

**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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January 30, 2001

A meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:00 AM on January 30, 2001 at the Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA. The following Commission members and guests were present:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman  
Hon. Lawrence F. Clark, Jr.  
Marshall R. Davis  
William R. Erickson Jr.  
R. Scott Schlechter  
Keith B. Snyder  
Chester A. Kope, Executive Director

Gary Scicchitano (PBPP)  
Linda Laub, Assistant Council (PBPP)  
Greg Young, (Guest, Dauphin County)  
Erik Christensen (Guest, Erie County)  
Rusty Duncan (Guest, Westmoreland County)  
Jon E. Clark, (Guest, Temple University)  
Bernadette L. Doner-Maulbauer (Secretary)

**I.** Chairman Straitiff called the meeting to order. He requested that a motion be made to accept the minutes from the November 21, 2000 meeting.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Commissioner Erickson to accept the minutes of November 21, 2000. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved by the Commission.

**II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Mr. Kope announced the hiring of Mr. R. Daniel Klarsch, a Lebanon County Juvenile Probation Supervisor, as his Administrative Officer I. Mr. Klarsch will be taking his position on February 5, 2001.

Mr. Kope stated that he was unable to obtain the Allegheny Police Academy range in Pittsburgh, PA to conduct any Basic Firearms Training classes. However, he was able to schedule the Scotia Game Commission Range in State College, PA, to conduct one class in July 2001 and he also scheduled three Basic Firearms Training classes to be held at Fort Indiantown Gap in April, May, and September 2001. There are a total of 125 Basic Firearms Training slots available to the Counties in calendar year 2001.

Mr. Kope gave the Commissioners a list of the officers that were certified by the Commission to carry a firearm in calendar year 2000 and a copy of the 2001 Commission Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Kope presented an application he had received from Mr. Harry Wigder, PBPP Central Office, to become a certified firearms instructor for the Commission. He stated that Mr. Wigder took the Commission sponsored firearms instructor course that was provided by the Pennsylvania State Police last year. There was a short discussion regarding Mr. Wigder's firearms qualifications.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Davis made a motion to accept Mr. Wigder's application to become a certified firearms instructor for the Commission. Mr. Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission. Commissioners Erickson, Schlechter, and Straitiff abstained.

Mr. Kope distributed a copy of the Train the Trainer Conference schedule that will be held on March 22-23, 2001 and March 29-30, 2001 in State College, PA. Commissioner Straitiff questioned whether anyone had received any complaints regarding this training because it was mandatory. Mr. Kope stated that the only comments he had received were favorable.

Mr. Kope stated that Mr. Robert Campolongo was the new Chief Council for the Board and that Ms. Linda Laub, Assistant Council was appointed to be our legal advisor. Ms. Laub stated that Mr. Campolongo has agreed to conduct the legal portion of the Commission's Basic Firearms Training program.

Mr. Kope asked the Commissioners if they had any changes, additions or deletions to the Annual Report prior to sending it out for printing. There were none. He said it would be finalized and sent out for printing.

Mr. Kope asked Mr. Gary Scicchitano if he would present the information he had gathered regarding the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (ICA). Mr. Scicchitano said at his request Ms. Laub researched the Act and he asked Ms. Laub to present her findings. Ms. Laub stated that there is a statute within Chapter 19 of the Procurement Code that permits the sharing of resources such as finances between local municipalities and the Commonwealth agencies, boards and commissions. It is the same code that requires hotels to bid for costs exceeding \$10,000. Under the Procurement Code the Firearms Commission would be considered a purchasing agency. Accordingly, the Commission, in conjunction with local municipalities, could buy, purchase, rent, lease or license services, supplies and/or construction. Since the Firearms Commission would be considered a purchasing agency, they must comply with certain provisions of the Procurement Code and Commonwealth purchasing rules and regulations. She suggested that this would be one way to pull in resources to build a range.

Chairman Straitiff stated that he contacted staff in the Game Commission regarding building a new pistol range or expanding the current pistol range at the Scotia Game Commission facility. However, based on his conversations with Game Commission staff the prospects of expanding or building a range at Scotia did not appear favorable. Commissioner Straitiff said he also enquired about building a range on Game Commission land in Jefferson County, but they did not want to do that either.

