

SHERIFF AND DEPUTY SHERIFF EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Minutes of the November 17, 2020 Meeting

Members Present

Stephanie Jirard
Kenneth L. Klakamp Jr.
Brandon Neuman
Jody S. Smith
Eric Weaknecht

Members Absent

Isaac Caraway
Wayne E. Nothstein
Ed Walker

Commission Staff Present

Doug Hummel
Don Numer
Mike Pennington
John Pfau
Beth Romero
Megan Staub
Sally Barry
Yvonne Murray
Debra Sandifer

Others Present

Penn State University
Mike Ecker
Steve Shelow

Temple University
Anthony Luongo

PA Sheriffs' Association
Tom Maioli

Fayette County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff James Custer

The November 17, 2020 meeting of the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Education and Training Board (SDSETB) was called to order by Chairman Eric Weaknecht, at 9:07 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was being held via Skype conference call. Chairman Weaknecht informed everyone that the meeting was being audio recorded. He stated that a quorum of members was in attendance.

Mr. Donald Numer informed the SDSETB that protocol for voting on action items would require a roll call vote in which each member would verbally announce their vote as yea, nay, or abstain.

Chairman Weaknecht asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes from the August 25, 2020 Board meeting. He stated that if there was no discussion, then he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes.

Sheriff Kenneth L. Klakamp Jr. made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 25, 2020. Chief Deputy Jody S. Smith 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 Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Ms. Yvonne Murray, PCCD, reviewed the fiscal report for state fiscal year 2020-2021, as of September 30, 2020. The balance from the previous year was \$3,120,727.93. The fee collections as of September 30, 2020 was \$911,920.00. The total available funds were \$4,032,647.93. The total expenditures as of September 30, 2020 was \$175,017.54. The total expenditures and commitments were \$3,381,975.63 which included \$161,352.87 in administrative expenses. The details of the administrative expenses were included on page 15 of the meeting packet. The uncommitted balance as of September 30, 2020 was \$650,669.30.

Chairman Weaknecht asked if anyone had any questions or concerns regarding the fiscal report. He asked for a motion to approve the fiscal report.

Chief Deputy Smith made a motion to approve the fiscal report for state fiscal year 2020-2021, ending September 30, 2020. Judge Brandon Neuman seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any further Board discussion or public comment regarding the fiscal report. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Chairman Weaknecht asked Mr. Numer to provide the training supervisor's report. Mr. Numer reported that as of November 12, 2020, the actual reimbursements owed to the counties was approximately 3.9 million dollars. It was projected to increase an additional 1 million dollars by the end of 2020. This would be the result of unsubmitted reimbursement invoices and pending invoices for the remaining Basic and Waiver Training classes that will conclude prior to the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Numer stated that Senate Bill 1193 was recently passed by the Senate. The Bill was approved by the House Judiciary Committee with amendments and was now under the review of the House Appropriations Committee. This was the legislation introduced by Senator Browne, Lehigh County. It would enact fee increases to support our training.

Mr. Numer reported as of November 12, 2020, there were 2,106 sheriffs and deputies who have successfully created Keystone Login Accounts to access the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Information System (SDSIS). This was part of the process to authorize sheriffs and deputies' access to the on-line training courses offered through Temple University's Canvas learning management system. As of November 6, 2020, 1,843 sheriffs and deputies completed the required 2020 on-line continuing education training for re-certification. That represented 94 percent of the eligible sheriffs and deputies. Mr. Numer stated that the continuing education training will be closed on November 30, 2020. He reported that 125 sheriffs and deputies need to complete the training.

Chief Deputy Smith asked if any county requested time extensions. Mr. Numer reported that a few deputies were granted extensions due to being on medical leave or military leave.

