

VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL
September 11, 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
Executive Director Richard Gauthier, Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council
Sheriff Stephen Benard, Vermont Sheriff's Association
Gary Moore, Public Seat
Lt. Greg Eckhardt, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter,
Vermont Dept of Fish & Wildlife
Sergeant Timothy Gould, Vermont Trooper's Association
Mike Major, Vermont Police Association
Major Ingrid Jonas, Vermont State Police
David Scherr, Proxy for Attorney General TJ Donovan, Vermont Attorney General's Office
Silas Loomis, Vermont Constables Association
Erica Marthage, Bennington County State's Attorney

Other Attendance

Jacob Humbert, Attorney General's Office
Erica Marthage, Bennington County State's Attorney
Gwynn Zakov, Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns
Lt. Michael Warren, Burlington Police Dept
Lt. James Whitcomb, Vermont State Police
Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy
Cynthia Taylor-Patch, Vermont Police Academy

Chief Brickell: Called the meeting to order at 9:08.

Chief Brickell asked for a few moments of silence for the victims of 9/11.

Approval of Prior Minutes: Motion to accept prior minutes made by Gary Moore, second by Constable Loomis. No discussion, motion passed.

Sexual Harassment Training for Council: Postponed discussion for a future meeting.

Training Report: Cinthia Taylor-Patch gave a brief recap of the training report. The 106th Basic class is doing very well. The canine program is maxed out on the number of teams the Academy training coordinator can manage. The recent DRE school has been completed. Jennifer Firpo attended a train-the-trainer for elder abuse and will be having in-service trainings. Domestic Violence 2018 mandatory trainings have been rolling along.

Executive Director's Report:

- **Use of Force Scenarios:** Lt. Michael Warren and the Council Members introduced themselves. Lt. Warren read a message sent from Chief del Pozo to the Council. Council members discussed parts of the message and differences they remembered from a meeting in person with Chief del Pozo. Chief Brickell asked Lt. Warren to contact his Chief to request copies of the message be handed out to the Council members.

9:33 break while Lt. Warren called his Chief

9:50 meeting resumed

- **Entrance Testing:** Director Gauthier reported there has been 3-4 testing dates since adding time and making adjustments to a few of the questions. The two-hour time limit has been adequate for giving people time to finish, but the failure rate seems to be about the same. At this point there is not enough numbers to make a comparison.
- **Level II-E Ratification:** The two applicants for Level II-E certification according to Director Gauthier meet the criteria. Director Gauthier recommends approving both applicants. Sheriff Benard suggests a need in getting more information and background on the applicants before approval is given. Council members discussed the process of Level II-E certifications. Mike Major made a motion to approve a provisional Level II-E certification for both officers, second by Constable Loomis. Council vote was taken with seven (7) in favor to approve and two (2) opposed.
 - The two members opposed due to the process of giving the certification and then taking it away if the applicants do not meet the entire criteria.
- **ARIDE:** Director Gauthier asked if it was the Council's intent to require ARIDE also included Level II officers. Discussion ensued. Gary More motioned for the Council not to make ARIDE a requirement for Level II officers, second by Mike Major.
- **DRE:** Director Gauthier and Cynthia Taylor-Patch addressed the Council on the discussion of moving the DRE program from Governors Highway Safety to the Council. This is not something the Academy can take on with the current staff. For the Academy to take over the DRE program it would require another full-time position for the program to be efficient. Director Gauthier would like to ask Finance for the financing to hire a person in this position or to contract with a trainer. The Council discussed alternatives, who owns the program, IACP certifications, the program, the outcome, the cost, benefits to the officer and agencies. It was suggested to add this to the Strategic Plan. First motion made by Erica Marthage, second by Ingrid was rescinded by each. Erica Marthage then made the motion for Heather Simons to schedule a meeting for discussing the Academy's plans and needs, second by Major Jonas. All in favor, motion passed.

- Lt. Warren rejoined the meeting and distributed a copy of the message from Chief del Pozo he had previously read to the Council. Lt. Warren clarified when he talked to his Chief the Chief wanted it made clear that he wants an internal investigation on incidents where people were injured. The Chief feels the process needs to be clear and be followed through.

10:55 Council went into Executive Session

12:27 Executive Session ended

Gary Moore made a motion that the Executive Director Gauthier contacts IACP and IADLEST to request names of persons qualified to complete a training assessment of the Use of Force scenarios at the Academy and to use the simplified State bid process as soon as practical. Motion was second by Sheriff Benard. All in favor, motion passed.

- Director Gauthier will contact the Chief about this decision.

12:30 – 1:00 break for lunch

DOC Firearms: Director Gauthier and Heather Simons explained to the Council the talk of certification for certain correctional officers to carry firearms. The Commissioner of DOC has decided to meet with the Secretary of Administration on this topic at the end of the month before discussion goes any further.

Discussion on retreat: Heather Simons feels a retreat is needed for the Council to have a place and time away from every day jobs, to give the Council time to revisit the Strategic Plan, talk about issues needing attention, work on how the Council markets its self, what is being done that is good, processes, and the work being done at the Academy. She expressed the need for Council members commitment to it and asked for the topic to be on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Dates for 2019: Council members discussed the number of meeting needed. Suggestions were made for every other month, for monthly during the Legislative session, for changing them to Mondays during Legislative session, and for holding a meeting in Montpelier. Meeting dates will be put back on the Agenda for the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gary Moore, second by Constable Loomis. Meeting adjourned 1:38.