



County Probation and Parole Officers' Firearm Education and Training Commission (FETC)

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2017, 9:00 am

Toftrees Golf Resort & Conference Center, One Country Club Lane
State College, PA 16803

The following Commissioners and other individuals were present:

Chairman Keith Graybill	Executive Director Joe MacLaughlin
Commissioner Michelle Beaver	John Manning, Legal Advisor (PBPP) (Via Phone)
Commissioner Erik Christensen	Greg Young, Advisor (PBPP)
Commissioner Tim Heitzman	Tom Dougherty, Advisor (PBPP)
Commissioner Chad Libby (via Phone)	Ian Rowles, Recorder (PBPP)

Those not in attendance:

Commissioner Russell Shurtleff	Helene Placey, Advisor
Commissioner Larry Maggi	

1. Call to Order

- Chairman Graybill called a moment of silence for the late Commissioner MaryAnn Grippo.

2. Review and approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting

MOTION: 1711:01

Commissioner Christensen made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2017 Firearms Education and Training Commission meeting.

Commissioner Beaver seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

3. Announcements and Reports

Chairman Graybill

- Chairman Graybill announced he was in touch with the office of public liason about the results of the votes from the Adult Chief Probation Officers Association and the action taken by the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers.

- Chairman Graybill stated that both Commissioner Beaver and Christensen were elected to the the nominees and the plan is to move forward towards those reappointments and will do so until the actual expiration of their current term.
- Chairman Graybill discussed the merge between the Department of Correction and the Board of Probation and Parole and how it could effect FETC.
- Chairman Graybill appointed Advisors Greg Young, Tom Dougherty and Helene Placey to the Teller Committee for the elections in January.

Executive Director MacLaughlin

- Executive Director MacLaughlin shared that all of the students who attended the 2017 Basic Training Academies have passed.
- Executive Director MacLaughlin stated that all of the changes the Commission had regarding the Fiscal Report have been made and it is ready to be sent out and posted on the website.
- Executive Director MacLaughlin mentioned that there are only 15 scheduled continuing education courses until the end of the calendar year.
- Executive Director MacLaughlin stated that FETC will have to order more instructor t-shirts so they can be handed out to the new instructors who help assist a Commission run Basic Training Academy.

4. New Business

- Executive Director MacLaughlin mentioned he would like to look at the potential of re-submitting the contract so Course 5 and 6 can run. He would like more decision making courses into circulation.
- Executive Director MacLaughlin stated he would discuss with the budget division on whether or not it would be easier to submit a contract for just those two classes, or if it's easier to re-submit all of the courses at once.
- Commissioner Christensen shared his caution on Course 5 due to it being a rather expensive class. Executive Director MacLaughlin shared his ideas on potentially having more students per class, so less classes are run. Also having role players become students instead of hiring instructors to play role players.
- Executive Director MacLaughlin shared the 2018 Basic Training scheduled and mentioned that it will be placed online and released by the end of the calendar year.
- Executive Director MacLaughlin also stated that two CFI Courses will run next year in May and August.
- Executive Director MacLaughlin shared the date from all of the Commission run Basic Training Academies using the proposed Course of Fire and showed that 25 out of 74 shooters failed.
- Executive Director proposed three possible options, to keep the Course of Fire the same, to change the Course of Fire and keep the proposed scoring changes, or change the Course of Fire but keep the old scoring system.
- Commissioner Heitzman shared his departments' statistics on the proposed Course of Fire and he had a nine fail out of 34. If the scoring system stayed at the 75% total for both phases only one would have failed.

- Commissioner Libby shared that his departments' statistics on the proposed Course of Fire as well and he had 16 fail out of 127. Only two would have failed if they kept the old scoring system of 75% total for both phases.
- Commissioner Christensen stated that his department didn't have any problems with the proposed Course of Fire. He mentioned that the scores are more than likely dropping when shooters get to the 25 yard line.
- Commissioner Heitzman shared that he isn't against changing the Course of Fire, but keep the overall passing score at 225. He mentioned he had two officers shoot at 258 and 259 and both failed due to the 75% passing on both phase one and phase two.
- Commissioner Libby stated that it is largely county dependent. Some counties just don't have the resources and time for training like the larger counties. He also stated that it isn't a bad idea to change the Course of Fire periodically to challenge shooters to make them more proficient at 25 yards, but small counties have to be taken into consideration.
- Commissioner Christensen stated that whether or not the proposed Course of Fire passes or not the problem will always lie in the 25 yard line. That instructors need to put more time into their shooters on making them more proficient from the 25 yard line.
- Commissioner Heitzman suggested to revamp the verbiage on the proposed Course of Fire due to the potential of it being confusing to instructors since it was written over the current Course of Fire.
- There was a discussion on whether or not there was a previous motion rescinding the new course of fire, or if the proposed Course of Fire needed to be rescinded.

BREAK - Fifteen minute break and a search for previous motions (10:20 – 10:35 am)

- Chairman Graybill announced that the motion regarding the last action taken was found in the January 2016 meeting minutes.
- Legal Advisor Manning mentioned that the motion was rescinded at that meeting. He also stated that a motion was made in January of 2017 regarding the proposed Course of Fire, but there is no motion in place regarding 2018 and the years after.

