



pennsylvania

FIREARM EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMISSION

May 20, 2010

A regular meeting of the County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission convened at 9:01 a.m. on May 20, 2010 at the Courtyard Marriott, 1730 University Drive, State College, PA. The following Commissioners (*) and other individuals were present:

Mr. R. Scott Schlechter, Chairman*	Ms. Angela Sweigart (Adm. Officer)
Mr. Keith Graybill, Vice Chairman*	Ms. Diane Schaeffer (Comm. Secretary)
Ms. Michelle Beaver, Commissioner*	Mr. Thomas Dougherty (Advisor)
Mr. Mark Hamilton, Commissioner*	Ms. Linda Laub (Advisor)
Mr. Thomas Schuster, Commissioner*	Mr. John Manning (Advisor)
Ms. P. Beth Dombrowsky, Commissioner*	Mr. Conway Bushey (Advisor)
Honorable Thomas Kistler, Commissioner*	Mr. Greg Young (Advisor)
Mr. Todd Burns (Executive Director)	Mr. James Gunderman (Guest)

1. CALL to ORDER and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:

Following a call to order and the Pledge of Allegiance Chairman Schlechter opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

2. REVIEW and APPROVAL of MINUTES of the PREVIOUS MEETING:

MOTION 1005.01 Motion was made by Commissioner Schuster to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2010 meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Beaver and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Schlechter:

NONE

Executive Director Burns:

- Executive Director Burns announced that in-service enrollments are ongoing at that it appears only one class will be have to be cancelled due to low enrollment.
- Executive Director Burns informed the Commissioners that the 58th Basic Firearms Training Academy (BTA) was conducted and all 22 students passed. The 59th BTA is currently running and there has been one failure so far.

- Executive Director Burns announced that both Commissioners Graybill and Kistler's terms are set to expire in 2010.
- Executive Director Burns mentioned Senate Bill 1147 and its potential impact on the commission.
- Executive Director Burns announced that the commission staff have received training on updating the website.
- Executive Director Burns discussed the Office of Administration LMS training system and the potential for the commission to use it for trainings.
- Executive Director Burns provided a handout dealing with the Commonwealth's budget process.
- Executive Director Burns announced the newest installment of the FETC newsletter should be released in late May.
- Executive Director Burns announced the PA Board of Probation and Parole will not be charging the commission for supplies this year.
- Attorney John Manning will be taking over as the Legal Advisor to the Commission.

4. REPORTS of OFFICERS and STANDING COMMITTEES:

Chairman Schlechter

- NONE

Executive Director Burns

- Executive Director Burns reported a current fund balance of \$852,672.
- Executive Director Burns reported that version 1.6 of the Firearm Commission Training Management System (FCTMS) should be finished in June 2010.
- Executive Director Burns reported that the following policies are now available on the commission website: Break in Service; Essential Eligibility Requirements; and Weapon Change Procedures.
- Executive Director Burns distributed a list of current Certified Firearms Instructors and their instructor school certifications (i.e. NRA, PSP, etc.).
- Executive Director Burns distributed a list of past motions which set policy and procedure for items not covered by regulation.

Policy Committee:

- Executive Director Burns discussed students taking prescription or over the counter medication while at firearms trainings. He discussed how medications that may cause impairment require a doctor's clearance. Students will be given more advance notice, by way of their Basic Training information packets, to obtain a doctor's clearance if taking mood altering medication.

- Executive Director Burns discussed revisions to forms 19b and 19c, which make them comply with the regulation.
- Executive Director Burns will send the legal advisor a copy of the weapon discharge template to review.
- Executive Director Burns discussed section 79.63(b) of the regulation. If an officer wishes to attend a course other than a commission sponsored in-service course they must make the request 90 days prior to the training event.
- Executive Director Burns discussed combining the basic training legal and 60-question exams. This new combined basic exam is a 70-question test that requires a score of 80% to pass. If the officer fails, they will be given remediation, a 30-minute study period, and then they will re-test on a different version of the exam. Failure on the second attempt will result in the officer having to re-take the classroom portion of the basic training.
- Executive Director Burns discussed a survey which asked departments their psychological screening and JNET notification policies. Based on the results the committee decided to highly recommend that :
 - ✓ Officers carrying a firearm undergo a psychological screening.
 - ✓ JNET notifications be activated for armed officers.
 - ✓ If there is a JNET hit, the officer should not be permitted to carry until there is a final disposition.
- Executive Director Burns discussed the intermediate punishment unit intergovernmental agreement.

BREAK 10:26 A.M. – 10:36 A.M.