Mr. Numer informed the SDSETB that graduation for Basic Training Class B-20-02 will be held on Friday, November 20, 2020. It will be a "virtual" graduation ceremony, attended by the graduating deputies, academy staff, and PCCD staff. Mr. Thomas Maioli, Executive Director of the PA Sheriffs' Association (PSA) will attend and will live stream the ceremony. The live stream will be hosted on the Association's web page for anyone to watch. This information was shared with all sheriffs and the graduates' families. The last graduation was live streamed and was very successful.

Mr. Numer reported that the last Waiver Training class for 2020 will begin on November 30th.

Mr. Numer stated that the Basic Training and Waiver Training schedules for 2021 have been available for enrollment. Based on current enrollments for the first two Basic Training classes, the 3rd class would most likely be needed.

Mr. Numer informed the SDSETB that a contract was agreed upon with Temple University to provide curriculum development services. The priority will be finishing the 2021 on-line continuing education curriculum. Mr. Numer stated that as soon as the curriculum instructor guides are ready for review, he will work with a few sheriffs and deputies for their review and feedback. This was a concern of the workgroup.

Mr. Numer reported on the progress of the SDSETB's Workgroup. A meeting was held on September 22, 2020 and the focus was on actions to take, to further the initiatives in the Board's Statement of Support for Criminal Justice Reform. Issues discussed included: reviewing curriculum for potential implicit bias, having a diverse instructor pool, and training philosophy. The discussion on training philosophy was put on hold pending the gathering of more information.

Mr. Numer stated that the Workgroup's November 2, 2020 meeting focused on starting to develop a strategic plan for the SDSETB. Potential initiatives identified were predicated on the pending legislation to increase the fees. The Workgroup agreed that a Job Task Analysis was needed to justify and determine the need for current initiatives and if others should be included. The Workgroup agreed that staff should begin the process of changing Board regulations to allow for the potential increase in training hours for certification.

Mr. Numer stated that several years ago, the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) started accepting outside training submitted by agencies to count towards MPOETC re-certification. We suggested to Allegheny County that they should submit Board training for approval. Mr. Numer stated that he did not believe they ever submitted any training to MPOETC. More recently, MPOETC made the decision to restrict those submissions to actual vendors. This issue was brought up again for staff to submit Board training for MPOETC approval. Staff discussed this with MPOETC and discovered that MPOETC has suspended outside vendor approvals and future trainings pending expected required training mandated by legislation. Mr. Numer said that this may last 1 to 2 years. He stated that staff would submit our 2021 Continuing Education training to MPOETC for potential acceptance. There is a benefit for Allegheny County, since by legislation, all their deputies are required to be Act 120 certified. It would also benefit any deputy who is also a police officer. Mr. Numer stated that since MPOETC may fill their Continuing Education training up with mandated training, this benefit might not be utilized for a couple of years. Mr. Maioli asked to be informed when the curriculum is submitted to MPOETC. Mr. Numer said that he planned on submitting the curriculum next week.

Mr. Numer reported that the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) are in the early stages of designing and building a new academy in Hershey, PA. They are exploring the possibility for multi-usage of the facility from other agencies. A suggestion was previously made that the Board should explore moving its academy and collocate with PSP. Board staff had initial discussions with PSP. Mr. Numer stated that there are several unanswered questions that need addressed and include issues such as: priority of usage, type of relationship, training delivery, and costs. Mr. Numer stated that the Board should consider several questions before staff is directed to explore moving training to another location. Staff previously researched the potential to host training in Philadelphia and numerous questions were unanswered. Mr. Numer said the Board needs to identify their vision for the future of training. He stated that issues with the current training provider and location need to be identified and justified prior to pursuing another training

