

**Members:**

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman  
Hon. Robert Billingsley  
Hon. Lawrence F. Clark  
Marshall R. Davis  
William R. Erickson, Jr.  
R. Scott Schlechter  
Keith B. Snyder  
Hon. William F. Ward  
Lt. David Howells



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March 23, 1999

A meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:00 AM on March 23, 1999 at the Best Western Inn in State College, PA. The following Commission members and guests were present:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman  
Hon. Lawrence F. Clark  
William F. Ward  
Marshall R. Davis  
R. Scott Schlechter  
Keith B. Snyder

Chester A. Kope, Executive Director  
K. Scott Roy, Legal Advisor  
Ronald E. Copenhaver, Administrative Advisor  
Gary Scicchitano (PBPP)  
Steve Daugherty, (Guest from Tioga County)  
Robert Repard, (Guest from Tioga County)

**I.** Chairman Straitiff called the meeting to order. Chairman Straitiff requested that a motion be made to accept the minutes from the January 26, 1999 meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Clark to accept the minutes of January 26, 1999 and the corrected November 17, 1998 minutes. Commissioner Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved by the Commission.

**II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Mr. Kope began with a handout entitled "Number of Officers Carrying Firearms by County" that lists each carrying county and number of officers carrying in that county. Mr. Kope discussed the number of officers signed up for each Basic Training and stated that no one signed up for the November Basic Firearms Training scheduled to take place at the Allegheny County Police Academy.

Mr. Kope then discussed the difficulty of scheduling firearms training at Fort Indiantown Gap and the Commission should consider using other ranges. There was a short

discussion about the Gap changing the time range instructors must take the range safety briefing. Mr. Roy suggested setting up a special briefing so that all the instructors can be briefed at the same time. Mr. Kope said he would meet with the people in charge of range control. There was a brief discussion regarding other firearms ranges, including location and size.

Mr. Kope handed out a list of officers who will be attending the Train the Trainer courses scheduled to take place March 24, 1999 and March 30, 1999 in State College, Pa. He also gave the Commissioners a copy of the certificates he planned to give the participants.

Mr. Kope gave the Commissioners a copy of the 1999 Instructors Range Requalifications guide and discussed approval for 20 slots.

Commissioner Schlechter showed prospective simunition equipment. The equipment included thigh/torso protectors, shoulder/back/chest protectors, gloves, headgear and shin gear. He also discussed needing neck and arm protectors. Chairman Straitiff questioned how long it would take to purchase the equipment. Mr. Kope would need to meet with the purchasing agent to discuss needed equipment.

Mr. Kope handed out Basic Training applications. There was a brief discussion about putting the applications, training schedules and Commission related information on the Web so that they can be downloaded for better availability. There was a brief discussion regarding the software being available.

Mr. Kope discussed updating the three 75 question Basic Training Examinations. Commissioner Clark expressed his concerns regarding legal and use of force test questions. He believed that all trainees should score 100%(pass or fail) on this portion of the Basic Training Exam. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the establishment of a legal and use of force test.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Clark stating that all students must take a separate examination and achieve a score of 100% regarding test questions that apply to legal or Justification of Use of Force defined under our Crimes Code. In the event the student does not pass that test with 100%, the test is to be reviewed by the instructor with the students and at the earliest practical opportunity they will be afforded an opportunity to take another variation of the test. Again, the student must obtain a 100%. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. A vote was taken and was unanimously approved by the Commission.

The Commissioners discussed whether the Commission should require officers, that will be recertifying this year, to take the Legal and Use of Force test. After a lengthy discussion Commissioner Clark made the following motion.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Clark motioned the principles of justification and legal liability component, that otherwise would be instructed to the new trainees, be a mandatory in-service course during this year and coupled with the actual Firearms

Requalification. This will constitute the in-service training and requalification module for officers that are currently certified by the Commission. The same standard of 100% score would apply. Commissioner Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

### **III. CURRICULUM REPORTS**

- **Curriculum**

The curriculum committee had nothing to report.

- **Policy**

The policy committee had nothing to report.

- **Finance**

Mr. Kope handed out the financial report. The available balance is \$456,240. Commissioner ward stated that the available balance is increasing steadily and asked if we have an obligation to consider putting it in an interest bearing account and/or consider doing it. Mr. Kope stated that he did not know and would ask the fiscal people. Commissioner Schlechter questioned why in the first 19 days of March the Commission only had \$158. Mr. Kope explained that it is due to the delayed placement process of funds placed into the account.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **VI. LEGAL ISSUES**

There were no legal issues.

### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS**

There was no public comment or questions.

### **VIII. ADJOURN MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned.