

Members:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman
Hon. Richard P. Campbell
Jon E. Clark
Marshall R. Davis
John D. Holt
Clay R. Yeager
Hon. William F. Ward
Hon Jolene Grubb Kopriva
(Vacant)



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October 21, 1997

A meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:00 a.m. on October 21, 1997. The following members were present: Chairman Larry Straitiff, Jon E. Clark, Richard P. Campbell, Marshall R. Davis, William F. Ward, and Chester A. Kope, Executive Director. The following guests were also present: Ronald Copenhaver, K. Scott Roy, Esq., James Gunderman, and Kelly Cofield.

I. Chairman Straitiff called the meeting to order. A quorum of members was established. Commissioner Clark moved to approve the minutes of September 23, 1997. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. The Commissioners unanimously voted to accept the minutes.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. CURRICULUM

Commissioner Clark said he received the Basic Firearms Training Manuals from Mr. Kope and that he would make changes to the curriculum based on the recommendations he has received. He also reported he would hold a Curriculum Committee meeting with Bill Erickson from Erie County, James Gunderman from Dauphin County, Tom Schlechter from Lehigh County, and Tom Mitchell from Allegheny County. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and develop an outline of the 1998 in-service training program for agency supervisors and firearms instructors. They will also develop an outline of the continuing education program for 1999.

B. POLICY

Chairman Straitiff announced the Policy Committee is currently developing policies and will present them to the Commission at the next scheduled meeting.

C. FINANCE

Mr. Kope provided a copy of the financial report dated October 9, 1997. The report disclosed a current balance of \$260,549.83.

III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kope expects the waiver range qualifications to be completed by October 31, 1997. When the entire waiver process is completed, he will prepare the waiver certificates for each probation officer who successfully completed the waiver process.

On October 15, 1997 a survey was mailed to all adult and juvenile chief probation departments. The purpose of the survey is to assist the commission with planning future training initiatives.

Mr. Kope requested all 2nd drafts of the annual report be returned to him so he may incorporate the Commissioners' comments. He will then resubmit a 3rd draft for final review and comment.

Mr. Kope said the hotel and ammunition reimbursement claim forms are currently in the Comptroller's office awaiting final approval.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

After a lengthy discussion regarding range recertification, Commissioner Davis proposed the following motion.

MOTION: I so move that any officer who has been certified by the Commission under Act 158, either by taking the basic firearms training course or completing the waiver process, shall be certified until December 31, 1998. To maintain that certification, the officer must complete the required range requalification examination, to be determined by the Commission, between April 1, 1998 and October 31, 1998. The requalification will be good until December 31, 1999. Failure to requalify during the specified period of time would require the Commission to take action for revocation of their certification as of December 31, 1998. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the Instructors' Certification Program, Commissioner Clark proposed the following motion.

MOTION: I so move to continue the requirement for instructor eligibility to conduct the range requalifications in calendar year 1998 as they were employed and used for the 1997 Waiver Range Qualifications. Counties must use one of the Certified Firearms Instructors from the approved list, a Board Certified Firearms Instructor, or a Commission member. The county conducting the range requalification examination must use a Certified Firearm Instructor from another county. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Clark moved to require the certified firearms instructors who will be conducting the range requalifications in 1998 attend a briefing regarding the Commission's course of fire and our expectations. Commissioner Campbell seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commissioners.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, Continued

The Commission began to discuss establishing a scholarship fund to train full-time county probation officers as firearms instructors, with the provision that they would assist the Commission. After a lengthy discussion Chairman Straitiff appointed an Instructors Scholarship Committee to gather training information and report back to the Commission. He asked for volunteers. There being none, he appointed the Executive Director, himself and possibly a non-commission member to be named at a later date.

The Commission discussed Senator White's draft proposal to amend Act 158 of December 27, 1994 extending the applicability of the Act to intermediate punishment department officers in counties of the sixth class. Chairman Straitiff selected Mr. Kope to investigate the proposed amendment to Act 158 and report back to the Commission, (i.e. where is the proposed amendment, what does it include, what about scheduling?).

Mr. Roy said that the Commission should use the Purdens reference to Act 158 on the waiver certificates in the future. The reference should be shown as 61 P.S. § 332.1.

The Commission voted unanimously to cancel the meeting of December 16, 1997.

The next meeting will be held at the Atherton Hotel in State College on November 18, 1997, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

IV. LEGAL ISSUES

There were no legal issues.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.