

VERMONT CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COUNCIL
Sept 9, 2014
PITTSFORD, VERMONT
10:00AM

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
Fred Satink, Proxy for 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
Sheriff Stephen Benard, Vermont Sheriffs' Association
Chief Stephen McQueen, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police
Commissioner Louis Porter, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife
Sergeant Thomas Mozzer, Vermont Troopers' Association
Silas Loomis, Vermont Constable Association

Other Attendance

Emily Leinoff, Vermont Police Academy
John Gonyea, Vermont Police Academy
Cindy Taylor-Patch, Vermont Police Academy
Chief Christopher Brickell, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police
Gail Williams, Vermont Police Academy
Sheriff Roger Marcoux, Lamoille County Sheriff's Dept
Chief George Merkel, Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police
Chief Frank Koss, Hinesburg Police Department
James Park, Vermont Police Academy
Major Dennis Reinhardt, Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Director Button at 10:00.

Director Button:

- Asked members to introduce themselves.
- Announced to the Council that Emily Leinoff was leaving the academy for a new position and that Gail Williams was taking her position
- As Chief Steve McQueen has retired he was thanked for his many years services to the Council.
- Will be updating the standing committees for the Council.
- There is a Rules Committee meeting on Sep 22nd, at the Attorney General's Office.

Approval of Prior Minutes: A motion was made by Chief McQueen, and seconded by Constable Loomis, to approve the June 10, 2014 meeting minutes. There was no discussion, motion passed .

Executive Director's Report:

- **Committee Reports:** No questions or comments.
- **VCJTC Training Reports:** Cindy Taylor-Patch reported that things were going well with the 98th Basic class. Working on meeting demands given with the increase in mandated trainings. She is also looking for instructors for the Mental Health training.

This past legislative session VDOL has been tasked with studying the injuries at Robert H. Wood Training Center, specifically police training. Cindy reported that the first meeting has been held and data is currently being gathered.

John Gonyea spoke about a new page being added to the Academy's website that includes statistical information on facility use and number of student's trained every year. Director Button asked the council members to review this web page once it is posted.

Cindy Taylor-Patch explained that a recent change in the Use of Force training for part-time officers still allows for training to be completed locally, but they now have to be tested by one of the Academy's approved testers to meet the Use of Force training standard. It was explained to the Council that after this had gone into effect that there have been some officers that did not pass the test. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that those who didn't pass had been provided training in a very short timeframe. Instructors have been cautioned about limiting the number of hours for this course.

- **Director Gauthier:**
Discussed the carry forward money that was given back to the Academy and our proposed spending plan.

Talked about the Legislative time line of the LEAB and provided a written copy this time line. It is a combination of both legislative and LEAB action items the Council needs to weigh in on

Reported to the council that the deadline of Oct 1st was coming for agencies to report if they will be using the AG's or the VLCT policies for Fair and Impartial Policing. At this time 30-45% of the Chief's have reported for FIP.

Director Gauthier went over the waiver schedule for full-time officers coming from another state. Currently only Motor Vehicle and Criminal Law are being offered separately. The new schedule will be Vermont specific and will take the place of Phase I. Any other in-service of the waiver courses would be optional based on the officer's previous training. The waiver classes as well as report writing, and forms, are Vermont specific. Waiver hours for officer's coming from other states will vary per each officer's transcripts. Chief Koss agreed the proposed waiver process was a good idea. The Academy is looking at having the waiver certificate class at least two times a year. These will be before each of the full-time classes. Some of the waiver courses can be held regionally. The Criminal Law and Motor Vehicle law are challengeable. Motion was made to

accept the Waiver Certification Class by Captain Elovirta, and seconded by Sheriff Marcoux. No discussion. Motion passed.

- **H.255 (CEW Bill):** Have not finalized the measurement and calibration. Taser will be sending people to the Academy to train on use of the calibration equipment. The equipment will be purchased with carry forward money.
The LEAB has finished drafting the model policy for agencies.
- **H.184 (FIP):** Roadside data collection was mandatory starting Sep 1st. Agencies were told to work with the Council for reporting and storage of the data. Both Valcour and Spillman systems are being used and can be exported into Excel. Constable Loomis voiced his concerns about the constables not being able to report since they do not have computers or access to Spillman. Sheriff Benard suggested they go to their town office since all of the town offices have computers. Director Gauthier agreed to meet with Constable Loomis to discuss this further. Sergeant Mozzer brought up the concern of how much more work it will put on the Academy staff, and was told by the Director that it would be minimal. Director Button said that all the small duties/tasks added to the staff at the Academy needs to be monitored to make sure it doesn't overload the staff. Captain Elovirta asked if there are any penalties for not reporting. Director Gauthier does not believe that there are at this time.
- **H.765 – Tiered Certification:** Council needs to complete work on this.
The Rules Committee has set a December 9th deadline to come up with an alternate path to full-time certification.

A Legislative deadline was set for January 15th to put a cap on the scope of practice for officers in tier II of the part-time process.

The Rules Committee will be looking at other rule changes in addition to those involving H.765. There was draft legislation proposing that OPR take over, but OPR didn't want it. OPR stated that the current format was suitable for our needs, with some improvement in the decertification criteria.

September 22nd will be the first Rule Committee meeting at the AG's Office. They are looking for members so let Director Button know if you are interested.

We are coming into the budgeting period and it is clear the Academy will need another Training Coordinator and more help/assistance with the Canine program. Cindy Taylor-Patch explained how hard it is for Training Coordinator Robert Ryan to keep up with all of the canine training by himself. There was discussion on the training now that T18M is civil, whether we would continue training canines on marijuana, or train them on only large amounts. Director Button asked about getting help through contract instructors, similar to ICS instructors.

New business: Major Sheets discussed with the council that there was support from the House and Senate to support facility update project. There is a \$50,000 line item for the true feasibility study. It is estimated that the project will be a \$15 to \$20 million, multi year project. Director Button spoke about the buildings and grounds committees' membership, he advised he will be stepping down and Major Sheets will be taking his place.

Old business: No discussion

Executive Session: A motion was made by Sheriff Benard to go into executive session for the purpose of personnel issues and contract issues. A second to the motion was made by Constable Loomis.

Council went into executive session at 11:07.

Council was back in session at 11:15, with a break until 11:36.

Strategic Planning Session: Separate meeting minutes were taken by Director Gonyea for the strategic planning portion of this meeting.

Next meeting is December 9th at the Vermont Fire Academy in Pittsford.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Constable Loomis, seconded by Sergeant Mozzer. Meeting adjourned at 12:00.