

MINUTES

BLEOST MEETING

April 3, 2020

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairwoman Travis. This meeting was held by conference call.

Roll Call:

Chairwoman Travis called the roll and a quorum was established. Board members present were:

Chief Matt Barnett
Officer Brad Carter
Hon. Kassie Coleman
Chief Don Gammage
Sheriff Jim Johnson
Constable Glenn McKay
Sheriff Greg Pollan
Chief Vance Rice
Hon. Ed Snyder
Mr. Windy Swetman
Captain Lori Travis

Hon. Emiko Hemleben, Board Counsel

Board members not present were:

Dr. Steve Mallory
Mayor Gary Rhoads

Staff members present were:

Mr. Robert Davis
Mr. Bob Morgan

Speakers/guests present were:

Director Amy Vanderford, MDCCLETA
Lt. Col. Thomas Tuggle, MLEOTA
Asst. Director Joe Jackson, MLEOTA
Director Jacqueline Moreno, SRPSI
Dr. Lisa Norrid, USM
Lynne Carrie, Meridian Academy
Director Louis Elias, HCLETA
Mr. Paul Holley, Rankin Co. S.O.
Lt. James Rayborn, Rankin Co. S.O.

Director Phylis Colsom, N.E.C.C.

Introductory Remarks:

The guests introduced themselves and they were welcomed.

New Business

Discuss Proclamation Concerning State of Emergency:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, by proclamation dated March 14, 2020, issued by Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, a state of emergency was declared pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section §33-15-11, in order to address the high risk for an outbreak of the novel coronavirus, identified as COVID-19, in the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, the Proclamation has invoked the emergency powers of the Governor pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. Section §33-15-11(c)(1) to temporarily suspend or modify any rule or regulation of a state agency which would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency; and

WHEREAS, The Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training as an agency of the State of Mississippi wishes to comply with the Governor's proclamation and take those steps necessary to address access to needed law enforcement services to the citizens of the State of Mississippi during this time of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Rule 1.1(14) of the Board's Rules and Regulations does not allow a Law Enforcement Trainee to have the authority to use force, bear arms, make arrests or exercise any of the powers of a peace officer unless the trainee is under the direct control and supervision of a law enforcement officer.

WHEREAS, Rule 10.2(1)(A)(1) of the Board's Rules and Regulations requires Chiefs of Police to complete twenty (20) hours of executive level continuing education courses each fiscal year.

WHEREAS, Rule 10.2(1)(A)(2) of the Board's Rules and Regulations requires Municipal Officers to complete twenty-four (24) hours of continuing education courses each fiscal year.

WHEREAS, Rule 10.2(1)(E) of the Board's Rules and Regulations requires Sheriffs to complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education courses each fiscal year.

NOW THEREFORE, the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training will suspend Rule 1.1 (14) to allow Law Enforcement Trainees, who were in training academies when the state of emergency was declared and the training was disrupted, to be authorized to use force, bear arms, make arrests or exercise any powers of a peace officer without being under the direct control and supervision of a law enforcement officer, provided; their academy

class had completed firearms training, driver training and mechanics of arrest training until such time as the state of emergency is lifted by the Governor of the State of Mississippi; and

FURTHER, the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training will require all trainees who were in an academy at the time of the state of emergency to complete the remainder of their training at their academy of record after the state of emergency is lifted.

FURTHER, the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training will provisionally certify any trainee who was in good academic and physical standing and set to graduate prior to their release due to the state of emergency. Upon the end of the period of the state of emergency, the officer will revert back to trainee status and be required to complete the remainder of their training with their academy of record.

Further, the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training will suspend Rule 10.2(1)(A)(1) for the fiscal year of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Further, the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training will suspend Rule 10.2(1)(A)(2) for the fiscal year of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Further, the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training will suspend Rule 10.2(1)(E) for the fiscal year of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

SO ORDERED AND APPROVED by the Mississippi Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training, this the 3rd day of April 2020.

MISSISSIPPI BOARD ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING



By: _____

Captain Lori Travis, Chair

For and on Behalf of the Board

The Board discussed and approved the above proclamation. Chief Barnett made the motion to approve and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Coleman. The motion passed without opposition.

The Academy Directors discussed plans on training during the pandemic. MLEOTA is looking at holding a 7-week academy keeping the cadets over the weekend and not allowing visitors.

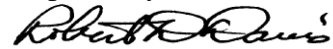
Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting was set for July 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Planning Building.

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement
Officer Standards and Training