location. Mr. Numer stated that the Board has invested a lot of resources in our training facility at Penn State. The expected advantages of moving our training location needs to be justified. Chairman Weaknecht asked if PSP would be willing to attend our next meeting to discuss our options. Mr. Numer stated that he thought it was too early in the process to have PSP attend our next meeting. He explained that staff's previous discussion with Major Bivens, PSP, was preliminary in nature. Chief Deputy Smith expressed her desire for the Board to pursue discussions with PSP. She stated that costs are a factor and we need to be able to compare the costs of providing our current training and the costs of hosting training at PSP. We can't make a decision without hearing from PSP. Mr. Numer stated that staff would contact Major Bivens. Ms. Sally Barry, PCCD, stated that facility availability is important. She stated that our training is a priority for Penn State. Mr. Numer stated that we might not have the level of priority with PSP when it involves facility availability and usage. Mr. Numer stated that it is also important that we conduct our training, with our instructors. Our instructors have always been a priority and concern of the Board. Chief Deputy Smith stated that those concerns would be addressed in a contract. She stated that we need more information. Chairman Weaknecht asked if anyone wanted to make a motion.

Chief Deputy Smith made a motion to have staff engage in conversation with PSP to further pursue the potential option of relocating our training to the future PSP facility. Sheriff Klakamp seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Numer stated that he would arrange a meeting with Major Bivens, PSP

Mr. Numer reviewed the proposed changes to the SDSETB Policy. The Board approved some time extension requests at the August 25, 2020 meeting with the stipulation that the deputies serve in an administrative capacity until they complete the required Basic Training or Waiver Training for certification. Changes were recommended to limit time extension requests and to include requiring deputies that have not completed the initial certification training to serve in an administrative capacity. Mr. Numer stated that if the changes to the Policy are approved, the Policy would need approved by the PCCD. The Policy may be considered at the December 2020 PCCD meeting.

Chairman Weaknecht made a motion to approve the changes to the SDSETB Policy. Dr. Stephanie Jirard seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Numer reviewed the proposed changes to Train the Trainer Instructor Policy. He recommended that instead of requiring attendance at the SDSETB sponsored Instructor Development Training prior to attending the initial Firearms Instructor Training, deputies would need to have attended any “recognized” instructor development course. Mr. Numer explained that this change would allow more deputies access to the instructor program. Mr. Numer stated that the firearms and patrol rifle instructor certifications would continue to be valid for three years. He stated that instead of having separate two-day recertification classes for firearms re-certification and patrol rifle re-certification, the curriculum will be revised to offer a three-day combination re-certification class.

Judge Brandon Neuman made a motion to approve the changes to the Train the Trainer Instructor Policy. Dr. Jirard seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Douglas Hummel reviewed the partial training waiver request submitted by Sheriff Rochelle Bilal, Philadelphia. Deputy James Langlois was a police officer in the state of Delaware through the end of 2018, after completing their states’ law enforcement training certification training in 2015. Based on his training and experience, staff recommended that he be waived from training for the following subjects: Module 2, Professional Development (56 hours); Module 3, Physical Training (68 hours); Module 4, Firearms (88 hours); Module 5, Defensive Tactics (84 hours); and Module 9.3, EVOC (40 hours). This request was permitted under Act 1984-2 and staff recommended approval.

Chief Deputy Smith made a motion to approve the partial training waiver request for Deputy James Langlois. Sheriff Klakamp seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension requests submitted by Sheriff Bilal for Deputy James Langlois and Deputy Joseph DiTullio. Both deputies were beyond their training due dates and were scheduled to attend Basic Training class B-21-01, beginning January 11, 2021. Deputy DiTullio failed the entrance physical fitness test for class B-20-02.

Chief Deputy Smith made a motion to approve time extensions for Deputy James Langlois and Deputy Joseph DiTullio, to allow their attendance at Basic Training class B-21-01, beginning January 11, 2021. Both extensions are contingent that they serve in an administrative capacity until they are certified. Judge Neuman seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension requests submitted by Sheriff Wayne Emerick, Bedford County. Sheriff Emerick requested time extensions for Logan Tewell, Chasity Plummer, Stephen Simon, and Mark Miller. Deputy Tewell is enrolled in B-21-01, beginning January 11, 2021 and deputies Plummer, Simon, and Miller are enrolled in B-21-02, beginning April 26, 2021. The requests are for the deputies to serve in an administrative capacity until the required training is completed for certification.

