

## **Use of Force Committee Meeting**

### **15 October, 2014**

Prepared by James Park, Program Services Clerk

**Members Present:** Sheriff Donald Keeler, Captain Drew Bloom, Corporal Michael Akerlind, Officer Scott Fisher, Sergeant George Crowe, Lieutenant Michael Henry, Chief Chris Brickell, Sergeant Matthew Murano, Warden Specialist Russell Shopland, Lieutenant Robin Hollwedel

**Members Absent:** Chief Lianne Tuomey, Sergeant John Young

**Other persons present:** Director Glendon Button, Vermont DMV

**Academy Representatives:** Director of Training Cindy Taylor-Patch, Training Coordinator Jason Williams.

**Meeting called to order: 10:01**

#### **Old Business**

##### **Issue 1: Acceptance of previous meetings minutes**

- TC Williams asked the Committee to vote to accept or reject the previous meetings minutes from 16 July, 2014. A copy of the minutes was passed around the table for members to review.
  - Lieutenant Henry entered a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written.
  - Motion seconded by Officer Fisher
  - **Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **New Business**

##### **ISSUE 1: Winooski shooting court ruling and how it relates to Vermont Law Enforcement**

- Captain Bloom spoke of the Winooski shooting incident and how the recent court ruling would affect Use of Force training. It will not affect training, it is business as usual.
- Warden Shopland and Captain Bloom spoke of the Cognitive Interview Process focusing on how valuable of a tool it is in high stress incidents. Warden Shopland highly recommended the Force Science Institute training for at least one Academy staff member.



## **ISSUE 2: Retired Officers Firearms Certifications**

- Warden Shopland entered a motion for the committee to create a recommended course for retired officers wishing to keep their firearms certifications. This course would then be submitted to the Law Enforcement Advisory Board for review before being submitted to the Council.
- Motion seconded by Captain Bloom
- **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **Issue 3: CEW Certification**

- TC Williams brought to the committee's attention that Conducted Energy Weapons (CEW) Instructor and User Certification will become an academy curriculum, and that eventually instructor and end user certifications for the CEW will be held by the Council for Vermont officers. Hopefully, the Use of Force Committee will be asked for a recommendation on what that certification should look like and what the process should be for obtaining it. This was a preemptive discussion that would hopefully get Committee members to start thinking about recommendations for the course curriculum.
- **No formal action taken**

## **ISSUE 4: FATS Machine**

- TC Williams brought to the Committee's attention that the academy will be taking bids on a new machine. TC Williams asked the committee for their recommendations on attachments/add-ons.
- Sheriff Keeler informally polled the Committee members on a prioritization schedule, and decided to place the attachments in the following order:
  - Video capture/play back
  - Low light simulation
  - Blow back functions
  - OC simulator
  - Baton simulator
  - Negative feedback device

## **ISSUE 5: SIM guns**

- TC Williams brought to the Committee's attention that the Academy wishes to purchase Smith & Wesson SIM guns; however because the Academy is not a law enforcement agency they would not ship to us.
- TC Williams asked the committee if someone would be willing to place the order.
- Sheriff Keeler agreed to place the order.
- **No formal action taken**



### **ISSUE 6: Committee Vacancy**

- TC Williams brought it to the committee's attention that Sergeant Young will be retiring and leaving the Committee.
- Lieutenant Hollwedel proposed a motion to recommend that whomever replaces Sergeant Young within the VSP will also take his place at the Committee.
- Officer Fisher seconded
- **Motion passed unanimously**
- Lieutenant Hollwedel proposed a motion to recommend that they potentially add a representative from Corrections Firearms to the Committee.
- Officer Fisher seconded
- **Motion passed unanimously**

### **ISSUE 7: Part-Time Officer Use of Force**

- Director of Training Cindy Taylor-Patch approached the committee regarding push back from the changes to part-time Use of Force training.
- While the new changes are have been adopted by the Training Council, there is a chance that the Use of Force committee will have to defend their recommendation/changes to the part-time curriculum.

**Meeting Adjourned: 11:35**

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Williams  
Training Coordinator  
Vermont Police Academy

