

SHERIFF AND DEPUTY SHERIFF EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Minutes of the May 19, 2023 Meeting

Members Present

Angelinel Brown
David Glass
Barry Howe
Stephanie Jirard
Michael J. Koury Jr.
Jody S. Smith
Ed Walker
Eric Weaknecht

Members Absent

Brandon Neuman

Commission Staff Present

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

Others Present

Penn State University
Mike Ecker
Steve Shelow

Temple University
Anthony Luongo

Fayette County
Sheriff James Custer

Lancaster County
Chief Deputy Christopher Riggs

The May 19, 2023 meeting of the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB) was called to order by Chairman Eric Weaknecht, at 8:00 a.m. The meeting was being held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel – State College, 310 Elks Club Road, Boalsburg, Pennsylvania 16827 and via Teams conference call. Chairman Weaknecht informed everyone that the meeting was being audio recorded.

Mr. Don Numer, PCCD, confirmed the attendance of Board members: Chairman Weaknecht, Vice Chairwoman Jody Smith, Deputy Chief Angelinel Brown, Mr. Barry Howe, Ms. Stephanie Jirard, Judge Michael Koury Jr., Deputy Ed Walker, and Mr. David Glass. 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, and Mr. Douglas Hummel.

Others in attendance included: Mr. Michael Ecker and Mr. Steve Shelow, Penn State Justice and Safety Institute. Mr. Anthony Luongo, Temple University, was in attendance via conference call.

Mr. Numer acknowledged that Sheriff James Custer and Chief Deputy Christopher Riggs were in attendance via conference call.

Chairman Weaknecht asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes from the January 24, 2023 Board meeting. He stated that if there was no discussion, then he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes.

Ms. Jirard made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 24, 2023. Deputy Chief Brown 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, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Koury, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Ms. Jacobelli, PCCD, reviewed the third quarter fiscal report for state fiscal year 2022-2023, period ending March 31, 2023. The balance from the previous year was \$2,501,629.12. The fee collections as of March 31, 2023 was \$4,100,016.11. The total available funds were \$6,601,645.23. The total expenditures as of March 31, 2023 was \$2,095,814.70. The total expenditures and commitments were \$11,702,149.96 which included \$545,064.15 in administrative expenses. The details of the administrative expenses were included on page 12 of the meeting packet. The uncommitted balance as of March 31, 2023 was negative \$5,100,504.73.

Chairman Weaknecht asked if there were any questions regarding the fiscal report. He stated that if there was no discussion, then he would entertain a motion to approve the fiscal report.

Mr. Howe made a motion to approve the third quarter fiscal report for state fiscal year 2022-2023, period ending March 31, 2023. Sheriff Smith 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, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Koury, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Chairman Weaknecht asked Mr. Numer to provide his training supervisor's report as included on the meeting agenda.

Mr. Numer reported that as of May 18, 2023, \$6,841,650 was owed to the counties for training reimbursements. He stated that the Board approved payments of 2.5 million dollars at the October 25, 2022 meeting to be dispersed in 2023. PCCD delayed issuing payments pending reviewing the effects of the new training contracts that began January 1, 2023 and the actual fee collections. Mr. Numer stated that program and fiscal staff support issuing reimbursements of the first one million dollars and to continue monitoring the fee collections.

Mr. Numer reminded the Board that PCCD took over the responsibility of collecting the fees from the Commonwealth's Office of the Treasurer. This change in process has been beneficial to the Board. In the past, we would only receive minimal information regarding the amount of fees submitted per county. PCCD fiscal staff have determined that Allegheny County has not been collecting the correct amount of fees that are authorized by the Training Act. Mr. Numer stated that Allegheny County has committed to collecting the correct amount and remitting the amount owed to the Training Account. Mr. Numer stated that it could amount to an additional couple hundred thousand dollars in fee collections.

Mr. Numer informed the Board that the graduation ceremony for basic training class B-23-01 was being held following our meeting at 11:00 a.m., at the Katz Law Building, on the campus of Penn State University. He encouraged all to attend.

Mr. Numer reported that 39 deputies were attending basic training class B-23-02, that began April 24, 2023. He stated that the waitlist was at two deputies within a week of the start of class. He stated that staff sent an email to all sheriffs' offices, offering the opportunity to add more to the waitlist without affecting a person's enrollment in a future class. Six were added to the waitlist. Mr. Numer stated that nine deputies failed the academy entrance physical fitness test.

Mr. Numer reported that basic training class B-23-03, beginning August 7, 2023 had 40 deputies enrolled and 13 deputies on the waitlist.

