



pennsylvania

FIREARM EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION

June 11, 2009

A regular meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officer's Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:05 a.m. on May 14, 2009 at the Courtyard Marriott, 1730 University Drive, State College, PA. The following Commissioners (*) and other individuals were present:

Mr. Robert L. Repard, Vice Chairman*
Ms. Michelle Beaver, Commissioner*
Ms. P. Beth Dombrowsky, Commissioner*
Mr. Thomas Schuster, Commissioner*
Mr. Mark Hamilton, Commissioner*
Mr. Keith Graybill, Commissioner*
Mr. Todd Burns (Ex. Director)

Ms. Angela Sweigart (Adm. Officer)
Ms. Diane Schaeffer (Secretary)
Ms. Linda Laub (Advisor)
Mr. Erik Christensen (Curr. Chair)
Mr. Michael Guido (Guest)
Mr. John Yarnell (Guest)

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following a call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance Vice Chairman Repard, in Chairman Schlechter's absence, opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

MOTION 0905.01 Motion was made by Commissioner Dombrowsky to accept the minutes from the March 19, 2009 meeting. Commissioner Hamilton seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chairman Robert Repard: NONE

Executive Director Burns:

- Executive Director Burns reported that the Regulations have been approved by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). He also stated that the regulations were expected to be published in the PA Bulletin on June 6, 2009, at which time they are considered to be officially published and in effect.

- Executive Director Burns announced that John Holt, Chief of Crawford County Adult Probation, has retired. Additionally it was noted that Raymond Reade, Chief of Erie County Adult Probation and Bob Shaw, Chief of Perry County Probation have also retired.
- Executive Director Burns presented the new Commission logo.
- Executive Director Burns announced that the 53rd Basic Firearms Training Academy has been completed.
- Executive Director Burns announced that the Pa. Board of Probation and Parole's Certified Firearms Instructor course is scheduled for June 15-19, 2009.

4. REPORTS of OFFICERS and STANDING COMMITTEES

Executive Director Burns:

- Executive Director Burns reported a fund balance of \$847,980.00
- Executive Director Burns reported that the Commission staff will meet with Mr. Jesse Larrimer on May 15, 2009 to review changes to the Firearm Commission Training Management System.

POLICY SUB-COMMITTEE:

- Ms. Angela Sweigart, on behalf of Mr. Larry Straitiff, presented a proposal for a policy dealing with accidental discharges. The commission members discussed several issues.
- Ms. Angela Sweigart, on behalf of Mr. Larry Straitiff, presented to the Commission a proposal regarding a policy for officers who wish to carry after a break in service. The commission members discussed several issues.
- Ms. Angela Sweigart, on behalf of Mr. Larry Straitiff, presented to the Commission a proposal for a policy regarding officers who switch their duty weapon's make, model, or caliber. The commission members discussed several issues.
- Ms. Angela Sweigart, on behalf of Mr. Larry Straitiff, presented a request from Mr. Straitiff to utilize the Firearm Education and Training Commission Course 1 Basic Training curriculum to teach material to students in the academic law enforcement class at the Jefferson County Vocational-Technical School.

MOTION 0905.02: Motion made by Commissioner Schuster to grant the request for a license for Mr. Larry Straitiff, Jefferson County, to use the Commission's licensed materials for the Jefferson County Vocational-Technical School program. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dombrowsky and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote. *To be noted: The Commission's Course 1 Basic Curriculum is not to be copied or disseminated other than for use in the aforementioned class.*

CURRICULUM SUB-COMMITTEE:

- Mr. Erik Christensen, Chairman of the Curriculum Committee, presented a second request from Mr. John Holt that AirSoft training be used by the commission. The commission decided to take no further action as a letter had been sent to Mr. John Holt explaining the commission's stance on AirSoft.
- Mr. Christensen reported that the Course 1 Basic Firearm Training curriculum is being updated.
- Mr. Christensen requested, on behalf of the curriculum committee, that the .45 GAP caliber be authorized for commission use.

MOTION: 0905.03: Motion made by Commissioner Schuster to approve .45 GAP as an authorized caliber. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dombrowsky and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

- Mr. Christensen stated that in the modified Course 1, three magazines will need to be brought to the training, as opposed to the two that are currently recommended.
- Mr. Christensen stated that a weapons retention course is being explored as the new 2010 in-service training.

5. REPORTS of AD HOC COMMITTEES

SAFETY:

- Commissioner Schuster reported to the commission members the progress on developing a "best practice" use of force manual to use as a template for departments across the state. Presently 25 counties have submitted their use of force policy and the committee is reviewing these policies.
- Commissioner Schuster reminded all in attendance that tomorrow is National Peace Officer Day. Flags should be flown at half staff in memory of officers killed in the line of duty.

FISCAL: None

6. UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS: Executive Director Todd Burns

- Executive Director Burns reported that the commissioner's state e-mail accounts have been submitted and will be processed. Commission members should have received information from Ms. Sweigart.
- Executive Director Burns provided a copy of *Charles Schillinger v. Lackawanna County* and Advisor Linda Laub explained its Right to Know Law implications.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Request for Initial Designation as a Certified Firearms Instructor:
 - ✓ Gerald Rose, Monroe County Adult Probation

MOTION 0905.04: Motion made by Commissioner Dombrowsky to approve Officer Gerald Rose as a Commission Certified Firearms Instructor. Commissioner Hamilton seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

- Request for Renewal of Certified Firearms Instructor Status:
 - ✓ Scott Schultz, Blair County Adult Probation
 - ✓ Timothy Stringer, Ferguson Township Police Department
 - ✓ Todd Burns, Firearm Education & Training Commission

MOTION 0905.05: Motion made by Commissioner Hamilton to approve the certification renewal of Commission Certified Firearms Instructor Scott Schultz. Commissioner Schuster seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION 0905.06: Motion made by Commissioner Schuster to approve the certification renewal of Commission Certified Firearms Instructor Timothy Stringer. Commissioner Beaver seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION 0905.07: Motion made by Commissioner Dombrowsky to approve the certification renewal of Commission Certified Firearms Instructor Todd Burns. Commissioner Graybill seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

- Request for renewal of Master Instructor Status
 - ✓ Thomas Bengé
 - ✓ Chadwick Libby, Dauphin County Juvenile Probation

MOTION 0905.08: Motion made by Commissioner Schuster to approve the certification renewal of Commission Certified Master Instructor Thomas Bengé. Commissioner Beaver seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION 0905.09: Motion made by Commissioner Graybill to approve the certification renewal of Commission Certified Master Instructor Chadwick Libby. Commissioner Schuster seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

- Reinstatement for Officer Kelly Yates, Adams County Adult Probation

MOTION 0905.10: Commissioner Schuster made a motion to deny the request for waiver for Officer Kelly Yates and to require Officer Yates to complete the classroom and range portions of the Commission's Course 1, Basic Firearms Training Academy. Commission Beaver seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

8. LEGAL: NONE

9. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS

- Introduction of Officer John Yarnell, Chief of Sullivan County and Wyoming County Juvenile Probation Departments and a member of the Officer Safety Committee.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION 0905.11: Commissioner Schuster made a motion to adjourn at 11:32. Commissioner Hamilton seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd Burns

Todd Burns
Executive Director