE
DEPARTMENT
REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Town Board (the “Town Board”) of the Town of Ticonderoga (the “Town”) employs a police department; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Executive Order 203 ordered police departments to undertake a comprehensive review of current police deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices; and

WHEREAS, a committee comprised of Town residents, officers and members, conducted review sessions of the Town’s police department arriving at a report dated March 31, 2021 which has been presented at this meeting and which responds to the Governor’s executive order set forth above; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board wishes to accept and adopt the recommendations set forth in this report.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Ticonderoga Police Department Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan which serves as the Town’s Response to Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Executive Order 203, dated February 2021, is hereby accepted by the Town Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts and adopts the recommendations of the plan, including but not limited to the following objectives;

- ❖ The Ticonderoga Police Department seeks to assure all residents and visitors to Ticonderoga New York, *the land between the waters*, that we are proud to serve you no matter your racial-ethnic background, your need for access, or your orientation, or socio-economic status. Ticonderoga welcomes you.

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- ❖ The Ticonderoga Police Department will continue to provide all staff members with focused training on cultural consciousness and de-escalation to further decrease the need to use force.
- ❖ The Ticonderoga Police Department will strive to provide the highest level of services to the citizens of and visitors to Ticonderoga with the resources available.
- ❖ A complaint and comment form is available at the Ticonderoga Police Station for citizens to submit their concerns.
- ❖ The Ticonderoga Police Department will continue to work with the Police Commission and the county personnel office to enhance hiring and retention in order to create a diverse workplace.
- ❖ The Ticonderoga Police Department will expand and continue utilizing technology to provide a greater public service and to provide accountability within the Police Department.
- ❖ The Ticonderoga Police Department will work with the Law Enforcement Mental Health Referral System (LEMHRS) to share all Critical Incident Training (CIT) referrals with all police officers within the response area.
- ❖ The Ticonderoga Police Department will meet again in person or virtually, with members of the community to ensure the needs of the town are being met. The findings of these meetings will be reported to the Ticonderoga Public Safety Committee; and be if further;

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Joe Giordano, Supervisor	Aye
David Woods, Councilman	Aye
Mark Russell, Councilman	Aye
Tom Cunningham. Councilman	Aye
Joyce Cooper. Councilwoman	Aye

SEAL

Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tonya M. Thompson, Town Clerk