

Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council

Special Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2010

Montpelier Police Department

Present: Sheriff Stephen Benard, Chairman, Director Glen Button, Vice-Chair, Commissioner Thomas Tremblay, DPS, Col. David LeCours, Fish and Wildlife proxy, Chief Steve McQueen, Vermont Chief's Association, Captain William Elovirta, VPA, Joe Damiata, Cindy Maguire, Vermont Attorney General proxy, Keith Flynn, Vermont States Attorneys Association, Commissioner Andy Pallito, Corrections, Major Dennis Reinhardt, Fish and Wildlife.

Also present: Senator Richard Sears, Senator Kevin Mullen, and William Smith.

Meeting called to order at 1300 hrs.

All in attendance were introduced. An overview of the Academy was given. Sheriff Benard outlined that an investigation was started on 01-07-10 as a result of unprofessional email strings found on a computer at the Academy. The strings indicated that there were four staff members involved and their computers were seized for further examination. The first computer examined indicated that there had been sites and possibly downloaded information that was suspect. That computer was turned over the VSP for further investigation. On 01-09-10 the four involved staff members were given notice that there was an investigation on going. On 01-13-10 Director Elrick resigned. On 01-14-10, one staff member was placed on administrative leave. On 01-15-10 the Vermont State Police executed a search warrant at the residence of David McMullen. On 01-17-10 David McMullen committed suicide at the Academy.

On 01-14-10 the VCJTC met in executive session. On 01-15-10 a staff meeting at the Academy was held. The staff was notified that James Baker would be coming on board as the interim Director and that VSP and Fish and Wildlife had agreed to assign personnel to the vacant Training Coordinator positions for the upcoming full time class.

Senator Sears thanked us for the update and spoke of the upcoming deadline for Domestic Violence training. We indicated to him that we would like an extension on the deadline given the number of sworn officers that needed to be trained and the method of presentation required. Senator Sears indicated frustration in that there was no concern on the part of the Executive Director of the Academy, but now he was hearing concern from the agency heads.

Discussion was then started on the public perception of things at the Academy. Comm. Tremblay wondered if it may be time to have a civilian appointee as the Chair of the Council. It was suggested as a point to think about only and no action was taken.

Jim Baker was then introduced as the Interim Director. He gave a brief history of himself and how he arrived in this position. Sheriff Benard advised that there would be a press conference



scheduled soon to introduce Director Baker to the press. We would schedule that close to the start of the next full time class.

Sheriff Benard then discussed the need for a search committee to hire a new Executive Director. Vice-Chair Button agreed to head up the committee and Chief McQueen, Cindy Maguire and Commissioner Tremblay agreed to be a part of the process along with Sheriff Benard.

Meeting adjourned at 1500 hrs.

