

MINUTES

BLEOST MEETING
January 10, 2019

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chairman Mallory.

Roll Call:

Chairman Mallory called the roll and a quorum was established. Board members present were:

Chief Matt Barnett
Officer Brad Carter
Chief Don Gammage
Sheriff Jim Johnson
Dr. Steve Mallory
Sheriff Billy McGee
Constable Glenn McKay
Hon. Ed Snyder
Mr. Windy Swetman
Captain Lori Travis

Hon. Emiko Hemleben - Board Counsel

Board members not present were:

Vacant - DA
Chief Ray Hawkins
Mayor Gary Rhoads

Staff members present were:

Mrs. Mary L. Bailey
Mrs. Bebea Boney
Mr. Robert Davis
Mrs. Lydia Edwards
Ms. Geneva Hill
Mr. Michael Nash
Mrs. Donna Rogers

Speakers/guests present were:

Director Richard Lawrence, Rankin Co. S.O.
Lt. Kevin Hicks, Harrison Co. S.O.
Director Jacqueline Moreno, SRPSI
Director Amy Vanderford, MDCC/LETA
Mr. Paul Holley, Rankin Co. S.O.
Mrs. Jacqueline Posey, Adams Co. S.O.

Introductory Remarks:

The guests introduced themselves and they were welcomed by Chairman Mallory.

Approval of Minutes:

A copy of the minutes from the previous meeting was emailed to each member. Sheriff McGee made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sheriff Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

Old Business

In-Service Training - Request for Approval:

1. 2019 Spring Educational Conference; MS Division of the International Association for Identification; Mass Casualty Investigations and Explosive Events; 20 hours – Meridian.
2. 2019 National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Training; FBI/DPS; 16 hours; Oxford, Long Beach.
3. Violence Prevention Training; 6 Topics; Center for Violence Prevention; Total of 11 hours.
4. Animal Cruelty Investigations / Police/Dog Encounters Law Enforcement Training; The Humane Society of the United States; Chief Matt Barnett; 3.5 hours each.
5. Youth Mental Health First Aid, MS Department of Mental Health; 8 hours.
6. One Loud Voice Conference (MS largest child abuse conference); Children’s Advocacy Centers of MS; 15 hours.

Mr. Snyder made a motion to approve the 6 courses for in-service training. Mr. McKay seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Review Training and Reimbursements:

The Board reviewed the “Skills Update Testing/Law Courses Score Sheet”. The form must be completed and returned to the Board for an officer to receive credit for the training in order to activate a lapsed certificate. This form must also be received by the Board in order for training reimbursements to be issued to the agency or academy. The Board also reviewed the “Reimbursement Claim Form for Academies”. This form will be used to directly fund academies for the training of Part-Time Officers.

The need for academies to offer the 200 hour Refresher Course was discussed. Most academies will allow officers that need Refresher Training or law courses to drop into their basic classes for this training. There is still a need for academies to offer a stand alone 200 hour Refresher Course. This is needed because there are many agencies that are not in reasonable driving distance of an academy, making it very difficult for an officer to attend as a drop in student. This will be

communicated to all academies, with the hope that plans will be made to hold stand alone Refresher Courses. As time goes by, and officers are not able to attend their needed training in the required time, the Board will have to develop a plan to correct this problem.

New Business

Election of Board Officers:

Chairman Mallory and Vice-Chairperson Captain Travis have completed their one year term in office. Mr. McKay made a motion for the current Chair and Vice-Chair to remain for another term. Chief Gammage seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Certification of Officers: :

Director Davis presented a list of 3 F/T Basic classes, 1 Skills Update Class, 18 F/T equivalency candidates, and 2 P/T Basic classes for certification pending completion of all requirements. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the basic classes and equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements and Mr. McKay seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

Director's Report:

Director Davis stated that the Board's policies, training, and reimbursement guidelines are all in good order and working well. The staff deals with problem officers and requests almost daily, but the polices and guidelines help the staff with answers. Recent problems were discussed with the Board.

The New Chief's Training is in progress this week and is going very well. The training is being held in our conference room.

We have one vacancy on the Board and three member's terms expire at the end of April. The Board Council agreed to assist with the request to fill these appointments. The members were advised to contact the staff if they know of candidates interested in serving on the Board.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Kevin C. Smiley:

Before the beginning of the Board meeting, Officer Smiley sent an email stating that he was not able to attend the hearing today.

Certification Review Hearing for Officer Wesley S. Chambers:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training's (BLEOST) Certification Section determined that Wesley S. Chambers is not eligible for certification. Officer Chambers requested this hearing before the Board. He works for State Line Police Department.

Officer Chambers was certified in 2008, certificate number 19874. The Board received information that he engaged in conduct that would breach the established minimum standards, violate the *Law Enforcement Code of Ethics*, or would greatly diminish the public trust in his

competence and reliability as a law enforcement officer. According to the record, he was charged on or about June 13, 2013, with Indecent Exposure, MS Code 97-29-31. He was employed as a law enforcement officer with the Waynesboro Police Department during that time period. He entered a plea of guilty for the Indecent Exposure charge and was fined in the Justice Court of Wayne County, MS.

The witnesses were sworn in and the Chairman questioned Officer Chambers about his understanding of the procedures involved in this hearing. Officer Chambers stated that he understood and was ready to proceed.

Director Davis presented a four page document that was entered as Exhibit 1 and a 26 page document entered as Exhibit 2. These documents were part of Officer Chamber's certification file. CIC had no record of an expungement. The contents of these documents were orally presented to the Board as they reviewed them.

Officer Chambers stated that he was told that the case had been expunged. He stated that he wasn't on duty and his actions weren't the right thing to do, and he did plead guilty to the charge. He said that he is a better person than the papers indicate. He admitted that he was guilty and that is why he pled guilty. The Board questioned Officer Chambers about the number of times he exposed himself to the individuals, his answer was four or five times, but he was only charged once. He concluded by asking the Board not to take his certification, that he would do anything required of him to keep his job.

The Chairman entertained a motion to enter into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session. Mr. Snyder made a motion to enter into closed session with a second from Chief Gammage, the vote was unanimous.

In closed session, the Chair entertained a motion to declare an executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. Chief Barnett made a motion to enter executive session with a second from Mr. Snyder, the vote was unanimous.

After executive session, everyone was called back into the meeting room. Chief Gammage made a motion to come out of executive session with a second from Sheriff Johnson, the vote was unanimous.

The Chair announced that clear and convincing evidence was placed before the Board to show that Wesley S. Chambers admitted to Indecent Exposure while employed as a law enforcement officer with the Waynesboro Police Department. In Executive Session, after considering the facts presented, the Board voted unanimously, 10-0, to cancel the certificate in the name of Wesley S. Chambers, finding that he engaged in conduct that: would breach the established minimum standards; violate the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, and would greatly diminish the public trust in the competence and reliability of a law enforcement officer. This action is effective on Thursday, 1-10-2019.

This concluded the hearing.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting was set for March 14, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Planning Building.

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

Sheriff Johnson made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Sheriff McGee and it passed without opposition. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement
Officer Standards and Training