

SHERIFF AND DEPUTY SHERIFF EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Minutes of the August 2, 2022 Meeting

Members Present

Angelinel M. Brown
David Glass – Non-Voting
Barry Howe
Jody S. Smith
Ed Walker
Eric Weaknecht

Commission Staff Present

Sally Barry
Theresa Ford
Doug Hummel
Dorthey Jacobelli
Don Numer
John Pfau
Debra Sandifer
Megan Staub

Members Absent

Joseph George
Stephanie Jirard
Michael J. Koury Jr.
Brandon Neuman

Present

Penn State University
Mike Ecker
Steve Shelow

Temple University
Tony Luongo

The August 2, 2022 meeting of the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB) was called to order by Chairman Eric Weaknecht, at 9:02 a.m. The meeting was being held at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), Harrisburg, PA 17110 and via Teams conference call. Mr. Donald Numer, PCCD, informed everyone that the meeting was being audio recorded.

Mr. Numer confirmed the attendance of Board members: Chairman Weaknecht, Vice Chairwoman Jody Smith, Deputy Chief Angelinel Brown, Commissioner David Glass, Mr. Barry Howe, and Deputy Ed Walker. He stated that a quorum of members was present.

Mr. Numer acknowledged the attendance of PCCD staff members: Ms. Sally Barry, Ms. Dorthey Jacobelli, Ms. Theresa Ford, Ms. Debra Sandifer, Ms. Megan Staub, Mr. Douglas Hummel, and Mr. John Pfau.

Others in attendance included: Mr. Michael Ecker and Mr. Steve Shelow, Penn State Justice and Safety Institute and Mr. Tony Luongo, Temple University.

Chairman Weaknecht asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes from the May 20, 2022 Board meeting. He stated that if there was no discussion, then he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes.

Sheriff Smith made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 20, 2022. Deputy Walker seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the minutes. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Howe, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Ms. Jacobelli, PCCD, reviewed the year end fiscal report for state fiscal year 2021-2022, period ending June 30, 2022. The balance from the previous year was \$4,439,405.55. The fee collections as of June 30, 2022 was \$4,079,706.51. The total available funds were \$8,519,112.06. The total expenditures as of June 30, 2022 was \$6,017,482.94. The total expenditures and commitments were \$11,797,001.73 which included \$720,206.77 in administrative expenses. The details of the administrative expenses were included on page 11 of the meeting packet. The uncommitted balance as of June 30, 2022 was negative \$3,277,889.67.

Deputy Chief Brown made a motion to approve the year end fiscal report for state fiscal year 2021-2022, period ending June 30, 2022. Deputy Walker seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment

regarding the fiscal report. No further discussion occurred, and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Howe, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Numer introduced newly appointed Board member, Mr. David Glass, Clearfield County Commissioner. He acknowledged that Commissioner Glass was not eligible to vote on action items until he submits his oath of office forms. He stated that he would coordinate a visit to meet with Commissioner Glass. Mr. Numer stated that Commissioner Glass replaced Commissioner Wayne Nothstein, Carbon County. He thanked Commissioner Nothstein for his valued input, attendance, and years of dedicated service to the Board.

Mr. Numer announced that as of July 17, 2022 5.3 million dollars has accumulated in unpaid training reimbursements. He stated that 1.95 million dollars was reimbursed since the October 2021 board meeting. Mr. Numer stated that fee collections have increased from previous fiscal years. This is due to sheriff's offices re-engaging in the service of process since COVID-19 affected the county work process. Mr. Numer stated that some counties have failed to assess the appropriate dollar amount for services provided. He stated that the Training Act was amended in 2020, which included incremental increases to the fee assessment. In 2021 the fees were increased from \$10 to \$18, in 2022 the fees were increased to \$20, and in 2023 the fees will increase to \$22. He thanked Ms. Jacobelli, PCCD, for her support in contacting many of the counties to ensure that the appropriate amount of fees are assessed. Mr. Numer stated that PCCD staff will be meeting prior to the October board meeting to assess the Training Account and provide a recommendation for the Board to consider authorizing the payment of more reimbursements. Mr. Numer cautioned that the budget projections are only estimates.

Mr. Numer announced that the approved Commonwealth Budget included funding for PCCD to administer Law Enforcement Support Grants to support proposed projects involving information technology, officer retention, and other areas to be identified. He stated that staff will inform the sheriffs of potential grants opportunities as information becomes available.

Mr. Numer reported that 54 percent of sheriffs and deputies completed the required 2022 on-line Continuing Education Training. Staff will issue a reminder to all sheriff's offices in September. In October, a final reminder will be issued and will include a list of all sheriffs and deputies that need to complete the training by the November 18, 2022 deadline.

Mr. Numer reported that Basic Training class B-22-02 began on July 11, 2022 with 38 deputies. He stated that 43 deputies attempted the physical fitness entrance test and 5 failed the test and were dismissed.

Mr. Numer stated that hiring issues are affecting all sheriff's offices. The potential exists for many new deputies being hired and in need of certification training. The plan is to

allow for 3 Basic Training classes to be held in 2023 and 2024. Mr. Numer stated that class enrollment minimums will be implemented. If the minimum enrollment is not met within 30 days of the start of a class, the class will be cancelled, and all the sheriffs and deputies will be enrolled in the next class. Mr. Numer stated that we need to be fiscally responsible in how we authorize spending.

