

Commissioners:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman
Marshall R. Davis
William R. Erickson, Jr.
Jim Fox
Hon. Rita D. Hathaway
Hon. Janet F. Lewis
R. Scott Schlechter
Gregory A. Young
Hon. Michael L. Green (Acting)



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September 14, 2004

A meeting of the county Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:00 AM on September 14, 2004 at the Days Inn in State College, PA. The following Commission members and other persons were present:

Larry J. Straitiff, Chairman	A. Gary Scicchitano (PBPP)
Marshall R. Davis	W. Conway Bushey (PBPP)
William R. Erickson, Jr	Linda J. Laub (PBPP)
Jim Fox	Leo Dunn (PBPP)
Honorable Rita D. Hathaway	Rick Varner (ILEE)
Honorable Janet F. Lewis	Jim Hawkins (ILEE)
R. Scott Schlechter	Diane Schaeffer (Commission Secretary)
Gregory A. Young	Debra Littleton (PBPP-BIT)
Chester A. Kope, Executive Director	Jagdish Laddha (TATA)
Lee Van Brederode (Administrative Officer)	Rajesh Natarajan (TATA)

I. Chairman Straitiff opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. One correction made regarding the spelling of the Honorable Hathaway's first name. Note to change Ruth to Rita from July 13, 2004 meeting minutes and Chairman Straitiff requested a motion to accept the minutes.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Davis to accept the July 13, 2004 minutes. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Commission approved the motion.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum Sub – Committee

Commissioner Schlechter reported that they conducted the Pilot Simunition Training class at the High Risk Entry Facility at Fort Indiantown Gap on September 8-10, 2004. He thanked Mr. Kope and Mr. Van Brederode for their assistance. Although there are some details in the execution of the training that need to be revised he thought the training went very well. Commissioner Schlechter stated that he held a debriefing meeting with the instructors and the instructors indicated that some of the students were disappointed that they did not have the opportunity to utilize their type of service weapons to take the training. The Commission only has eight Glock

Pistols and most Commonwealth officers carry Glock pistols. Commissioner Schlechter recommended that the Commission purchase six to eight additional Glock pistols

Commissioner Schlechter said that a total of 24 officers attended the training and he believes that this training is valuable and should be offered at least three times a year. However, he is unsure if the current number of Simunition Instructors can provide this much training. He recommended that the Commission send more certified firearms instructors to the Simunition Instructors Training School. The Commissioners held a brief discussion.

Mr. Kope stated that Mr Van Brederode contacted the Simunition Company and they stated that all of the current Simunition Instructors must recertify every three years. Low Light training is currently being offered by Simunition, which serves as recertification. The cost of the training course \$275.00 per person. Simunition is also planning to offer an Internet recertification course. After a lengthy discussion the following motions were made.

MOTION: Commissioner Schlechter made a motion that the Commission purchases an additional six to eight Glock Simunition pistols. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Commission approved the motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Schlechter made a motion to send a minimum of 12 Commission Certified Firearms Instructors to Simunition Instructor School. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Commission approved the motion..

Chairman Straitiff asked if the Curriculum Sub-Committee reviewed the two training courses that ILEE prepared. Commissioner Schlechter that they haven't had the opportunity to review the courses. Chairman Straitiff directed Mr. Van Brederode to review the two courses then present them to the Curriculum Sub-Committee for final review and submit them for Commission approval at the November 16, 2004 Commission meeting.

Policy Sub-Committee

Commissioner Straitiff stated that they developed a fourth revision of the regulations but the Sub-Committee did not have the opportunity to meet and finish revising the regulations.

Mr. Leo Dunn from the Board of Probation and Parole gave the Commissioners an overview of the regulatory process and what is needed.

Ms. Laub suggested that the Commission get all interested parties involved in the review process, i.e. Chief Adult and Juvenile Associations, Union Representatives, Schools, Trial Judges, and County Commissioners. The Commissioners held a brief discussion regarding the regulations.