Mr. Kope stated that he talked with staff at Ft. Indiantown Gap in Annville, PA and was told there may be a possibility of building a range there. Commissioner Straitiff said it is a priority that the Commission find an area to build a range, and if the Gap could confirm a long-term lease or similar obligation it might be feasible. Chairman Straitiff asked the Executive Director to write a letter to the Game Commission and Military Affairs to set up a meeting to discuss the feasibility of building a range at the Gap or on Game Commission land.

Commissioner Clark stated that the time was prime for a cooperative effort between Dauphin County and the Commission because Dauphin County has seven agencies that carry firearms and they need a range. He suggested he make an introduction to the Legislature to prepare the way for a joint effort. He recommended that the Commission consider Dauphin County as a prototype, because of their increasing needs.

Commissioner Snyder asked Ms. Laub what she thought about the planning stage. She stated that prior to notifying the legislature, the Commission should get a plan in place.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Erickson made a motion directing the Range Development and Acquisition Committee to develop a plan and under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act work with Dauphin County and other agencies regarding the feasibility of building firearms ranges. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed, Commissioner Clark abstained.

Mr. Greg Young, Supervisor in the Dauphin County Juvenile Probation Department, presented an overview of the NRA Range Development Operations Training Conference he attended.

Mr. Jon Clark of Temple University gave the Commissioners a copy of the training manual that he developed for the In-Service Firearms Training program. He made a slide presentation of his proposed training curriculum. The demonstration included an Instructors Guide, a Student Study Guide, Range Drill Exercises & Practice Instructions, and an examination format.

Mr. Clark asked the Commissioners if he could show a critical incident videotape that involved a police officer, as part of the In-Service Firearms Training. Commissioner Schlechter stated that we had our own critical incident in Philadelphia when Officer Ed Jones was wounded. Commissioner Schlechter stated he believes Officer Jones would be agreeable to doing a portrayal of that incident for student training and education. Mr. Clark stated that he would contact Officer Jones.

The Commissioners held a lengthy discussion regarding testing the officers taking the In-Service Firearms Training. Chairman Straitiff recommended that the Commission send a letter to every county Chief outlining the Commission's decisions regarding testing. The letter would advise the Chiefs that an officer must pass a written examination in order to continue onto the range portion of the In-Service Firearms Training. If an officer fails the written examination they would be required to take the training again. However, if the officer fails the range portion of the training they would not be required to take the written examination or the range portion of the course again but would be given the option to retake the range portion of the course. If the officer decides to take the range portion of In-Service Firearms Training a second time, the County would be responsible to pay for the ammunition used during the second attempt. If an officer fails the written or range examination the Executive Director would send a letter to their Chief.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Straitiff made a motion that the Commission approves the testing requirements previously mentioned. Commissioner Snyder seconded the motion. A vote was taken and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Clark raised a question as to the time frame to work this program into the schedule. Ms. Laub stated in order to avoid late or no-shows we could create a training availability schedule from which the counties could choose; it would be presented as a choice they make themselves. We give the counties the scheduled dates and times within a two-year period and they pick the date from that schedule.

Mr. Clark suggested that the Commission send the Chiefs two letters. The first letter would outline Chairman Straitiff's motion and tell them they will be receiving a second letter. In the second letter the Commission would show the proposed In-Service Firearms Training schedule for 2001 to 2002 and describe any additional training courses that the Commission is planning. Mr. Clark finished his presentation. Commissioner Straitiff thanked him and called for committee reports.

### **III. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. CURRICULUM**

Commissioner Schlechter said that the Curriculum Committee is ready to go with the two sessions in March 2001. Commissioner Schlechter then stated Commissioner Erickson agreed to handle the Qualification Course of Fire. Commissioner Schlechter will present Part Five of the Basic Firearms Instructors Guide and the range emergency plans; Mr. Greg Young from Dauphin County will present the Requalification 2001 Instructor Guide; Mr. Kope will present the opening remarks and the Commission forms; and the members of the Curriculum Committee will hold the open discussion. The following day will be spent at the range conducting the range qualification course of fire.

#### **B. POLICY**

There was nothing to discuss regarding policy.

#### **C. FINANCE**

Mr. Kope gave everyone a copy of the financial report, showing a balance of \$690,237.29.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS**

There were no public comments or questions.

### **VII. LEGAL ISSUES**

Commissioner R. Scott Schlechter requested a brief executive session to discuss a matter.

### **VIII. ADJOURN MEETING**

Chairman Straitiff adjourned the meeting.