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension requests submitted by Sheriff Richard Keuerleber, York County. Sheriff Keuerleber requested time extensions for Corey Grace, Matthew Shively, and Valdyn Sharrar. Deputy Grace and Deputy Shively are enrolled in B-21-01, beginning January 11, 2021. Deputy Sharrar is enrolled in B-21-02, beginning April 26, 2021. The requests are for the deputies to serve in an administrative capacity until the required training is completed for certification.

Sheriff Klakamp made a motion to approve the time extension requests for deputies Tewell, Plummer, Simon, Miller, Grace, Shively, and Sharrar as reported by Mr. Hummel. Chairman Weaknecht seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, 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 SDSETB 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 SDSETB action.

Mr. Numer reviewed the training request submitted by Sheriff William Mullen, Allegheny County. Sheriff Mullen requested that he be exempt from completing the 2020 on-line continuing education training. He detailed his reasoning in his letter that was included in the addendum to the meeting packet. Sheriff Mullen acknowledged his duties as being administrative in nature and his plans to retire during 2021.

Sheriff Klakamp made a motion to approve the request of Sheriff Mullen. Chief Deputy Smith seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request included in the addendum to the meeting packet, submitted by Sheriff Richard Keuerleber, York County. Sheriff Keuerleber requested a time extension for Deputy Keoni Lauer. Deputy Lauer is scheduled to attend the Waiver Training class, W-20-02, beginning November 30, 2020.

Chief Deputy Smith made a motion to approve the time extension request for Deputy Keoni Lauer. Sheriff Klakamp seconded the motion. Chairman Weaknecht asked if there was any Board discussion or public comment regarding the motion. No discussion ensued and the motion passed with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None

Mr. Hummel reviewed the time extension request, included in the addendum to the meeting packet, that was approved by the program supervisor. This was for informational purposes and did not require SDSETB action.

Mr. Anthony Luongo, Temple University, provided the report on continuing education training. Mr. Luongo reported that 94% of the sheriffs and deputies completed the required on-line continuing education training. This was an increase from 75% completion at the August 25, 2020 meeting. He stated that he appreciated the support of the SDSETB and the Sheriffs. Mr. Luongo reported that Temple University was pleased to have entered into contract with the PCCD to develop curriculum for the Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff Training Program. His staff was working to complete the 2021 on-line continuing education training. The training will consist of Legal Updates (2 hours), Transports (4 hours), and Deputy Wellness (4 hours).

Mr. Mike Ecker, Penn State University, provided the basic training delivery report. Mr. Ecker stated that Basic Training Class B-20-02 will graduate, this coming Friday, November 20, 2020. He reported that 38 deputies will graduate. Mr. Ecker stated that three deputies failed the physical fitness test, one deputy was dismissed for a firearms range safety violation, and one deputy was injured during Defensive Tactics training. Graduation will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will be live streamed by Mr. Maioli. Families and sheriffs can access the live stream through the PA Sheriffs' Association web page. Mr. Ecker stated that Waiver Training class W-20-02 was scheduled to begin November 30, 2020. He stated that class enrollments for 2021 Basic Training are reaching maximum capacity.

Mr. Pfau announced that obtaining ammunition for training has been difficult. He stated that some ammunition from the PA Constable Training Program will be made available to sell to the Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Training Program.

Chairman Weaknecht asked if anyone had any additional comments for the good of the order. Chairman Weaknecht announced that the next Board meeting was scheduled for January 12, 2021, at the PCCD or via video conferencing. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

Chief Deputy Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheriff Klakamp seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned with the following votes:

Voting Aye: Board Members Jirard, Klakamp, Neuman, Smith, and Weaknecht

Voting Nay: None