

VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL

April 22, 2020

PITTSFORD, VERMONT

2:00 PM phone conference

Members in Attendance

Chief Christopher Brickell, Chair, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police
Jason Batchelder, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Dept of Fish &
Wildlife

Sergeant Timothy Gould, Vermont Trooper's Association

David Scherr, Proxy for Attorney General TJ Donovan, Vermont Attorney General's Office

Colonel William Elovirta, Proxy for Interim Commissioner Wanda Minoli, Vermont Dept of Motor
Vehicles

Erica Marthage, Bennington County State's Attorney

Gary Moore, Public Seat

Mark Anderson, Vermont Sheriff's Association

Major Ingrid Jonas, Vermont State Police, Proxy for Commissioner Michael Schirling

Silas Loomis, VT Constables Association

Absent

Michael Major, Vermont Police Association

Commissioner Michael Schirling, Vermont Dept of Public Safety

Heather Simons, Vice Chair, Proxy for Interim Commissioner James
Baker, Vermont Department of Corrections

Other Attendance

Jacob Humbert, Assistant Attorney General

Trevor Whipple, Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns

Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy

Cynthia Taylor-Patch, Director of Training, Vermont Police Academy

Drew Bloom, Director of Administration, Vermont Police Academy

Lieutenant Steven Coote, Vermont State Police

Captain Julie Scribner, Vermont State Police

1. Chief Brickell: Called the meeting to order at 2:05.

2. Approval of prior minutes:

- Erica Marthage made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 22nd meeting, second by Constable Loomis. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Sheriff Anderson abstained from voting
- Constable Loomis made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 24th meeting, second by Erica Marthage. All in favor, motion passed.

- Chief Brickell asked if there was any work done on the section Topics discussed by Council Members include, the fifth bullet down, regarding a waiver to allow certified instructors at the home agency to instruct on certain topics. Jacob Humbert does not believe anything had been done with this yet.
- Sheriff Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 2nd meeting, second by Constable Loomis. All in favor, motion passed.
- Sheriff Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 17th meeting, second by Major Jonas. All in favor motion passed.

Major Jonas asked where in the minutes it mentioned the date the recruits were released. The date would have been in the meeting minutes from the emergency meeting on March 17th that Richard Gauthier took.

3. Additions or subtractions from agenda: None

4. Quarantine academy update: Director of Training Cynthia Taylor-Patch updated the Council. The Police Academy staff, VSP staff, recruits, and a number of instructors are doing all they can to keep on track with the hourly breakdown of training and the quarantine. Colchester PD and Wilmington PD are the only two agencies willing to give help. One recruit resigned due to childcare issues.

5. Entrance testing: The Council is aware testing needs to continue but it is problematic for the month of May. If any restrictions are modified or lifted it is possible to do some testing. Stephen Benard, Major Jonas, Chief Brickell will continue with discussing any possibility of how to administer the written test and the MMPI with social distancing. There is a possibility of offsite testing for the written test, MMPI, and possible PT test with modifications by testing with the 1.5 mile run and the rowing machines if we can potentially move some of the rowers offsite. Otter Valley High School is a potential site where we could tentatively have four testing days in May. Stephen Benard is looking into another potential offsite location. There was discussion about the cleaning of the rowers and bringing the machines back into the academy to the recruits that have quarantined, the staff being quarantined that know how to test with the rower, and keeping in mind there are out of state testers that would be coming to testing. It is early in the discussion on doing the written test online. Discussions will continue how to modify and ways to get testing done.

6. Interim Executive Director discussion: Administration has put a hold on the new Executive Director hiring indefinitely. Chief Brickell working with Stephen Benard and Major Jonas, has drafted a memo to the Administration requesting an Interim Executive Director be put in place. The request was to put Stephen Benard in the Interim position for a period of time not to exceed

90 days, for 20 hours a week, and to continue with the hiring of a new Executive Director during this time. The memo had been received but there has been no response yet. Chief Brickell would like to have the Interim put into place by May 1st. The Interim Management Team and the Oversight committee will continue to do their parts if the request is declined. There was no opposition, the Council was in support.

7. Other Business: Trevor Whipple shared with the Council that Peter Lynch had reached out to James Baker with concern of this stressful time for first responders. There will be a phone conference tomorrow morning on creating a webinar to help provide support when needed. If anyone would like to participate in the conference the call-in information will be provided.

8. Motion to adjourn: Erica Marthage made a motion to adjourn, second by Constable Loomis.

- **Meeting adjourned at 2:44**