

VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL
January 22, 2020
PITTSFORD, VERMONT
9:00 AM

Members in Attendance

Chief Christopher Brickell, Chair, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police
Jason Batchelder, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Sergeant Timothy Gould, Vermont Trooper's Association
Michael Major, Vermont Police Association
Sheriff Stephen Benard, Vermont Sheriff's Association
David Scherr, Proxy for Attorney General TJ Donovan, Vermont Attorney General's Office
Colonel William Elovirta, Proxy for Interim Commissioner Wanda Minoli, Vermont Dept of Motor Vehicles – by
phone
Michael Schirling, Commissioner Vermont Dept of Public Safety – by phone
Erica Marthage, Bennington County State's Attorney

Absent

Heather Simons, Vice Chair, Proxy for Commissioner Mike Touchette, Vermont
Department of Corrections
Silas Loomis, VT Constables Association
Gary Moore, Public Seat

Other Attendance

Major Ingrid Jonas, Vermont State Police – by phone
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
Mike O'Neil – Vermont Troopers Association

1. **Chief Brickell:** Called the meeting to order at 9:05.
 2. **Addition to or Subtraction from agenda:**
 - Addition 3a – discuss Chittenden County investigation.
 - Addition 3b - Act 56 Category B.
 3. **Approval of Prior Minutes:** Mike Major made a motion to accept prior minutes, second by Sheriff Benard. All in favor, motion passed.
- 3a. Chittenden County Investigation:** David Scherr notified the Council the AG's office will be asking Chittenden County Sheriff to ask the Council to take a second look at a traffic stop that resulted in a call to the Immigration and Enforcement last Nov. No ask of the Council at this time but there is ongoing discussion, but due to the sensitive issue a second look would make sure it was a valid investigation.

3b. Act 56 Category B Offense: Two cases have occurred with different conditions. First case is one incident that has multiple category B offenses. The second case is one complaint where the investigation has found multiple offenses that span over time. Director Gauthier asked if the Council would like to take the position they could go after the other offenses if offenses were over a span of time. Should it be looked at as one incident or look at each offense. After discussion it was decided Director Gauthier will put something together to become part of the Academy's process moving forward.

4. Executive Directors report:

- Academy was shut down for scheduled break.
- Recently went to Bosnia.
- Looks like Finance & Management did not put enough money into the Academy's budget to go from a 16-week to a 20-week basic class. Director Gauthier Feels presence from the Council during appropriation would likely help it move along. Commissioner Schirling stated they were not entirely on board and would like to explore other options further.
- Bills introduced that mentioned the Council included training of de-escalation, requiring the Council to create a Use of Force model Policy, enhanced Use of Force reporting obligations for Agencies.

5. Executive Director job description: Sheriff Benard handed out the description created for the description. Changes made are more in depth from the last description created. Special interest groups and law enforcement groups will be screening applicants before applicants go to the hiring panel. Erica voiced her concerns about the position not requiring law enforcement certification. The time frame for posting has not been determined yet.

- Motion to accept the job description was made by Steve, second by Erica. All in favor. Motion passed.

6. S 182 Bill update: Commissioner Schirling gave an overview of the modernization strategy that is related to the Council. It would bring the Council under the administrative umbrella of Public Safety. It would enhance the budget. The goal is to enhance and elevate the things that are already working well, not diminish them. The modernization would move the need of the Council's roll in directly supervision the Director's position. Commissioner Schirling explained the direct supervision would be on the administrative side to include yearly evaluations, HR, and the budget.

7. Old Business: nothing to discuss at this time

8. Executive Session: Sheriff Benard made a motion to go into executive session to discuss attorney – client communications for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body, second by Mike Major. Executive session included Director Gauthier.

9:55 – 10:08 - No action taken

9. Sheriff Benard made a motion to adjourn, second by Erica Marthage. All in favor

- Meeting adjourned at 10:08