Ms. Laub discussed Federal Legislation U.S. HB21/HB2844 with the Commissioners. Definition of Law Enforcement Officers to Carry Firearms – Standards need to be developed and met.

Mr. Dunn advised the Commissioners that Rep. Maitland has introduced a Pa. House bill that would allow state level implementation of the federal Act.

Range Acquisition and Development Sub Committee

Commissioner Straitiff had nothing to report. Mr. Scicchitano suggested that we send a letter to the Game Commission telling them that we are not interested in moving forward. Notification to the Game Commission has been put on hold until the Commission makes a decision.

Strategic Planning Sub Committee

Commissioner Young had nothing to report.

III. TATA Consultancy

TATA made a presentation of the FCTMS prototype computer software they are developing. The Commissioners held a brief discussion.

IV. Institute for Law Enforcement Education (ILEE)

Mr. Rick Varner from ILEE addressed the Commission regarding the four in-service training classes they will be presenting in September 2004. Mr. Varner indicated that 27 officers had not signed up to take the training. The Commissioners held a brief discussion regarding the training.

Mr. Kope indicated that Commission policy states that if the officers do not complete all required training they will lose their Commission Certification on December 31, 2004. Because of the short notice that ILEE gave the officers to attend these classes he recommended that the Commission not revoke their certifications on December 31, 2004.

Commissioner Schlechter told the Commissioners that ILEE did not notify the officers that they were accepted into a particular class. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners decided that an officer's certification would be revoked if they did not attend one of the four schedule training classes.

V. Executive Director's Update

Mr. Kope gave the Commissioners two applications that he received from Officers Vanessa Vols and Chad Ishler requesting to become Commission Certified Firearms Instructors. Mr Kope recommended that the Commission approve both officers to become CFI's

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Young to approve Officer Chad Ishler's application to become a CFI. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Commission approved the motion.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Young to approve Officer Vanessa Vols application to become a CFI. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Commission approved the motion.

Mr. Kope said that he just received a request from the Boards fiscal office to submit the Commissions budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 on Thursday, September 16, 2004. He also stated that he must prepare Program Measures for all budgeted items. Mr. Kope stated that it is going to be a little difficult preparing this budget because he does not know what the Commission will be doing regarding the Continuing Education Courses. He said that he plans to use the estimated high costs that ILEE gave the Commission to determine Budget. He asked the Commissioner for their input. The Commission held a brief discussion.

Mr. Kope gave the Commissioners the Commission financial statement dated August 31, 2004 showing a balance of \$1,212,840.00. The Commissioners had no comments.

VI. Executive Session

Chairman Straitiff called an Executive Session at 12:55 PM to discuss personnel issues and contract issues with ILEE. The Executive Session ended at 1:44 PM. and the Commission continued their regular meeting. The following motions were made.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis made a motion to develop a Request for Quotation with the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission Schools to provide the continuing education courses for the Commission. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Commission approved the motion.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Schlechter to revise the Commission Operational Policy to permit the Counties to conduct to continuing education in-house. Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Commission approved the motion.

V. VII. Old Business

Mr. Van Brederode presented a draft proposal to the Commission regarding the presentation of a Commission training initiative to be given beginning in 2005. He asked the Commission for comments and guidance on the target audience, concept, content, topics, timeframe and length of the presentation. Commissioner Erickson asked what type of audience is going to be participating, Commissioner Schlechter stated the idea was to carry information to the counties and asked if the counties were going to be surveyed to determine the topics they were interested in. Mr. Kope questioned the type of lodging and evening meal so lodging can be prepared ahead of time. A tentative timeframe of February 2005 was set. A guest speaker is needed for evening dinner attendance. A PowerPoint presentation is needed to prepare for this training. A target audience of 50 was proposed. Chairman Straitiff called for a motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Davis made a motion to have the Executive Director proceed with planning for a 1 and ½ day presentation to included participant lodging and an evening meal. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business to report

IX. Legal Issues:

None to report

X. Public Comment & Questions

There was no public comment.

Chairman Straitiff called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Erickson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Schlechter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved by the Commission.