Mr. Numer stated that three basic training classes are budgeted for 2024, but staff is working with Penn State to consider only hosting 2 classes with an increase in enrollment to 50 deputies per class. Mr. Numer explained that training delivery would need to incorporate splitting the class in smaller cohorts for some of the subjects like firearms training. For example, half the class would be at firearms training and the other half would be attending emergency vehicle operations training. Mr. Numer stated that a cost savings is anticipated.

Mr. Numer reported that two waiver training classes were conducted this year and a third class will be held in October 2023. The October waiver training has 13 deputies enrolled and enrollment is expected to increase.

Mr. Numer informed the Board that the Train-the-Trainer Program, Firearms Instructor Certification Training will begin May 22, 2023. This is a five-day training and 14 deputies are enrolled. The Patrol Rifle Instructor Certification Training will be held August 21, 2023 through August 25, 2023. Eight deputies are currently enrolled, and more are expected to attend the training. Mr. Numer reported that only two deputies were currently enrolled in the September 2023 Firearms Instructor Re-Certification Training. This class may be cancelled if enrollment does not increase.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Daniel Zeigler, Carbon County. The request was for Deputy Amanda Loudon to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until she completes the basic training academy for certification on December 15, 2023. Deputy Loudon failed the entrance physical fitness test on January 9, 2023, for class B-23-01. She was unable to be enrolled in the April 2023 class due to that class having full enrollment. She was scheduled to attend class B-23-03, from August 7, 2023 through December 15, 2023. The request complied with Board Policy.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Christopher Leppler, Lancaster County. The request was for Deputy Benjamin Broomell to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until he completes the basic training academy for certification. Deputy Broomell is attending the current basic training class, B-23-02 and will graduate on September 1, 2023. The request complied with Board Policy.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Christopher Leppler, Lancaster County. The request was for Deputy Anthony Bryann to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until he completes the basic training academy for certification. Deputy Bryann is attending the current basic training class, B-23-02 and will graduate on September 1, 2023. The request complied with Board Policy.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Christopher Leppler, Lancaster County. The request was for Deputy Thomas Hotchkiss to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until he completes the basic training academy for certification on December 15, 2023. Deputy Hotchkiss failed the entrance physical fitness test on January 9, 2023, for class B-

23-01. He was unable to be enrolled in the April 2023 class due to that class having full enrollment. He was scheduled to attend class B-23-03, from August 7, 2023 through December 15, 2023. The request complied with Board Policy.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Christopher Leppler, Lancaster County. The request was for Deputy Caleb Jenkins to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until he completes the basic training academy for certification. Deputy Jenkins is attending the current basic training class, B-23-02 and will graduate on September 1, 2023. The request complied with Board Policy.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Christopher Leppler, Lancaster County. The request was for Deputy Ryan Triggs to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until he completes the basic training academy for certification. Deputy Triggs is scheduled to attend basic training class, B-23-03 and will graduate on December 15, 2023. The request complied with Board Policy.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Sean Kilkenny, Montgomery County. The request was for Deputy Zachary DeSanto to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until he completes the basic training academy for certification on December 15, 2023. Deputy DeSanto failed the entrance physical fitness test on January 9, 2023, for class B-23-01. He was unable to be enrolled in the April 2023 class due to that class having full enrollment. He was scheduled to attend class B-23-03, from August 7, 2023 through December 15, 2023. The request complied with Board Policy.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request submitted by Sheriff Rochelle Bilal, Philadelphia County. The request was for Deputy Andrew Mocharnuk to continue serving as a deputy sheriff in an administrative capacity, non-uniformed and unarmed until he completes the basic training academy for certification on December 15, 2023. Deputy Mocharnuk failed the entrance physical fitness test on January 9, 2023, for class B-23-01. He was unable to be enrolled in the April 2023 class due to that class having full enrollment. He was scheduled to attend class B-23-03, from August 7, 2023 through December 15, 2023. The request complied with Board Policy.

Mr. Howe made a motion to approve the time extension requests for deputies, Amanda Loudon, Benjamin Broomell, Anthony Bryann, Thomas Hotchkiss, Caleb Jenkins, Ryan Triggs, Zachary DeSanto, and Andrew Mocharnuk. Ms. Jirard 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 Glass, Howe, Jirard, Koury, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Abstained: Brown and Walker

