

VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL
December 16, 2014
PITTSFORD, VERMONT
9:00AM

Members in Attendance

Director Glen Button, Chair, Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles.
Major William Sheets, Vice Chair, Vermont State Police
Executive Director Richard Gauthier, Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council
Captain William Elovirta, Vermont Police Association
Joe Damiata, Vermont League of Cities & Town
John Treadwell, Vermont Attorney General's Office
David Fenster, Vermont State's Attorney & Sheriffs' Office
Heather Simons, Proxy for Commissioner Pallito, Vermont Department of Corrections
Chief Christopher Brickell, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police
George Scribner, Proxy for Commissioner Louis Porter, Vermont
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Silas Loomis, Vermont Constable Association

Other Attendance

Cindy Taylor-Patch, Vermont Police Academy
Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy
Chief George Merkel, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Frank Koss, Hinesburg Police Department
Sergeant James Roy, Colchester Police Department

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Director Button at 9:07.

Director Button:

- Explained that the agenda for the meeting had been changed. The Officer Decertification did not take place as well as the Facilities/Capital Construction discussion.
- Director Button gave an overview of the Facilities/Capital Construction and when the final report is received it will be presented to the Council Members for final feedback and comments.
- Asked members to introduce themselves.
- Robin Lacz was introduced to the Council Member as the new Financial Specialist at the Police Academy

Approval of Prior Minutes: A motion was made by Chief Brickell, and seconded by Captain Elovirta, to approve the September 9, 2014 meeting minutes. There was no discussion, motion passed.

- **Committee Reports:** Use of Force, Canine, and Waiver Committee. Missing a report for the Domestic Violence. No questions or comments.
- **VCJTC Training Reports:** Cindy Taylor-Patch handed out an overview for training containing a list of in-service classes from the current quarter.

Strategic Planning Session: The three overarching goals were explained to the Council.

- Goal #1 – Establish Modern Public Safety Training Center.
- Goal #2 – Continually Enhance Professionalism of VT’s Criminal Justice Community. By next Council Meeting we will have a list of what Committee representation we have, which ones need to go by the wayside and which ones need to be enhanced and increased, with a list of the names and rosters. The current committees are listed on the Academy Website.
- Goal #3 – Maximize Outreach and Awareness of the Role of the VCJTC.
Sub-Committee will reconvene, work with Heather Simons to make sure we are reaching the Results-Based Accountability (RBA) model, reach out to the Academy staff go over the plan with them so they are clear on this, and put it on the agenda at the next meeting to see where we stand.

LPO: Major Sheets explained the LPO program as a three week program based on the West Point Leadership Model. Vermont is a model nationally on this. LPO program is held a couple times a year which relates to more training. Director Gauthier is going to be a national instructor.

ARIDE presentation by Sergeant James Roy:

Sergeant Roy is a drug recognition expert and instructor and works in curriculum development. Sergeant Roy gave a presentation on drug impaired driving, statistics on the rise of drug vs. alcohol fatalities and arrests throughout the state of VT. He explained the need to increase public awareness, classes and trainings for prosecutors, and the demand for more officer trainings. Three levels of training as 1 – SFST, 2 – ARIDE, and 3- DRE. At this time there are only 36 DRE officers in the state. NITSA is looking at VT as a pilot state.

Sergeant Roy would like to see the ARIDE training as a mandatory training for officers with experience, and it was suggested this experience be two years from certification. VSP will be making the ARIDE training mandatory for their officers by the end of 2015, so the number of classes will be increased for the coming year. Director Gauthier was tasked with contacting Jacob Humbert to see if the Council had the authority to require attending this training within two years in order to maintain certification, or if this had to go through the AP process.

Director Gauthier:

Director Gauthier gave background on the rules changes and talked about the implementation of H.765, the responsibility of the Council, and the alternate path of certification for officers.

The Council was tasked with deciding if the recommendation of the Rules Committee on H.765 was the final recommendation once they had a chance to read it over and ask any questions. Discussion ensued there will be changes made for the final recommendation. Per Director Button the final recommendation has to be submitted to Legislature by January 15, 2015. Motion to accept the report with the minor tweaks, was made by Constable Loomis, and seconded by Joe Damiata. There was no further discussion, motion passed.

Recommended Council Rule changes on the handout from Director Gauthier were gone over. It was questioned if Rule 9 was needed once H.765 goes into effect and there will not be a limitation on the number of hours an officer can work. There was discussion on designating the Police Academy as a law enforcement agency. This would allow the Academy to purchase certain needed materials for trainings that they are not now allowed to purchase. It would also allow staff members of the Academy to maintain their certification through the Academy. The Council members wish for this to be pursued. There was discussion on Rule 20 to the language being may decertify or shall decertify, and if they Council would allow someone who has been decertified the ability to reapply. It was agreed that “may decertify” would be the best language to use and that there should be an avenue for suspensions and decertification. #5 of Rule 20 should be changed to Conduct Unbecoming of a Police Officer and add a clarifying language in regards to what that is. Note in the process that the Executive Director has authority to take immediate action if required. Suspensions will automatically happen in conjunction with an agencies suspension. Decertification process will go on after an officer leaves employment.

Director Button proposed a motion to move forward with the administrative process. Motion was made by Chief Brickell, and seconded by Constable Loomis. Motion carries.

The Council asked Director Gauthier to propose a list of criteria that if discovered on a polygraph would prohibit an applicant from getting into the academy.

Executive Directors report:

Discussed the budgeting process and recession. Cutting our ½ position met the goal for our recession. Looks like we are all right for next year. Have put in for an extra position and to contract help for Robert Ryan, but not very hopeful. Working of carry forward of \$100,000 from last year, we put out a bid for a FATS machine. The bids got spec’ed out for much bigger systems, so we will have to put the specs out for bid again.

Trainings are going well, fully staffed, no particular issues, and are finishing up the DV training for the year.

2015 Council meeting dates:

- March 10, 2015 - Montpelier
- June 9, 2015 - Pittsford
- September 8, 2014 - Pittsford
- December 8, 2015 - Pittsford

The council meetings will begin at 0900 as agreed by the Council Members.

Fair and Impartial Policing: Major Sheets talked about the Fair and Impartial Policing Committee meeting. Collecting data, compiling data, analyzing this data, and it may be expected to have the data by individual officers. Major Sheets suggested sponsoring training through the Academy, inviting the media to come and talk about it. We need to highlight what we are doing in a good way.

Election of New Officers: Director Button was nominated as Chair; Major Sheets was nominated as the Vice Chair. Both were voted in unanimously.

New business: No new business.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Constable Loomis, seconded by Captain Elovirta. Meeting adjourned at 1:30.