

Use of Force Committee Meeting

15 July, 2015

Prepared by James Park, Program Services Clerk

Members Present: Sheriff Donald Keeler, Captain Drew Bloom, Officer Scott Fisher, Sergeant George Crowe, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Wade Johnson, Sergeant Eugene Duplissis, Corporal Michael Akerlind, Lieutenant Michael Henry, Chief Lianne Tuomey

Members Absent: Chief Chris Brickell, Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel, Warden Russell Shopland

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

Meeting called to order: 10:03 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 April, 2015. Copies of the minutes were passed around the table for members to review.
 - Officer Fisher entered a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written.
 - Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe
 - **Motion passed, 1 member abstained**

Issue 2: Revisiting Shotgun Qualification Course

- TC Williams submitted to the Committee a revised version of the Shotgun Qualification Course for their review. The course remained substantially the same but a preface was added to provide guidance to instructors running their officers through the course. A typographic error was noted on the slug course by Sergeant Duplissis.
 - Sergeant Duplissis entered a motion to accept the course provided a change is made to the slug course instructions to remove the mention of buckshot ammunition.
 - Motion seconded by Officer Fisher
 - **Motion passed unanimously**



Issue 3: Revisiting Firearms Hierarchy

- TC Williams submitted to the Committee a draft firearms master level certification and the process for achieving it. He asked the Committee to review his draft and start a discussion on the best ways to continue with this.
 - There was concern over criteria and levels not mirroring certifications in the non lethal fields. The desire for a 3 level certification and case by case review was supported by Committee members.
 - A subcommittee consisting of Captain Bloom and Sergeant Duplissis was created to look at the less lethal and non lethal qualification courses to see what could be taken from them and used to help create a VCJTC Master Level certification for Firearms Instructors.
 - **No formal action taken**

Issue 3: Revisiting Using Laser Sights in Basic Training

- TC Williams asked the Committee for a recommendation on using laser sights and other department added sighting appurtenances during basic training firearms range training.
 - Sergeant Duplissis entered a motion to approve the use of department sanctioned sighting appurtenances during basic training as long as the recruit trains both with and without the add-on at the range master's discretion. Additionally if a malfunction occurs with the appurtenance during a qualification they must continue the qualification without it.
 - Motion seconded by Corporal Akerlind
 - **Motion passed unanimously**

New Business

ISSUE 1: 8 Hour MDTS Course for Level 1 Officers

- TC Williams informed the Committee that Council is looking for a recommendation regarding the traditional 24 hour MDTS course for level 1 officers. The question at issue is whether a Level I officer would be required to attend the full 24 hour MDTS course for Level I certification, or if there was an alternative program suited to their certification level.
- Captain Bloom presented an 8 hour Safariland course that provides basic defensive tactics. He also mentioned a few additions that both he and Lieutenant Henry felt were necessary to make this course ideal for level I certification.
 - Captain Bloom entered a motion to recommend the 8 hour Safariland course (including the additions) to the Council in place of the 24 hour course for Level I certification.
 - Motion seconded by Sergeant Crowe
 - **Motion passed Unanimously**



ISSUE 2: Motion to adjourn

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

Meeting Adjourned: 11:40

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams
Training Coordinator
Vermont Police Academy



