

**VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL**  
**September 25, 2019**  
**PITTSFORD, VERMONT**  
**9:00 AM**

**Members in Attendance**

Chief Christopher Brickell, Chair, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police  
Heather Simons, Vice Chair, Proxy for Commissioner Mike Touchette, Vermont  
Department of Corrections

Jason Batchelder, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, VT Dept of Fish &  
Wildlife

Sergeant Timothy Gould, Vermont Trooper's Association

Michael Major, Vermont Police Association

Sheriff Bill Bohnyak, proxy for Stephen Benard, Vermont Sheriff's Association

Silas Loomis, VT Constables Association

Commissioner Michael Schirling, DPS

**Absent**

Major Ingrid Jonas, Vermont State Police

Gary Moore, Public Seat

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

Erica Marthage, Bennington County State's Attorney

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

**Other Attendance**

Executive Director Richard Gauthier, Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council

Jacob Humbert, Assistant Attorney General

Trevor Whipple, Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns

Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy

Cynthia Taylor- Patch, Vermont Police Academy

Lt. Steven Coote, Vermont State Police

Capt. Julie Scribner, Vermont State Police

**Chief Brickell:** Called the meeting to order at 9:03.

Introductions were made around the table to the new DPS Commissioner Michael Schirling.

**Addition to or Subtraction from agenda:** Addition to the Executive Directors report on the Level II to Level III recommendations. Item numbers four and five were switched.

**Approval of Prior Minutes:** Michael Major made a motion to accept prior minutes, second by Constable Loomis. All in favor, motion passed.

**Expansion of the Full-time Basic Academy hours:** Cindy Taylor-Patch and Lt. Steven Coote prepared a PowerPoint presentation and spoke to the Council members about the need for the additional hours. They had collected input from many different stakeholders. It was explained which courses could be removed, changed, or added and why. The TAC (Training Advisory Committee) is asking for an additional four weeks of training time. Council members asked questions such as the cost of these additional weeks, the impact to VSP's pre basic and post basic, how it would affect recruiting, and how soon it would be implemented. Suggestions were made on other trainings like breakup training, master training, and online trainings.

Commissioner Schirling made a motion for the Council to support the Executive Director going to Finance and Management for the requisite budget to increase the training curriculum by up to four weeks for the second half of the fiscal year 21 budget in anticipation of coming up with the implementation methodology, second by Sheriff Bohnyak. All in favor, motion passed.

**Champlain College Proposal discussion:** Chief Brickell said he has sent an email to Ed Cafferty regarding his proposal and what it was lacking and has asked the Council if they would like to continue working with the college. Constable Loomis stated the constables do not support the proposal from the college. Michael Major stated the Vermont Police Association does not support the proposal from the college. Captain Scribner stated VSP does not support the proposal from the college. Sheriff Bohnyak said a couple of the Sheriff's support the proposal but the majority is not in favor. Chief Brickell said the Chief's also have a few in support of the proposal but the majority are not in favor.

#### **Executive Directors Report:**

- **Training Coordinator position update:** There are five applicants for interviews. Cindy is coming up with the date for the interviews which will hopefully be in the next couple weeks.
- **DRE status update:** The language issues have been worked out, the RFP is being drafted, and the software purchase is being problematic. The software is a high priority. Highway Safety will be paying for the extension. There has been a lot of frustration with the process. At current we have roughly 53 DRE's, 60-65 would be the best number to have.
- **Entry Standards follow up:** PSI suggested starting with a cut off point between five and six and adjust that number as needed. Cindy estimated it would take at least two years to have enough data to determine a good cut off number. It was asked if PSI would let us do a round of testing. There was questions and discussion on the psychological inventory. Director Gauthier stated that PSI has a MMPI but they only administer it to applicants once a conditional offer of employment had been made and it is paired with a face to face. Director Gauthier feels the working group should meet to discuss the psychological testing to make a recommendation. Heather asked if the working group would come present to the Council their recommendations.
- **Alternate Path from Level II to Level III:** Director Gauthier has not had the time to talk to the Academy staff yet so does not have a recommendation but will have it for the next Council Meeting.

**CRI-TAC discussion:** Heather received a call from them the night of the last meeting after it was decided not to pursue their help. She was told they would be working on our Strategic Plan and short-term deficiencies again and have had a reorganization of their staff but are ready to re-engage. Heather had also sent a request to BJA and feels the Council should pursue both for now to find the right facilitator for this project.

Heather made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss issues with the litigation. Director Gauthier, Jacob Humbert, and Capt Scribner were invited to attend the Executive Session. Constable Loomis motioned to accept this motion, second by Michael Major.

Executive Session from 11:17 to 12:07

No action taken during Executive Session

No further discussion.

Michael Major made a motion to adjourn, second by Constable Loomis. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08.