

VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL

December 11, 2018

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 Lisa Menard, Vermont Department of Corrections
Justin Steadman, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, Vermont Dept of Fish &
Wildlife – by phone
Sergeant Timothy Gould, Vermont Trooper's Association
Michael Major, Vermont Police Association
Major Ingrid Jonas, Vermont State Police
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, Attorney General's Office
Gwyn Zakov, Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns
Trevor Whipple, Vermont Leagues of Cities and Towns
Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy
Cynthia Taylor-Patch, Vermont Police Academy
Stephen Tiersch, Berlin Police Dept.
Mark Monteith, Berlin Police Dept.
Christopher Conway, Vermont Police Academy
George Merkel, Vergennes Police Dept.
Glen Button, Governors Highway Safety Program

Chief Brickell: Called the meeting to order at 9:12.

Council members introduced themselves.

Additions or Deletions to Agenda: Moved Additions or deletions to agenda to the second item, added 4a DRE discussion, and added 10a Council vote on Chair and Vice Chair.

Approval of Prior Minutes: Motion to accept prior minutes from October 23rd meetings made by Michael Major, second by Erica Marthage. No discussion, motion passed.

Berlin PD Level II-E applicant presentation – Chief Brickell gave a brief overview from the last Council Meeting. Sgt. Mark Monteith spoke of Officer Steven Tiersch's work history and confirmed that Officer Tiersch was the primary officer in a majority of the cases in his Spillman and Valcour case reports. More information is needed for the Council to make a decision. Sgt. Monteith and Officer Tiersch will gather the needed information for a future Council Meeting.

DRE Discussion: Glen Button and Chief George Merkel spoke to the Council on their thoughts on replacing Lt. John Flannigan upon his retirement on April 1, 2019. Glen feels this is the time for the Criminal Justice Training Council to adopt the program and should take the lead on the position. The movement is for the Academy to take over the DRE position, the funding staying with GHSP at this time, with the caveat of it transitioning to a state funded position. Chief Merkel believes the person hired for the position needs to be DRE Certified, a DRE instructor, have the knowledge and background of each aspect of the program, and will be able to maintain the current standards or improve these standards. Glen didn't dispute but noted the IACP does not require the state coordinator be DRE Certified. Chief Merkel feel that all officers, including Level II officers should be ARIDE trained. It is believed it is a good time to go to Legislature with what is needed to properly address impaired driving. Upon further discussion it was decided to form a Subcommittee. Chief Brickell tasked Director Gauthier to get the subcommittee group together and meet before the end of the year. Chief Merkel and Glen Button both agreed to be on the subcommittee and suggested Jim Roy and Lt. Flannigan also be on the subcommittee. Director Gauthier will notify the VSP Commissioner on the progress. Heather Simons believes we should not ask for a position but rather outline what is needed to fill the role and ask for the funding necessary to be successful.

Training Report: Cindy Taylor-Patch gave a brief overview noting the 106th Basic class was very successful, the FTO school has been scheduled and is full at 40 people, there have been six ARIDE classes in 2018, in-services classes continue as normal, and there are approximately 288 officers still needing the DV 2018 mandatory training. Jennifer Firpo is tracking the DV 2018 training and has been reaching out to agencies still needing it. Cindy would like Interview training brought up at the next Council Meeting.

Executive Director's Report: The sole source contract for investigating UOF scenarios and the UOF training assessment has been completed and are with Contract Administration waiting for approval.

CRI-TAC Update: Heather Simons updated the Council on the progress of our mission and strategic plan. She has had phone conversations with Collaborative Reform Initiative (CRI) to talk about our short term and long term planning and reshaping. She is expecting an update for approval on Friday. Heather feels we will get help and should be prepared to move quickly.

2019 Fee Approval: Council discussed our current fees. Director Gauthier doesn't feel the Academy should charge for mandatory trainings and told the Council the money received for meals and overnights doesn't go back to the Academy's budget, instead it goes into the general fund. Director Gauthier doesn't feel there should be a coffee set up fee. Mike Major made a motion to approve the increase in overnight and range fees as put forward by Drew Bloom, Heather Simons second the motion. No further discussion, motion passed.

2019 Council Meeting Dates: Dates were discussed, and it was decided to move the meetings to the last Wednesday of each month, with the option to cancel a meeting if it is not needed. Previously scheduled meetings for Feb 19 and Apr 16 have been cancelled. The dates set up for 2019 are Jan 30, Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 29, Jun 26, Jul 31, Aug 28, Sep 25, Oct 30, Nov 26 (Tue), and Dec 18.

Chair and Vice Chair: Council discussed and decided the topic should be warned in advance to give members the opportunity to make nominations if they desire. Jacob Humbert does not see any deviation for Chief Brickell and Heather Simons to continue in these roles until the January meeting. Council members agreed.

Other discussions:

Trevor Whipple explained his new position and role at VLCT.

Erica Marthage wondered what role the Council ever had in education for the executive branch and about judges getting training on what the Council does, trainings, and processes. Chief Brickell thinks this is a good topic to bring up at the Chief's and Sheriff's meeting.

Mike Major talked about self-reporting training. Past and previous practice was explained and that an officer not working should track all training while not employed by an agency. Once hired that officer can give the hiring agency those training records to report.

Motion to adjourn was made by Colonel Elovirta, second by Mike Major. Meeting adjourned 11:30.