

Use of Force Committee Meeting 11 January, 2017

Prepared by: Jason Williams, Training Coordinator

Members Present: Sheriff Donald Keeler, Captain Drew Bloom, Sergeant George Crowe, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Corporal Randy Lopes, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis, Officer Scott Fisher, Lieutenant Walter Smith, Wade Johnson, Warden Specialist Russell Shopland, Chief Robbie Blish

Other persons present: None

Academy Representatives: Director of Training Cynthia Taylor-Patch, Training Coordinator Jason Williams

Members Absent: Chief Lianne Tuomey, Corporal Michael Akerlind

Meeting called to order: 10:04

Old Business

Item 1: Approval of previous meeting's minutes

- Copies of the 11 October, 2016 meeting minutes were distributed for review.

Sergeant Crowe entered a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Lieutenant Smith seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.



New Business

Item 1: Removal of Captain Drew Bloom from the Committee, election of Vice Chair

- Captain Drew Bloom has recently accepted a position with the Vermont Police Academy as the Director of Administration, and thus must step down as a voting member of the Committee. Captain Bloom's departure leaves a vacancy for the Vice Chair position.

Officer Fisher entered a motion to nominate and appoint Corporal Akerlind as Vice Chair for the Use of Force Committee, pending his acceptance of the appointment.

Sergeant Crowe seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

On 13 January, 2017, Corporal Akerlind was contacted about the appointment and he accepted.

Item 2: Recommendation of a new member

- Director Bloom, who was present at the meeting, recommended Lieutenant Eugene Cote of the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles as his replacement for his seat on the Committee. Director Bloom gave the Committee a brief overview of Lieutenant Cote's qualifications.

Officer Fisher entered a motion to recommend Lieutenant Cote to the Executive Director as a replacement for Director Bloom's vacant seat.

Sergeant Crowe seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

Item 3: Appointment of a new member

- T.C. Williams told the Committee that the Executive Director has appointed Chief Robbie Blish of the Woodstock Police Department to replace Chief Brickell on the Committee.

Informational only, no action taken.

Item 4: 2017 Refreshers for firearms instructors

- T.C. Williams reminded the Committee that 2017 is the year that refreshers are due for firearms instructors, and asked the members what their thoughts were for the content of those refreshers. The membership recommended that the 2017 refreshers be 4 hour blocks again this year, and that it includes 1 hour of classroom time discussing recent changes to the basic training programs and how the shooters they send to the academy to be trained are developed, and that the remainder of the time be spent at the range. The range time would include demonstrations and practice time for all of the current standards that new firearms instructors must complete to gain entry to the firearms instructor's course. The Committee is interested in requiring all current firearms instructors to pass the same standards as new firearms instructors to maintain their certification, and this introduction would give those instructors time to practice the skills prior to the 2019 refreshers. T.C. Williams will begin developing a curriculum for the refreshers for presentation at the next meeting.

Informational only, no action taken.

Item 5: 2017 meetings

The Committee agreed that the 2017 meeting dates would be as follows:

12 April
26 July
11 October

Informational only, no action taken.

Item 6: Three missed meeting bylaw

- Sheriff Keeler noted that a Committee member has now been absent for a fourth meeting in a row, and is now asking what the current status is of that member. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Sergeant Murano entered a motion that the Committee should notify the Executive Director about the absentee and would like the rule reviewed.

Chief Blish seconded the motion.

Discussion continued, and Director Patch notified the Committee that she has had discussions with the Executive Director regarding this matter.

Sergeant Murano withdrew his motion.

Chief Blish seconded the withdrawal.

Item 7: Reports of Rule 13 Qualification

- Sheriff Keeler and Sergeant Crowe expressed a concern with how Rule 13 handgun qualifications are reported. The concern they expressed has to do with officers who work for multiple agencies and whether each different agency should conduct their own qualification or if one report from one firearms instructor is sufficient for both agencies. Several members of the group gave recommendations and explained how they handle such matters within their own agency.

Informational only, no action taken.

Item 8: Patrol rifle qualification course

- Warden Shopland asked a question about what the current requirements are for the patrol rifle qualification course are in regards to training up a shooter on how the firearm operates. This eventually led to the discovery that the patrol rifle qualification course cannot be shot at the Police Academy range due to range length limitations. The Committee referred this matter back to the patrol rifle qualification subcommittee to be examined further.

Informational only, no action taken

Meeting Adjourned: 11:36

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams
Training Coordinator
Vermont Police Academy