MOTION: 1711:02

Commissioner Heitzman made a motion stating the current Course of Fire should be used for the annual requalification and to send the proposed Course of Fire back to the curriculum committee to reevaluate it.

Commissioner Beaver seconded.

- Commissioner Libby suggested on keeping the new Course of Fire but keep the passing score just be 225.
- Commissioner Christensen stated that moving the rounds from the 7 yard line to the 10 yard line was to balance the proposed Course of Fire out, so it wasn't a front heavy course. Commissioner Christensen reiterated that he believes the problem lies in the 25 yard line and it's the main reason shooters continue to drop points. He suggested working on a proposed Course 9, which would help shooters from the 25 yard line.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

- Commissioner Libby stated his curiosity on possibly sending out an anonymous evaluation questionnaire to those counties that shot the proposed Course of Fire and ask them
 1. What their score was at their last academy or last annual requalification?
 2. The number of years they have been an officer who carries?
 3. Is it a mandatory or voluntary carry county?
- Commission Heitzman suggested bringing back Course 9 to see how it can possibly help shooters since the Course 9 is all about 25 yard line shooting.
- Advisor Young stated it's more about each county and their in-house training program, since each county is different. The smaller counties might need the resources more than the larger counties or counties without certified firearms instructors.

Petition for Extension/Waiver

Ryan Alena – Berks County Adult and Juvenile Probation

Eugene Bates – Allegheny County Juvenile Probation

Loretta Clark – Lycoming County Adult Probation

Jamie Dishong – Lebanon County Adult and Juvenile Probation

Craig Dosch – Armstrong County Adult and Juvenile Probation

Paul Foltz – Erie County Adult Probation

Ryan Kibler – Indiana County Adult Probation

Susan Mason – Dauphin County Adult and Juvenile Probation

Maria Slabonik – Dauphin County Adult and Juvenile Probation

Paul Vizza – Philadelphia County Juvenile Probation

- Executive Director MacLaughlin mentioned all of their proper medical documentation were received by FETC.

MOTION: 1711:03

Commissioner Christensen made a motion to grant the petition for extension for the dates requested for Ryan Alena of Berks County Adult and Juvenile Probation, Eugene Bates of Allegheny County Juvenile Probation, Loretta Clark of Lycoming County Adult Probation, Jamie Dishong of Lebanon County Adult and Juvenile Probation, Craig Dosch of Armstrong County Adult and Juvenile Probation, Ryan Kimbler of Indiana County Adult Probation, Susan Mason of Dauphin County Adult and Juvenile Probation, Maria Slabonik of Dauphin County Adult and Juvenile Probation and Paul Vizza of Philadelphia County Juvenile Probation.

Commissioner Beaver seconded.

Commissioner Libby abstained for Susan Mason and Maria Slabonik.

Motion passed by voice vote.

MOTION: 1711:04

Commissioner Beaver made a motion to grant the petition for extension for the date requested for Paul Foltz for Erie County Adult Probation.

Commissioner Heitzman seconded.

Commissioner Christensen abstained.

Motion passed by voice vote.

Request for Initial CFI Status

Timothy Bable – Beaver County Adult Probation
Eric Borham – Beaver County Adult Probation
Dominic Moore – Washington County Adult Probation
James Raymer – Beaver County Adult Probation
Brian Rippey – Clinton County Adult and Juvenile Probation
Nathaniel Robinson – Tioga County Combined
Jordan Sweany – Washington County Adult Probation
Eric Winslow – Clinton County Adult and Juvenile Probation

- Executive Director MacLaughlin mentioned all of their proper training documentation were received by FETC.

MOTION: 1711:05

Commissioner Christensen made a motion to approve the request for initial CFI status for Timothy Bable of Beaver County Adult Probation, Eric Borham of Beaver County Adult Probation, Dominic Moore of Washington County Adult Probation, James Raymer of Beaver County Adult Probation, Brian Rippey of Clinton County Adult and Juvenile Probation, Nathaniel Robinson of Tioga County Combined, Jordan Sweany of Washington County Adult Probation and Eric Winslow of Clinton County Adult and Juvenile Probation.

Commissioner Libby seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Request for Renewal of CFI Status

William Kearney – Lackawanna County Adult Probation
Matthew Lewandowski – Crawford County Adult Probation
Richard Nikolishen – Indiana County Adult Probation

- Executive Director MacLaughlin mentioned all of their proper medical documentation were received by FETC.

MOTION: 1711:06

Commissioner Heitzman made a motion to approve the renewal of CFI status for William Kearney of Lackawanna County Adult Probation, Matthew Lewandowski of Crawford County Adult Probation, and Richard Nikolishen of Indiana County Adult Probation.

Commissioner Beaver seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

5. Executive Session

There was not an executive session during this meeting.

6. Public Comment and Questions

No public attendance.

7. Adjournment

MOTION 1711:07

Commissioner Libby made a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Christensen seconded.

Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

In accordance with The Sunshine Act, a notice announcing this meeting was placed in the Centre Daily Times on October 29, 2017.

Minutes submitted by Ian Rowles, Recorder, PBPP