

**MINUTES**

**BLEOST MEETING**

**July 9, 2020**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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  
Chief Don Gammage  
Sheriff Jim Johnson  
Constable Glenn McKay  
Chief Vance Rice  
Hon. Ed Snyder  
Mr. Windy Swetman  
Captain Lori Travis

Hon. Pete Cajoleas, Board Counsel

**Board members not present were:**

Hon. Kassie Coleman  
Dr. Steve Mallory  
Sheriff Greg Pollan  
Mayor Gary Rhoads

**Introduction of Guests, Introductory Remarks:**

The guests introduced themselves and they were welcomed. Special Assistant Attorney General Avery Lee was welcomed to the meeting. She is the Director of State Agencies, Boards, and Commissions. She introduced Special Assistant Attorney General Pete Cajoleas as the new Board Counsel. New Counsel Cajoleas was welcomed to the Board.

**Speakers/Guests present were:**

Hon. Avery Lee, Attorney General's Office  
Director Amy Vanderford, MDCCLETA  
Director Jacqueline Moreno, SRPSI  
Project Manager Lynne Carrie, Meridian Academy  
Director Phyllis Colson, N.E.M.C.C.  
Sheriff Travis Patton, Adams Co. S.O.  
Chief Deputy Neely, Adams Co. S.O.

Director Dean Bearden, NMLETC  
Officer Derick Nelson, NMLETC

**Staff Members Present were:**

Certification Officer Bebea Boney  
Bureau Director Robert Davis  
Division Director Bob Morgan  
Training Director, Michael Nash  
Certification Officer Donna Rogers

**Approval of Minutes:**

A copy of the minutes from the March and April meetings were emailed to each member. Chief Gammage 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. Response to Suspicious Behaviors and Items for Bombing Prevention (1 hr.); Introduction to the Terrorist Attack Cycle (2 hrs.); Improvised Explosive Device Explosive Effects and Mitigation (1 hr.); Homemade Explosives and Precursor Awareness (1 hr.) - Homeland Security
2. 2020 MS Trauma Informed Care Conference (16 hrs.) - MS Department of Mental Health
3. MBI Special Victim's Unit Orientation (29 hrs.) – MBI/Human Trafficking Division
4. MS Sheriff's Summer Conference (11 hrs.) – MS Sheriff's Association

Chief Rice made a motion to approve the courses for in-service training. Chief Barnett seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

**Review Changes to Training Packet – Applicant's Affidavit:**

The staff proposed that the following language be added to the Applicant's Affidavit in the Basic Training Packet (as discussed in the March meeting):

I certify that I have not attended another academy. Any previous attempts to complete the Law Enforcement Officers Training Program must be disclosed to the academy staff before admittance. (Not applicable to Refresher Course)

Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the changes, Mr. Swetman seconded the motion and it was approved without opposition.

**Discuss Judge's Decision on the Roderick Brown Appeal:**

The Chancellor reversed and remanded the Roderick Brown Appeal back to the Board for the

Board to make more specific findings of fact consistent with this opinion and to give weight to testimony provided by explaining how credible the Board believes it to be. The Chancellor stated that it was an abuse of discretion to leave out this detail of fact finding.

The Board had a lengthy discussion concerning this ruling. The Attorney General's office provided guidance in how to follow the Chancellor's ruling. It was decided that the 7 members that voted to cancel Roderick Brown's certificate would review the transcript, including the exhibits and listen to the recording of the hearing. It was decided that these 7 members would revise the Finding of Facts and the Final Order in this matter.

It was decided that after the 7 members agreed on what other findings of fact should be included, a document would be prepared and voted on at the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discuss New Laws and Policy Changes:**

House Bill 1434 was approved by the Governor. This bill revises the salary threshold for officers working as a deputy sheriff or municipal law enforcement officer. The salary must be less than \$475.00 per week or less than \$2050.00 per month for part-time officers and \$475.00 per week or more or \$2050.00 per month or more for full-time officers.

House Bill 1500 was approved by the Governor. This bill authorizes the Board to consider certain military training when determining whether an applicant has satisfied certain requirements in order to be qualified for appointment or employment as a law enforcement officer. The Mississippi Association of Chiefs of Police is opposed to allowing military training as an equivalent to basic law enforcement training. The State of Missouri provided the Board with their rules and regulations on accepting military training.

Senate Bill 2759 is still in conference. This bill provides certain provisions of the Fresh Start Act of 2019 to apply "notwithstanding any other provision of law". This bill would require our Board to fall under the Fresh Start Act.

Senate Bill 2112 is still in conference. This bill would prohibit certain public employers from using criminal history information as a preliminary bar to employment. It's called Ban the Box Act.

Senate Bill 2117 was approved by the Governor. This is known as the Military Family Freedom Act. This bill also deals with military training.

### **Certification of Officers:**

Director Davis presented 3 F/T Basic class, 21 F/T equivalency candidates, 3 P/T Basic classes, and 4 P/T equivalency candidates for certification pending completion of all requirements. Mr. Swetman made a motion to approve the classes and equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements and Chief Rice seconded the motion. The motion carried

without opposition.

**Director's Report:**

The Director reported that in June, the office received 123 applications requesting certificates and 80 terminations from agencies. In the first 8 days of July, 15 applications and 31 terminations have been received.

A 'Bridge Program' was mentioned at a previous meeting and everyone was invited to submit their thoughts and comments. This program was for part-time certified officers to be able to attain full-time certification without going through the full-time academy. The office only received 1 notice concerning the establishment of this program. The writer was not completely in favor of this program but gave ideas on certain requirements, if the program is recommended.

There was a document submitted to the Legislature late in the session that will probably be back next year that would make several changes to the Board including the addition of 4 more members. One member would represent the State Public Defenders Office, one clergy, and 2 that have been victims of law enforcement misconduct or associated with an organization advocating for such victims. Other changes would be to establish standard for and mandate the use of video recordings and publish a list of all officers.

The Presidents Executive Order on Police Reform was discussed with the Board. The requirements for this order are being worked on by our Accreditation Commission.

The Director talked about recent public information requests. All requests come to the Legal Division and our office responds back to them.

The actions of certain officers were presented to the Board for their thoughts. Agency heads are not, in many cases, providing the details needed to make certification decisions. Many responded that the staff needs to be able to have an investigator look into the actions of certain officers.

The Director thanked the staff for their work and thanked our Attorney General's representatives for their assistance.

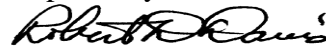
**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

The next meeting will be determined at a later date, depending on the Pandemic.

**Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:**

Sheriff Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Chief Barnett seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training