

Use of Force Committee Meeting

15 April, 2015

Prepared by James Park, Program Services Clerk

Members Present: Captain Drew Bloom, Officer Scott Fisher, Sergeant George Crowe, Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Warden Russell Shopland, Wade Johnson, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis

Members Absent: Sheriff Donald Keeler, Corporal Michael Akerlind, Chief Chris Brickell, Lieutenant Michael Henry, Chief Lianne Tuomey

Academy Representatives: Director of Training Cindy Taylor-Patch, Training Coordinator Jason Williams, Program Services Clerk James Park.

Meeting called to order: 10:04 am

Old Business

Issue 1: Acceptance of previous meetings minutes

- TC Williams asked the Committee to enter a motion to accept or reject the previous meetings minutes from 15 January, 2015. A copy of the minutes was passed around the table for members to review.
 - Sergeant Crowe entered a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written.
 - Motion seconded by Lieutenant Hollwedel
 - **Motion passed unanimously**

Issue 2: Acceptance of previous special meeting minutes

- TC Williams asked the Committee enter a motion to accept or reject the previous special meeting minutes from 10 February, 2015.
 - Sergeant Crowe entered a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written.
 - Motion seconded by Lieutenant Hollwedel
 - **Motion passed unanimously**



Issue 3: 2015 Refresher Courses

- TC Williams asked the Committee for input on his plan to travel around the state to conduct 2015 refresher courses instead of making everyone come to the Vermont Police Academy. His plan involves holding 2 classes each day, each four hours long with no range component. Possible days for said course could include the following: the 9th and 10th, the 20th and 22nd, the 24th and 25th of September, anytime during the week of October 5th through the 9th, and makeup days scheduled at the Vermont Police Academy at times to be determined in November. The Committee approved of the traveling dates, citing that with no range component it would be a great idea to travel as it would make it easier for agencies to send individuals to these trainings if they were closer to them. While there was discussion of adding a range component and possible locations discussed it was decided that a solid 4 hour block reinforcing the new/updated courses and stressing how to teach especially the deadly force components would be most beneficial.
 - Warden Shopland entered a motion for the 2015 refresher courses to consist of a 4 hour block of classroom instruction reinforcing and reviewing the new courses, the current Deadly Force curriculum taught to the Full-Time Basic Training Class, and the current instructional techniques used. In addition take home materials will be provided to the trainees at the completion of the course.
 - Motion seconded by Lieutenant Hollwedel
 - **Motion passed unanimously**

New Business

ISSUE 1: New Committee Members

- TC Williams informed the Committee that there were two new members recently appointed by the Executive Director, Eugene Duplissis from the Vermont State Police and Wade Johnson from the Department of Corrections
 - **No formal action taken.**

ISSUE 2: Review Old Committee Decisions firearms hierarchy

- TC Williams presented to the Committee for consideration an issue that was first discussed in the early 2000s', the creation of a firearms "hierarchy". It was discussed at great length over many meetings but there was never anything established or voted on. Officer Fisher and Lieutenant Hollwedel pointed out that the original motivation for those conversations was to implement some control and oversight over who were becoming firearms instructors and what they taught. However the current standards already provide for this.
- Director of Training Taylor-Patch raised the question of creating a title for those who train the instructors similar to how the Use of Force certifications are done. The Committee felt this was something to look into; however a list of criteria for not only the course but also for use in selecting the individuals that would be eligible to obtain such certification will be needed. There was also discussion about whether the Committee itself would develop the course or if an outside agency that provides the training and certification would be sought similar to the way Use of Force and Tactics Master and Instructor Trainer certifications are done. It was decided that this is something to look into



because creating teachers and getting them the tools they need to be effective is a challenge that needs to be met.

- Lieutenant Hollwedel entered a motion to have TC Williams look into master level curriculums and courses that can be offered to the individuals who teach the basic training classes and those who teach instructors, as well as to create a basic list of criteria that a person would need to meet before they could be considered for this certification. Also a list of criteria the Committee or person of authority would use to select individuals to attend said training course needs to be created.
- Motion seconded by Warden Shopland
- **Motion passed unanimously**

ISSUE 3: Review Old Committee Decisions: Exempt Instructors from Firearms refreshers

- TC Williams presented to the Committee a decision from May 27th 2009 that makes anyone who teaches Full-Time or Part-Time firearms are exempt from Firearms refresher courses.
 - Lieutenant Hollwedel entered a motion to repeal that decision.
 - Motion seconded by Warden Russell Shopland
 - **Motion passed unanimously**

ISSUE 4: Funding for the Top Shooter Award Plaque

- TC Williams asked the Committee for suggestions to help fund the creation of a plaque recognizing the recipients for the Top Shooter Award throughout the Vermont Police Academy's history. The Committee was in favor of TC Williams creating letters asking various associations including but not limited to the VPA, American Legions, Troopers union and Chiefs' association to help fund the Award Plaque. It was also discussed that it would be nice if we could get as many of the award recipients as possible to come to the Academy to be recognized when the plaque is finished.
 - **No formal action taken**

ISSUE 5: FATS Machine Update

- TC Williams informed the Committee that he and TC Hawkins will be traveling to Colorado to learn how to use the new FATS machine which will be at the Vermont Police Academy and hopefully functional by early July 2015.
 - **No formal action taken**

ISSUE 6: Using Uncommon Weapon Mounted Appurtenances in Basic Training

- Director Taylor-Patch asked the committee to consider a recommendation regarding recruits using uncommon appurtenances on their firearms during the basic training program, such as weapon mounted lasers. The Committee while they understand the appeal of them and think they have a place in training, there should be limitations and/or restrictions placed upon their use. The issue was briefly discussed but has been tabled until the next meeting.
 - **No formal action taken**



ISSUE 7: Motion to adjourn

- Sergeant Crowe motioned for the Committee to Adjourn
- Motion Seconded by Lieutenant Hollwedel
- **Motion passed unanimously**

Meeting Adjourned: 11:25

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams
Training Coordinator
Vermont Police Academy