Mr. Douglas Hummel, PCCD, reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Anthony Andronas, Washington County. The request was for Deputy Jaimie Quintero to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until he completes waiver training for certification. Deputy Quintero is scheduled to attend class W-22-03 from August 29, 2022 through September 2, 2022. The request complied with Board Policy.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Richard Keulerleber, York County. The request was for Deputy Ryan Misiura to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until he completes basic training for certification. Deputy Misiura is attending the current basic training class, B-22-02 and will graduate on November 18, 2022.

Deputy Chief Brown made a motion to approve the time extension requests for deputies, Jaimie Quintero and Ryan Misiura. Deputy Walker seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the time extension requests. No further discussion occurred, and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Howe, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension requests that were approved by the program supervisor. This was for informational purposes and did not require Board action.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the Partial Training Waiver Applications that were approved by the Training Supervisor. These waivers were in accordance with the Training Policy. This was for informational purposes and did not require Board action.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the Partial Training Waiver Request submitted by Sheriff Richard Keulerleber, York County. The request was for Deputy Manuel Salas. Deputy Salas was a certified police officer with the New York City Police Department. He retired on December 31, 2020. Based on his training and experience, staff recommends that he be waived from training for the following subjects: Module 2, Professional Development; Module 3, Physical Training; Module 4, Firearms; Module 5, Defensive Tactics; Module 7, Deputy Safety; Module 8, Investigations; Module 9, Emergency Services; and Module 10, Competency Development. Deputy Salas would be required to complete Module 1, Law and Module 6, Security.

Deputy Chief Brown made a motion to approve the partial training waiver request for Deputy Salas, as recommended by staff. Deputy Walker seconded the motion. Chairman

Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the request. No further discussion occurred, and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Howe, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the instructor application submitted by Penn State University for Mr. Kevin Cuddahy. The request is to certify Mr. Cuddahy as a firearms instructor. He is a police officer with the Philadelphia Police Department and an Act 120 certified firearms instructor.

Deputy Walker made a motion to certify Mr. Cuddahy as a firearms instructor for the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Training Academy. Deputy Chief Brown seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the request. No further discussion occurred, and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Howe, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Numer reviewed the three certification revocations included in the meeting packet for Mr. Volker Kiefer, Cameron County; Mr. Daniel Gradischek, Westmoreland County; and Mr. Bobby Neiderhiser, Westmoreland County.

Mr. Kiefer was convicted of child pornography on October 19, 2021, which is a felony of the second degree. He was notified of the Board's intent to revoke his certification on April 14, 2022 and he was provided the opportunity to show cause as to why the Board should not take action in accordance with Board policy. He did not respond. Mr. Kiefer is no longer employed as a deputy sheriff.

Mr. Gradischek was convicted of Official Oppression on March 18, 2022, which is a misdemeanor of the second degree. He was notified of the Board's intent to revoke his certification on April 14, 2022 and he was provided the opportunity to show cause as to why the Board should not take action in accordance with Board policy. He did not respond. Mr. Gradischek is no longer employed as a deputy sheriff.

Mr. Neiderhiser was convicted of Corruption of Minors on March 2, 2020, which is a misdemeanor of the first degree. He was notified of the Board's intent to revoke his certification on April 14, 2022 and he was provided the opportunity to show cause as to why the Board should not take action in accordance with Board policy. He did not respond. Mr. Neiderhiser is no longer employed as a deputy sheriff.

Deputy Chief Brown made a motion to revoke the certifications of Mr. Kiefer, Mr. Gradischek, and Mr. Neiderhiser. Deputy Walker seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding

the request. No further discussion occurred, and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Howe, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Michael Ecker, Penn State University, provided the basic training delivery report. He reported that 43 deputies attended the entrance physical fitness test for class B-22-02 on July 11, 2022. Five deputies failed the test and 38 deputies were admitted to the academy. Two additional deputies will be attending several subjects with the training

program. These deputies were approved for a partial waiver of training based on their law enforcement training and experience, from jurisdictions outside of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Ecker reported that 25 deputies completed the waiver training program on May 13, 2022. He stated that 20 deputies were currently enrolled in the waiver training beginning August 29, 2022. Mr. Ecker reported that the Firearms Instructor Re-Certification class was currently in session and had 10 attendees.

Mr. Tony Luongo, Temple University, provided the report on continuing education training and curriculum development for Temple University. He reported that approximately 50 percent of sheriffs and deputies completed the on-line continuing education training. The training consists of Legal Updates, Court Security, and Domestic Violence Awareness. The average test scores are between 80 percent and 100 percent. Mr. Luongo reported positive evaluations for the continuing education training. He stated that the majority of “help desk” calls regarding the on-line training involved people needing to reset passwords and the use of “outdated” web browsers.

Mr. Luongo reported that the 2023 on-line continuing education training curriculum is being developed. The subjects included: Legal Updates, Addictions, De-escalation, Evictions, and Judicial Security. Basic training subjects that are being revised included: Cultural Diversity, All Hazards, Use of Force, and legal updates to the Law Module.

Mr. Numer stated that we have identified subject matter experts from the PA Department of Health and the Administrative Office of PA Courts to assist in the development of the Addictions training and Judicial Security training respectively.

Mr. Numer explained that the yearly on-line continuing education training requirement will remain at 10 hours, but 18 hours are being developed. All sheriffs and deputies will be required to complete the Legal Updates module and will have a choice among the other training subjects.

Chairman Weaknecht asked if there were any additional matters to be discussed or any public comment.

Chairman Weaknecht announced that the next Board meeting was scheduled for October 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., at the PCCD.

Chairman Weaknecht asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deputy Chief Brown seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Brown, Howe, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None