Curriculum Committee:

- Chairman R. Scott Schlechter reported on the new course of fire scores obtained from the pilot training events. A 25% failure rate occurred through these pilot events. Some of the issues noted were due to the smaller targets being used.
- Chairman R. Scott Schlechter reported the new Continuing Education Training Course “Weapon Retention/Weapon Take Away” should be ready by 2011.
- Chairman R. Scott Schlechter stated that departments who are planning to run an in-house basic, and are requesting a PBPP attorney to conduct the legal portion of the training, will need a minimum of five officers enrolled in that training event. It is anticipated that the September BTA’s legal instruction will be taped and that departments may use this recording for training.
- A future Legal Train the Trainer course may be run in addition to the taped presentation.

- Chairman R. Scott Schlechter reported receiving complaints of continuing education training events, specifically SIMUNITION® events, not occurring in the western part of the state.
- The legal advisor will review the current Laser Shot and SIMUNITION ® intergovernmental agreements.
- There was discussion on a potential request to run an in-house Laser Shot Training by Somerset County.

5. REPORTS of SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Officer Safety Committee:

- Executive Director Burns reported the committee held a meeting on May 18, 2010 in Harrisburg to determine the status of the Best Practices Firearms Policy project. During the meeting several key issues were raised, including whether the policy is too restrictive and whether to include a Use of Force model.
- The committee requested an intermediate weapons / long guns survey be done to determine what weapons are currently authorized by various probation departments around the state.
- The committee is reviewing the Weapon Discharge Report template and made several suggestions on its format. There was a question whether this report would be subject to the Right to Know Law.
- The committee requested that the Curriculum Committee review the Board's crime scene security training.

Fiscal Committee:

- NONE

6. UNFINISHED (OLD) BUSINESS:

- Executive Director Burns discussed proposals for who should conduct background investigations on candidates, not affiliated with a law enforcement agency, who want commission firearm instructor status.

MOTION: 1005.02: Commissioner Schuster made a motion to approve the commission to assume the responsibility of background investigations on any applicant for Certified Firearms Instructor status who is not officially affiliated with a County Probation Department, the PA Board of Probation and Parole, or any other Law Enforcement Agency, and who has not been previously certified as a CFI by the FETC. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dombrowsky. None heard in favor all opposed. Motion did not carry.

New Motion: To exclude "Other Law Enforcement Agencies"

MOTION: 1005.03: Commissioner Schuster made a motion to approve the commission to assume the responsibility of background investigations on any applicant for Certified Firearms Instructor status not officially affiliated with a County Probation Department or with the PA Board of Probation and Parole, and who has not been previously certified as a CFI by the FETC. Motion seconded by Commissioner Graybill and passed by a unanimous voice vote.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- Request for Initial CFI Status:
 - ✓ Ryan Buterbaugh, Somerset County Probation
 - ✓ Joshua Eicher, Fayette County Juvenile Probation
 - ✓ Mark King, Fayette County Juvenile Probation
 - ✓ Richard Mosier, Fayette County Juvenile Probation
 - ✓ Heath Randolph, Fayette County Juvenile Probation

MOTION 1005.04 Motion was made by Commissioner Dombrowsky to approve Certified Firearms Instructor status for Ryan Buterbaugh, Joshua Eicher, Mark King, Richard Mosier and Heath Randolph. Motion seconded by Commissioner Beaver and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

- Request for Renewal of CFI Status:
 - ✓ Michael Blum, Clarion County Probation
 - ✓ John Christman, Dauphin County Juvenile Probation
 - ✓ Thomas Mitchell, Allegheny County Adult Probation (retired)
 - ✓ Norman Mueller, Westmoreland County Juvenile Probation
 - ✓ Justin Pittman, Cumberland County Juvenile Probation
 - ✓ Troy Smith, Dauphin County Juvenile Probation
 - ✓ John Stahl, Lycoming County Adult Probation
 - ✓ Matthew Yonkin, Lycoming County Juvenile Probation

MOTION 1005.05 Motion was made by Commissioner Dombrowsky to approve the renewal of Certified Firearms Instructor status for Michael Blum, John Christman, Thomas Mitchell, Norman Mueller, Justin Pittman, Troy Smith, John Stahl, and Matthew Yonkin. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Beaver and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

- Request for MI Status:
 - ✓ Rebecca Arnold, Dauphin County Juvenile Probation

MOTION 1005.06: Motion was made by Commissioner Graybill to approve Rebecca Arnold as a Master Instructor for the Firearm Education and Training Commission. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dombrowsky and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Request for Renewal of MI Status:

✓ Richard Worley, Lebanon County Adult Probation

MOTION 1005.07: Motion was made by Commissioner Dombrowsky to approve the renewal of Master Instructor Status for Richard Worley. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Beaver and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

8. LEGAL ISSUES AND COMMENT:

NONE

9. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS:

NONE

10. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION 1005.08: Motion was made by Commissioner Dombrowsky to adjourn at 11:57 a.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Beaver and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd Burns
Executive Director