

Members:

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



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May 16, 2000

A meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:00 AM on May 16, 2000 at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA. The following Commission members and guests were present:

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

Chester A. Kope, Executive Director
K. Scott Roy, Legal Advisor
Gary Scicchitano (PBPP)
Robin Walker (Commission Secretary)

I. Co-chairman Davis called the meeting to order. He requested that a motion be made to accept the minutes from the March 21, 2000 meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Billingsley to accept the minutes of March 21, 2000. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:

Mr. Kope began with reviewing the decision from the previous meeting to send three officers to the NRA range conference being held in August of 2000. Mr. Kope submitted a letter to the Comptroller's office requesting approval to reimburse county officers to attend the training. It was concluded that counties would pay up front, send the Commission an invoice and we would mail the invoices to the Comptroller's office for payment. Commissioner Clark said that if the Commission increases the sponsor number, the Commission would have that many more ranges to utilize. There was a brief discussion regarding the process it takes to utilize other ranges.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Schlechter to increase the number of officers the Commission will sponsor to attend the NRA Range Development course in August 2000 from 3 to up to 10. Commissioners Davis and Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Mr. Kope updated the Commission on the status of the RFP. He informed the Commission that we still do not have a signed contract from the vendor as of this date. Commissioner Schlechter asked Mr. Kope if we do not have in-service firearms training this year, is it going to affect anything we have in the Policy and Procedures manual. Mr. Kope answered that it would not and that in-service firearms training probably will not begin until calendar year 2001.

Next, Mr. Kope discussed the letter he sent to the Philadelphia Warrant Unit regarding firearms training. He stated that he has not received any response as of this date. Mr. Kope informed the Commission that there was legislation passed giving all officers in the Warrant Unit peace officer status.

Mr. Kope told the Commissioners that he will be working on the 1998-1999 Annual Report and if they have anything to submit they should send it to him prior to the July 18, 2000 Commission meeting.

Mr. Kope discussed the new position posted for the Commission. There has been no response. Mr. Scicchitano explained that it was posted twice. If all else fails, the Commission can go to the Civil Service Commission and ask them to administer a localized examination, but that he must first exhaust all other efforts.

Mr. Kope discussed the ammunition reimbursements. He is not able to calculate ammunition reimbursements because some of the vendors have not submitted their price lists. There was a lengthy discussion regarding reimbursement forms that are returned by the counties after each basic training class. The process to submit these forms to the Comptroller's office for reimbursement was also briefly discussed. Commissioner Clark asked if provision number 4904 was listed on the ammunition reimbursement form. Mr. Kope answered no. The Commissioners discussed the possibilities of why the number of ammunition being shot may be different from some others attending the same training. Commissioner Clark suggested adding provision number 4904 to the current ammunition reimbursement form. Commissioner Clark lamented that the Commission is not doing what can be done to encourage honest communication and information in regards to the submission of reimbursement forms. Mr. Scicchitano agreed.

Commissioner Straitiff received positive comments on the training held April 12-21, 2000. Mr. Kope discussed the comments received from the students and explained that their comments were very good. There was a brief discussion regarding the April training. Mr. Kope said that the comment regarding the legal portion of the training remains the same. Students still give negative comments on the fact that they have to watch a video and do not have a lawyer to answer questions. There was a lengthy discussion about ways to better accommodate students' legal concerns.

Mr. Kope briefly discussed the conditions under which he has had to work with at Fort Indiantown Gap. He said he would use the Gap in September, but recommends seeking other facilities in the future such as Allentown Police Academy, Allegheny Police Academy, or the Scotia Range in State College.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **CURRICULUM**

Commissioner Schlechter stated that the committee has revised the basic firearms training range drills. The committee used the revised range drills at the April basic firearms training class and will be submitting the final version for Commission approval at the July 18, 2000 Commission meeting in Pittsburgh, PA.

Commissioner Schlechter stated that the next committee goal is to revise the Commission's qualification course of fire.

- **POLICY**

There was nothing to report from the Policy committee.

- **FINANCE**

Mr. Kope discussed the Financial Report. There is an available balance of \$665,275.07.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

There was a lengthy discussion on renting time and space or purchasing teleconference video equipment to enable legal advisor Scott Roy to deliver the legal portion of Basic Training from his office.

VI. LEGAL ISSUES

There were no legal issues.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS

Commissioner Schlechter suggested renting other ranges and stop using the Gap. Commissioner Clark agreed noting the demoralizing conditions officers are faced with when training at Fort Indiantown Gap. He also said basic, suitable amenities should be provided. Mr. Scicchitano inquired about Harrisburg Area Community College having an indoor range. Mr. Kope answered no, but stated that they have a 12-position outdoor range. Mr. Kope briefly discussed other range possibilities. Commissioner Davis concluded that there is a definite need to get away from the Gap. Mr. Kope said any information the Commission can give him regarding alternative ranges would be helpful.

VIII. ADJOURN MEETING

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