

**Members:**

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



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July 20, 1999  
REVISED

A meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:00 AM on July 20, 1999 at the Atherton Hotel in State College, PA. The following Commission members and guests were present:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman  
Hon. Robert Billingsley  
William R. Erickson, Jr.  
R. Scott Schlechter  
Keith B. Snyder

Chester A. Kope, Executive Director  
Paula Vitz (Governor's Office)  
Robert Repard, (Guest from Tioga County)  
Rusty Duncan, (Guest from Westmoreland County)

**I.** Chairman Straitiff called the meeting to order. Chairman Straitiff requested that a motion be made to accept the minutes from the May 25, 1999 meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to accept the minutes of May 25, 1999 with a terminology correction on page 2 and a name correction on page 3. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes, with corrections, were approved by the Commission.

## **II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Mr. Kope began with informing the Commission of his new cell phone with a paging feature. He next informed the Commission that the Annual Report is nearing completion and when it is finalized he will send it out for printing.

Commissioner Straitiff discussed the Board of Probation and Parole's website.

Mr. Kope said the Request for Proposal Committee for In-Service Firearms Training held their second meeting. He informed the Commission that there was conflicting information between the Comptroller's Office and the Department of General Services regarding the multi-year contracts. However, after the committee members review the last draft Mr. Kope will submit it for processing.

Mr. Kope informed the Commissioners that four people cancelled out of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) instructor-training course and have been replaced. There was a short discussion regarding the officers who signed up for the PSP training and the Protective Safety Systems Instructor School. There was a discussion regarding the authority and Jurisdiction and Use of Force requalification training. Mr. Kope explained that 1 out of 30 officers fail both tests and must sit through the training again. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the consequences of allowing an officer to continue

carrying a firearm after failing the test. It was decided that the policy on recertification needed to be changed to reflect adverse action upon failing the test twice, suspending the officer's certification.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Billingsley to amend Commission Operational Policy §2a, to state that any officer who fails the authority and Jurisdiction & Use of Force component, after having been given one test and one retest shall immediately be suspended by the Executive Director for the remaining period of his current certification. Any person failing both tests may then apply to the executive Director to arrange for an additional training/testing opportunity and it may be arranged directly through the Commission or the approved trainer. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope discussed the Basic Firearms Training Classes. He informed the Commissioners that he would definitely run the training class tentatively scheduled to be held in Pittsburgh, PA in November 1999.

Mr. Kope displayed a model of the hat that would be ordered for safety purposes and worn by the firearms instructors during Commission sponsored range activities. The cost of each hat is \$10. There was a brief discussion regarding the hats worn for safety precautions during range training.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to allow the Executive Director to purchase red T-shirts for safety purposes. The red T-shirts would have large yellow lettering donning the words "Firearms Instructor" and would be worn by the firearms instructors during all Commission sponsored range activities. Commissioner Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope discussed basic training classes for next year and alternative range sites, commenting on the difficulties of using fort Indiantown Gap range facilities. There was a lengthy discussion regarding building our own range or utilizing a range built by Terry Davis Work Release Center at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

Mr. Kope discussed two Petitions for extension for Stacy Rhoades from Eric County and Michelle Seibert from Dauphin.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Snyder made a motion to approve petition for Extension for Stacy Rhoades and Michelle Seibert until October 2000. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission. Commissioner Erickson abstained.

Mr. Kope briefly discussed the revised Certified Firearms Instructor list. Mr. Kope asked for approval of the new names listed.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Schlechter to approve the Certified Firearms Instructor list. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope discussed the Classroom Requalification guidelines. Mr. Straitiff said he would change the policy regarding the officer's certification being suspended in the event of failing the test along with an alternate test. There was a brief discussion regarding the materials used in the classroom testing.

Mr. Kope discussed Purdon's Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes annotated, which suggests that Juvenile Probation Officers are not peace officers, thus not allowing them to carry a firearm. Commissioner Snyder explained that the interpretation is to be left up to the judges. There was a brief discussion on the Juvenile Justice law and Commissioner Snyder stated that he would review it further and present his findings to the Commission at the next meeting

There was a brief discussion regarding the need for an additional administrative position to assist Mr. Kope.

### **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 \$536,400.00

### **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:**

Mr. Robert Repard suggested there be legal updates and testing every few years in the future. Mr. Erickson briefly elaborated on the possibility of conducting updates.

### **VIII: ADJOURN MEETING:**

Commissioner Erickson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion.