

VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL
March 13, 2018
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 Lisa Menard, Vermont Department of Corrections
Major Ingrid Jonas, Proxy for DPS Commissioner, Vermont State Police
Executive Director Richard Gauthier, Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council
Colonel William Elovirta, Proxy for Interim Commissioner Wanda Minoli, Vermont Dept of Motor Vehicles
Sheriff Stephen Benard, Vermont Sheriff's Association
David Scherr, Proxy for Attorney General TJ Donovan, Vermont Attorney General's Office
Gary Moore, Public Seat
Lieutenant Justin Stedman, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, Vermont Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Sergeant Timothy Gould, Vermont Trooper's Association
Captain Mike Major, Vermont Police Association
Silas Loomis, Vermont Constables Association

Other Attendance

Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy
Cindy Taylor-Patch, Vermont Police Academy
Jacob Humbert, Attorney General's Office
Sheriff Roger Marcoux, Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept
Lieutenant Stephen Coote, Vermont State Police
Jacob Hansell, Vermont Police Academy

Chief Brickell: Called the meeting to order at 9:03.

Approval of Prior Minutes: Motion to accept prior minutes made by Sheriff Benard, second by Captain Major. No discussion, motion passed.

Sheriff Roger Marcoux: Presented to the Council a plan for having in-service trainings in the northern part of the state. He is looking at purchasing a Church, it's Parish Hall, and possibly a large building next to the Church to convert into classrooms and training space. Trainings will be coordinated with the Academy, and instructors will be certified as instructors through the Academy. The new location is closer for many agencies than the Academy saving them driving time, which would be a budgetary incentive for agencies due to savings on travel. There has been positive feedback from local Chiefs and Sheriffs in that area about having some of their officers become certified instructors. The properties would be purchased through the Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept. The location is close to restaurants and hotels if needed for trainings. There is enough parking. There would have to be discussions about the long-term plan and sustainability. When the spaces are not in use by law enforcement officers Sheriff Marcoux would like to

let the community use the space. A working group was created, including Mike Major, Heather Simons, Cindy Taylor-Patch, and a representative from VSP, to discuss the options of this new proposal.

Training Report:

- Cindy Taylor-Patch reported the 105th is rolling along, Level II school started this week and is at maximum capacity, DRE information will be going out shortly, DV train the trainers and trainer updates have been happening, a number of DV 2018 trainings have been set up locally and regionally, and a mountain bike school has been set up for May.
- The Council was asked to take action on a request from VCIC to make a 4-hour NCIC class mandatory in phase II for Level II officers. The Council discussed this request. Chief Brickell suggested moving this action to the next Council Meeting and having VCIC come to the meeting to explain their request and what they are specifically looking for.
- The second action item asked by Cindy is for the Council to accept the developed training of the Animal Welfare Investigation to comply with the mandate of this class by Legislature. Mike Major made the motion to approve the training, second by Gary Moore. No further discussion, Motion passed.
- Cindy requested a council discussion to address the expanding curriculum, and the potential for extended time as well as the need for additional resources. She expressed further concerns regarding the academy capacity to meet all the mandates and stay current for the workforce readiness. Chris Brickell request the following action items by the April 5th meeting
 - 1) Revisit Job task analysis
 - 2) Scheduled discussion to strategize funding request
 - 3) Small group to meet about the Training Advisory Committee Structure.

10:50-11:00 Break

Executive Director's Report:

- Level II-E ratification for Mark Stacey from Vergennes PD needs more clarity and has been tabled.
- Fair and Impartial Policing Policy: Jan 1st the policy went into effect. Advocates are still in disagreement on five points. The Chair of the Senate Government Operations has asked to extend the implementation date, but he Council does not have the authority to extend. Most agencies have already adopted the policy.
- Subcommittees: Director Gauthier requested a Traffic Safety Subcommittee be put together to oversee the grant position, and a Fair and Impartial Policing Subcommittee to develop the mandatory training every two years. Council members agreed and approved.
- Entrance Testing: There are a couple proposals to help with the failure rate. These would include lower the passing score, use a prepared test from a vendor, or have agencies do their own testing. If agencies do their own testing it is believed the failure rate would sky rocket for a couple years. The current test gauges the ability for recruits to successfully pass the basic class. A new test could be designed to access the suitability of a law enforcement officer. The Council was asked for direction on which way to proceed. The current process was talked about and suggestions were made. Heather Simons suggested a RFI. Colonel Elovirta wondered if the Council should hire an expert in this area to help decide which process would work best and suggested the Contract Administration who help state agencies get the information they are looking for. Chief Brickell tasked Director Gauthier with checking on the RFI process and putting a working group together to help with this.
- Legislative Update:
 - Bill S198 was included in the packet as information for the Council.

- Bill S273 on Council Memberships. The bill would take out Dept of Corrections (DOC), and add Mental Health Commissioner, a Vermont State Employees Association (VSEA) member, a Vermont Leagues of City and Towns (VLCT) member and adding two public seats to the Council. Director Gauthier is looking for the preference of the Council. There are concerns of taking DOC seat off the Council and VSEA getting a seat on the Council. Council members suggested removing VSEA, keeping DOC seat, and inquire on the interest of the Mental Health Commissioner wanting a seat. Heather Simons asked if the Commissioner of Finance would be interested in a seat on the Council.
- Bill S192 on Office of Professional Regulation (OPR). Rick went over the proposed draft. The implementation date has been changed from July 1, 2018 to January 1, 2019. OPR will require a \$100 licensing application fee per officer to get the project off the ground. The license holder is responsible for the fee unless there is a contract/agreement within the hiring Agency.
- Bill H12 broke off from H22. It is the proposal for the Level III certified academy employees the able to keep their certification through the Council and including these employees in the group C retirement. Due to these two issues the Academy has lost an employee and has a very small hiring pool of applicants. The bill also moves the Law Enforcement Advisory Board to where it is supposed to be, and states that agency heads must have a higher certification then their employees. The Sheriff's do not believe the certified academy employees should be in the group C retirement or be able to keep certification through the Academy. Gary Moore made a motion for Director Gauthier to proceed with this bill, second by Major Jonas. Motion passed eleven to one.

Rules: Jacob Humbert went over the changes requested by LCAR which included a typographical error, numbering pages, clarification on some language, drafting error, clarification about tuition students, and adding a catch all phrase. The Rules have been adopted and went into effect as of today.

Heather Simons spoke to the Council regarding professional development for Council Members. She believes it would be good for the members to attend the mandated/required trainings such as implicit bias, gender sensitivity, etc. Gary Moore suggested doing a training after each Council meeting.

New Business:

- Colonel Elovirta brought up that the Council talks about the Academy's budget but has never seen the budget. It was suggested that Director Gauthier give a presentation on the budget to the Council, so they have a better understanding.
- Cindy Taylor-Patch asked if having four meetings a year is enough with all the Council must cover and do.

Motion to adjourn made by Constable Loomis, second by Sheriff Benard. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45.