

MINUTES
BLEOST MEETING
January 14, 2016

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by the Vice-Chairman, Chief Matt Barnett.

Roll Call, Introduction of New Board Member:

Vice-Chairman Barnett called the roll and a quorum was established. Board members present were:

Chief Matt Barnett
Chief Don Gammage
Assistant Chief Ray Hawkins
Sheriff Jim Johnson
Dr. Stephen Mallory
Constable Glenn McKay
Ms. Leslie Scott

Board members not present were:

Col. Donnell Berry
Sheriff Billy McGee
Mayor Gary Rhoads
Mr. Ed Snyder

Mr. James Dale, Board Counsel

Staff members present were:

Mrs. Bebea Boney
Mr. Robert Davis
Mr. Michael Nash
Ms. Geneva Hill
Mrs. Tonya Whitehead

Speakers/guests present were:

Dr. Julian Allen, USM
Captain Todd Stewart, Director SRPSI
Ms. Jayne Causey, SMCC
Director Clint McMurry, Columbia Law Enforcement Academy
Mr. Juan Cloy, Instructor
Major Louis Elias, Director HCLETA
Commander Herman Horton, Jackson P.D.

Introductory Remarks:

Ms. Leslie Scott has been appointed to the Board by the President of the Mississippi Association

of Supervisors. Ms. Scott is the General Counsel of the MAS. She introduced herself to the Board by saying that she is a former attorney for the City of Jackson and former attorney in State Government. The MAS has recently formed a “Property and Liability” Insurance pool and she is the administrator and General Counsel for this pool. The pool can cover liability for law enforcement agencies. She is very interested in training and risk management of law enforcement..

The guests introduced themselves and they were welcomed by Chief Barnett.

Approval of Minutes:

A copy of the minutes from the previous meeting was emailed to each member. Mr. McKay made a motion to approve the minutes as presented without reading. Chief Hawkins seconded the motion and it carried without opposition.

Old Business

Request for Approval of In-Service Training:

1. V-ACADEMY Online Training, 200 + hours consisting of 1 to 4 hour courses.
2. New Chief’s Training, 31 hours; Police Chief’s Association.
3. 3rd Annual One Loud Voice - A Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Child Abuse Conference, 12 hours; April 13-14, 2016.
4. New Officer Community Engagement, 8 hours; Non-Physical Engagement Arrest Techniques, 8 hours; Basic and Situational Report Writing 102, 8 hours; Institute for Criminal Justice Education and Training, Juan Cloy.
5. Preventing the Escape, the Tactical Movement of the Prisoner, 8 hours; Central Christian College, Jim Reeves.

Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the proposed training programs. Mr. McKay seconded the motion and it carried without opposition.

New Business

Request to change Accreditation of the Greater Jackson County Law Enforcement Training Consortium:

Chief Mark Dunston of the Ocean Springs P.D. contacted the staff with a request to transfer the control of the Greater Jackson County Law Enforcement Training Consortium to the Jackson County Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff Ezell of Jackson County made an official request to exchange the directorship of this academy from the Ocean Springs PD to the Jackson County

Sheriff's Department. He stated that the S.O. has partnered with the Ocean Springs PD since the inception of the academy to instruct and administer the academy.

If this action is approved, the only change would be that the Sheriff's Department would hold the academy accreditation and would administer the program with the assistance from their partners that are already involved with the academy. He also would like to rename the academy. The new name would be the "Jackson County Sheriff's Department Law Enforcement Officer's Training Academy".

Chief Hawkins made a motion to grant the academy accreditation to the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Chief Gammage seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Discuss Court Ruling on Physical Fitness Requirement during Training:

The Board reviewed a ruling handed down by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit on January 11, 2016 dealing with physical fitness. This case involved a situation that the Board has dealt with on many occasions. In this case, an FBI recruit failed out of the academy after falling one push-up short of the thirty required of male trainees. He filed a civil action, alleging that the FBI had discriminated against him on the basis of sex, in that female trainees were required to complete only fourteen push-ups. The district court found in favor of the recruit. This decision was appealed by the U.S. Attorney General and it was vacated and remanded.

Discuss New Constable Training:

The two week course required for new uncertified Constable's will need updating since that training was based on the Refresher Course. With the changes made to the refresher course, there will be a change in the hours. After comparing the curriculum, it was determined that the new refresher course would provide 66 hours of training instead of 72. The Constables Association provides 8 additional hours of training on the duties of a constable and service of process.

The Board agreed that there was no need in adding additional courses to raise the number of hours back to 72 since the Constables will receive additional training at their conference. The law doesn't specify that the training be 80 hours.

Dr. Mallory made a motion to adopt the 66 hour curriculum with the additional 8 hours from the Association. Mr. McKay seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Certification of Officers:

Director Davis presented 2 F/T basic academy classes and 3 P/T academy classes for certification pending completion of all requirements. A list of 17 F/T equivalency candidates, and 10 P/T

equivalency candidate was presented for certification pending completion of all requirements. Chief Gammage made a motion to approve the academy classes and equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements and Sheriff Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

The third part-time academy that was added today for class approval is Northeast MS CC. We plan to place them on probation for failure to follow policy concerning reporting deadlines.

Director's Report:

The Board discussed the problem with agencies not providing documentation to the Board in a timely manner. The most common problem is agencies hiring officers and not sending their application requesting certification within the 30 day time line. Many times this leads agencies to work officer with lapsed certificates, which could results in liability issues with the cases that the officer handles. It was suggested that the Board consider proposing legislation to have an investigative position with authority to take action when agencies are not in compliance.

Mr. Davis reported that 234 new officers were trained from July to December, 2015. Of that number 39 were self-sponsored. Their were 44 officers completing the refresher course.

Also it was reported that from December to current, there have been 79 full-time officers and 19 part-time officers hired statewide. During that same period, we have received 124 full-time and 39 part-time terminations.

All academies have been re-accredited beginning in January, there are 7 full-time academies and 14 part-time academies.

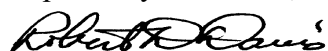
Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting was set for March10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Planning building, 1025 Northpark Dr., Ridgeland, MS.

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

Sheriff McGee made a motion to adjourn, the motion received a second from Mr. McKay. The motion carried without opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement
Officer Standards and Training