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 Wayne Emerick, Bedford County. The request was for Deputy Stephanie Harvey. Deputy Harvey completed the Prince George's County, Maryland, Police Training Academy and served as an officer from July 7, 2006 to December 2, 2022. Based on her training and experience, staff recommended that she 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 Training. Deputy Harvey would be required to complete Module 1, Law and Module 6, Security.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the Partial Training Waiver Request submitted by Sheriff Christopher Leppler, Lancaster County. The request was for Deputy Samuel Orsini. Deputy Orsini served as a military police officer with the United States Army. Based on his training and experience, staff recommended 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 – Table Top Exercise; Module 8, Investigations – Role of First Responder; Module 9, Emergency Services; and Module 10, Competency Training Days 1 – 5. Deputy Orsini would be required to complete Module 1, Law; Module 6, Security; Module 7, Deputy Safety – Patrol Operations and Crisis Management; Module 8, Investigations – SFST/DUI; and Module 10, Competency Day – Mock Hearings.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the Partial Training Waiver Request submitted by Sheriff Jeffrie Marley, Lebanon County. The request was for Deputy Stacey Steiner. Deputy Steiner was a certified police officer with the Baltimore County Police Department from May 30, 1995 to August 18, 2021. She retired as a detective in good standing. Based on her training and experience, staff recommended that she 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 Training. Deputy Steiner would be required to complete Module 1, Law and Module 6, Security.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the Partial Training Waiver Request submitted by Sheriff James Albert, Westmoreland County. The request was for Deputy Justin Hearn. Deputy Hearn served as a police officer in Florida, with the Cape Coral Police Department from October 6, 2009 to March 9, 2018 and again from August 23, 2018 to March 4, 2019. Based on his training and experience, staff recommended 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

Training. Deputy Hearn would be required to complete Module 1, Law and Module 6, Security.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the Partial Training Waiver Request submitted by Sheriff Richard Keuerleber, York County. The request was for Deputy Christopher Pacheco. Deputy Pacheco completed the Baltimore, Maryland Police Academy on June 10, 2022. Based on his training, staff recommended 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 Training. Deputy Pacheco would be required to complete Module 1, Law and Module 6, Security.

Ms. Jirard requested the dates of military police officer service for Deputy Orsini. Mr. Hummel stated that he would be able to provide the dates within a few minutes. He needed to check Deputy Orsini's records in the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Information System.

Chairman Weaknecht requested Mr. Hummel to review the instructor application prior to the researching Deputy Orsini's military service dates. Mr. Hummel reviewed the instructor application submitted by Penn State University for Mr. Mitchell Snyder. The request is to certify Mr. Snyder to instruct the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC). Mr. Snyder is a certified police officer with the Patton Township Police Department. He is certified through the National Academy for Professional Driving as a Tactical Police Driving Instructor.

Deputy Walker made a motion to certify Mr. Mitchell Snyder as an instructor for EVOC. Mr. Howe 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, Glass, Howe, Jirard, Koury, Smith, Walker, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Michael Ecker, Penn State University, provided the basic training delivery report. He reported that graduation for class B-23-01 will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the Katz Building, Penn State University. Class B-23-02 has 39 deputies attending and is currently in week four of training. Mr. Ecker stated that the Firearms Instructor Certification class will be next Monday, May 22, 2023.

Mr. Anthony Luongo provided the report on continuing education training and curriculum development for Temple University. He reported that 48 percent of the sheriffs and deputies completed the 2023 on-line continuing education training. The training included Legal Updates, Addictions, and De-escalation. Mr. Luongo stated that the job task analysis project is progressing as planned. Temple sub-contracted with Dering Consulting Group, Inc. to manage the project. Representatives from Temple and

Dering will meet with the Pennsylvania Sheriffs' Association (PSA), during their summer conference in July, in State College, PA.

In response to Ms. Jirard's earlier request for the military dates of service of Deputy Orsini, Mr. Hummel reported that Deputy Orsini served as a military police officer from February 8, 2017 to February 27, 2022. Chairman Weaknecht asked for a motion regarding the previously discussed partial training waiver requests.

Deputy Walker made a motion to approve the partial training waiver requests for deputies Stephanie Harvey, Samuel Orsini, Stacey Steiner, Justin Hearn, and Christopher Pacheco, as recommended by staff. Sheriff Weaknecht seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the requests. No further discussion occurred, and the motion passed with the following votes:

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

Voting Nay: None

Chairman Weaknecht asked for a motion to adjourn the public meeting, to enter into an executive session. He informed everyone that upon completion of the executive session, the Board would re-convene the public meeting.

At 8:40 a.m., Deputy Chief Brown made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and to commence an executive session. Ms. Jirard seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No further discussion occurred, and the meeting was adjourned with the following votes:

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

Voting Nay: None

Upon completion of the executive session, Chairman Weaknecht re-convened the Board by calling the public meeting to order at 8:56 a.m.

Mr. Howe made a motion to continue the suspension of academy instructor Mr. Wayne Bush, pending instructor certification revocation proceedings. Deputy Chief Brown seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No further discussion occurred, and the motion passed with the following votes:

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

Voting Nay: None

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 2:00 p.m., July 25, 2023, at the PCCD. He stated that the last meeting for 2023 is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., October 24, 2023, at the PCCD.

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

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

Voting Nay: None