

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



Chester A. Kope
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May 25, 1999

A meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:00 AM on May 25, 1999 at the Best Western Inn in Harrisburg, PA. The following Commission members and guests were present:

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

Hon. William F. Ward
Chester A. Kope, Executive Director
R. Scott Roy, Legal Advisor
Ronald Copenhaver, Administrative Advisor
Paula Vitz (Governor's Office)
Robert Repard, (Guest from Tioga County)
Rusty Duncan (Guest from Westmoreland County)
Paul Foltz (Guest from Erie County)

I. Chairman Straitiff called the meeting to order. Chairman Straitiff requested that a motion be made to accept the minutes from the March 23, 1999 meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to accept the minutes of March 23, 1999. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved by the Commission.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with a new list of Certified Firearms Instructors. Mr. Kope stated that the highlighted names shown on the list were the names of the new instructors applying for Commission certification. He further stated that they met Commission requirements and asked the Commissioners to approve the following officers as Commission certified firearms instructors:

Roy Stewart, Centre County
Michael Guido, Cumberland County
Jay Staples, Lackawanna County
Christopher Pozniak, Monroe County
Robert McLaughlin, Pike County
Frank Benini, Somerset County
Mark Bolkovac, Westmoreland County
Rusty Duncan, Westmoreland County
Patrick Michaels, Westmoreland County

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Clark to accept the listed names as certified firearms instructors. Commissioner Ward seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope presented the Commissioners with a new list of the counties and departments that are carrying firearms. There was a brief discussion regarding the number of counties that currently carry firearms. Mr. Kope stated that it appears that Eric, Lehigh, and Westmoreland County Juvenile Departments will have approval to carry firearms next calendar year.

Mr. Kope presented a "Petition for Extension" of time that was requested by Mr. Terry Davis, the Chief Probation Officer in Dauphin County, on behalf of Ms. Michelle Seibert. Mr. Davis was requesting to extend her requalification period to February 29, 2000 because her doctor has restricted her from requalifying while she is pregnant.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Snyder to grant an extension to time to Ms. Seibert until October 31, 2000. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission. Commissioner Clark abstained from the vote.

The Commissioners discussed in length the 1999 requalification requirement regarding the classroom presentation and testing of county officers in the Authority and jurisdiction and Use of Force. Several options regarding the classroom presentation and testing were discussed, including the use of Mr. Roy's videotape. Mr. Roy said that he would provide Mr. Kope with a copy of the Civil Service Commission's written testing procedures.

MOTION: Commissioner Ward made a motion to direct the Executive Director to develop an implementation plan by June 15, 1999 that would provide the classroom and testing requalification requirement to all those officers who are required to recertify by October 31, 1999. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope said that he would like to have Emergency Management Technicians on site during the range portion of the Basic Firearms Training because most of the ranges are miles away from a hospital or emergency services. In addition, the Commission does not have a formal emergency procedure. After a brief discussion regarding EMT's being present during range training, it was concluded to leave it up to the discretion of the Executive Director.

Mr. Kope gave the Commissioners a draft copy of the 1997-1998 Annual Report that he prepared. After a brief discussion it was decided that the Commissioners would review the draft report and provide Mr. Kope with their comments/revisions by June 21, 1999. Mr. Kope would make the necessary changes and present the finalized report for the Commissioners approval by July 20, 1999.

Mr. Kope discussed the Request for Proposal for the In-Service Firearms Training. Mr. Kope said that the RFP Committee recommended that the Commission consider including two additional two year training options to the contract. Mr. Kope presented an outline detailing the RFP training schedule for the coming six years. After a lengthy discussion regarding the two additional two-year training options, Commissioner Clark made the following motion:

MOTION: Commissioner Clark made a motion that we do not include or dictate any specific training or hours for the two additional two year training options and if the Commission decides to take a two year option, we would provide the vendor with the training subjects and hours at that time. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope discussed the need to amend the basic training and requalification failure policy/procedure in regards to repeating classroom and/or range training. Commissioner Davis stated that he thought that the current policy covered these areas and that there was no need to amend the policy or procedure. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Straitiff stated that he and Commissioner Clark would review requalification policy and procedures.

MOTION: Commissioner Snyder made a motion to delete the requirement that officers must achieve a passing score of 75% on the written exam as specified in the Student Code of Conduct under Section I Testing, paragraph F, Items I and 2. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Mr. Kope gave the commissioners a brief update regarding the Pennsylvania State Police and Protective Safety Systems Instructor Training Courses.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Policy**

The policy committee had nothing to report

- **Curriculum**

The curriculum committee had nothing to report.

- **Financial**

Mr. Kope discussed the financial report. The available balance is \$486,114.42.

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.