

**VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL**

**August 28, 2019**

**PITTSFORD, VERMONT**

**9:00 AM**

**Members in Attendance**

Chief Christopher Brickell, Chair, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police  
Heather Simons, Vice Chair, Proxy for Commissioner Mike Touchette, Vermont  
Department of Corrections

Jason Batchelder, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Dept of Fish &  
Wildlife

Sergeant Timothy Gould, Vermont Trooper's Association

Gary Moore, Public Seat

David Scherr, Proxy for Attorney General TJ Donovan, Vermont Attorney General's Office

Erica Marthage, Bennington County State's Attorney

Colonel William Elovirta, Proxy for Interim Commissioner Wanda Minoli, Vermont Dept of Motor Vehicles

Michael Major, Vermont Police Association

Sheriff Stephen Benard, Vermont Sheriff's Association

Major Ingrid Jonas, Vermont State Police

**Absent**

Silas Loomis, VT Constables Association

**Other Attendance**

Executive Director Richard Gauthier, Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council

Jacob Humbert, Assistant Attorney General

Trevor Whipple, Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns

Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy

Cynthia Taylor- Patch, Vermont Police Academy

Kenneth Hawkins, Vermont Police Academy

Jennifer Firpo, Vermont Police Academy

Julie Scribner, Vermont State Police

Steven Coote, Vermont State Police

Roger Marcoux, Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept

George Merkel, Vergennes PD, VACOP, VPA

Larry Muldoon, Richmond Police Dept

Douglas Allen, Colchester Police Dept

Leslie Bodette, Vermont Police Academy

Christopher Conway, Vermont Police Academy

Stephen Laroche, Milton Police Dept

Kevin McLaughlin, Chittenden County Sheriff's Dept

Shawn Burke, South Burlington Police Dept

Jon Murad, Burlington Police Dept

**Chief Brickell:** Called the meeting to order at 9:05.

**Addition to or Subtraction from agenda:** No additions or subtractions.

**Approval of Prior Minutes:** Gary Moore made a motion to accept prior minutes, second by Sheriff Benard. All in favor, motion passed.

**Champlain College Proposal discussion:** Ed Cafferty handed out a PowerPoint presentation and went over the details for Champlain College's proposal on becoming a Police Academy. After proposal the floor was opened for questions and answers from the attending guests and Council members. Concerns from the guests and Council members included cost, instructors, instructor pool, background checks, comradery, insurance and injury liability for instructors, cars for driving, driving area and roads, VSP's participation, firearms, impact weapons, security for storing weapons, polygraph, and if changes need to be made to the administrative rules. being a non-residential academy, seats for college students/agency candidates, the cost they are proposing vs the actual costs, candidates being hired by an agency, certification from the college once completed, additional admin work, the needs from Chittenden Co. that led to this proposal and discussion, cost vs free training through the Academy, employment through an agency prior to training, consequences and what they are, oversight of the Academy of trainings, the proposed scheduling of trainings, mentoring and networking outside of class hours to include experiences and skills shared by TA's and instructors, lack of specificity, continuity of training, lack of understanding on the details of instructor process and how instructors become lead instructors. Champlain College was encouraged to develop the proposal with more specificity.

Break from 11:40 to 12:00

**Executive Directors report:**

- Training Coordinator position update – Recruiting closed without acceptable applicants. The position has been reopened until filled. There are now five applicants. It is concerning the lack of applicants which is believed to be due the pension and pay issues.
- DRE status update – The Academy has received the go ahead to put out the RFP. Drew Bloom is the keeper of the status. Jacob Humbert will be having a meeting by phone with BGS and Drew to iron out a few issues before the RFP is sent out.
- Entry standards committee recommendation – The committee is working towards a different type of entrance testing. Cognitive testing is preferred and becoming more prevalent. A personality assessment would replace the MMPI. The committee has chosen PSI. The testing can be done online or in person on paper. The Academy will have a \$5,000 startup fee. Agency's that choose to accept the online testing at their agency will have a onetime charge of \$800 - \$1,000. The cost to applicants is \$35 per test, which includes all the testing. An agency which does not choose to have the online testing at their facility will still be able to send applicants to the Academy for paper and pencil testing. Results for paper and pencil testing will be 24-48 hours. The Council will have the ability to set the passing score. PSI has seven different tests so each time an applicant goes online to test they will get a different test. The Committee recommends the Council accept this PSI recommendation. It was suggested the Academy have the current recruits take the PSI test to compare the results to our current test. More information was requested and will be sent by email from Director Gauthier.
  - Sheriff Benard made a motioned to accept the recommended that the study committee try to facilitate with the current class to take this test and evaluate the data so we can use that as an indication piece to set up the pass/fail standard. Discussion ensued.
  - Sheriff Benard modified his motion to go with the recommendation that the subcommittee contact PSI to do the work deemed necessary by the Chair and Executive Director as far as baseline testing pass/fail score issues. Mike major second the motion. No further discussion. Motion passed.
- Alternate path Level II to Level III certification recommendation – Materials had been sent out. Since then there has been recent recommendations from staff. Director Gauthier would like to rescind and update the materials for presentation at the September Council meeting to add staff input.

**CRI-TAC** discussion – Heather Simon explained we had applied for technical assistance with them about 7 months ago. They accepted but have not produced. Heather asked for Council support to withdraw and go straight through BGA. Council members are in agreement to withdraw.

12:50 - Heather Simons made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss some ongoing issues regarding attorney client communications, for the purpose of providing professional legal services to this body. Second by William Elovirta. Executive session included Director Gauthier and Jacob Humbert

Action taken for the Chair, Vice Chair, Executive Director and Jacob Humbert to negotiate and execute a contract for legal services. Motion to accept action by Gary Moore, second by Mike Major.

Gary Moore made a motion to go back into executive session to discuss personnel, second by William Elovirta. Not action taken.

Gary Moore made a motion to adjourn, second by Sheriff Benard. All in favor

Meeting adjourned at 1:30