

MINUTES
BLEOST MEETING
March 10, 2016

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chairman Snyder.

Roll Call:

Chairman Snyder 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
Sheriff Billy McGee
Constable Glenn McKay
Ms. Leslie Scott
Mr. Ed Snyder

Board members not present were:

Maj. Thomas Tuggle
Mayor Gary Rhoads

Mr. James Dale, Board Counsel

Staff members present were:

Mrs. Bebea Boney
Mr. Robert Davis
Mr. Bob Morgan
Mr. Michael Nash
Mrs. Donna Rogers
Mrs. Tonya Whitehead

Speakers/guests present were:

Dr. Julian Allen, USM
Ms. Jayne Causey, SMCC
Commander Herman Horton, Jackson P.D.
Director Richard Lawrence, Rankin Co. S.O. - Legal
Director Clint McMurry, Columbia Law Enforcement Academy
Captain Todd Stewart, Director SRPSI
Director Amy Vanderford, MDCCLETA
Deputy Chief Joseph Wade, Jackson P.D.

Introductory Remarks:

The guests introduced themselves and they were welcomed by Mr. Snyder. The new Colonel at MHP has designated Major Tuggle as his representative on the Board. It was also noted that vacancies exist on the Board and other terms were about to expire. The appointment director for the Governor has been contacted about these vacancies.

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. Dr. Mallory seconded the motion and it carried without opposition.

Old Business

Request for Approval of In-Service Training:

1. Interviewing and Interrogation, 17.5 hrs.; Advanced Interviewing and Interrogation, 6 hrs.; John E. Reid and Associates - The Reid Technique; Requested by Rankin Co.
2. Bleeding Control Class (self administration tactics), 2 - 2.5 hrs; Todd Mitchell EMS.
3. Autism Training for First Responders (ALEC Program), 3 hours; The Arc Northwest MS.
4. L.E. Training Seminar, 4 hours; 22nd Circuit Court District.
5. O.C. Spray Certification Course, 2 hours; H.L. Brinkley - Instructor
6. Crisis Intervention, 27 hours, CJ Caufield - Instructor

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

New Business

Request for Reaccreditation of the Southwest Mississippi Regional Training Academy (Sponsored by Adams Co. S.O.):

The Adams Co. S.O. requested that their training facility be reaccredited as a Part-time Training Academy. For several years, this department operated the Southwest Mississippi Regional Training Academy, but in recent years it has been inactive. New Sheriff Travis Patten has had requests from surrounding areas to start operating the academy again. He has a desire to offer training for the part-time officer as well as in-service training. A training facility in this part of the state will be very beneficial to meet training needs.

Training Director Michael Nash visited his facilities and has determined that all procedures are in place to begin operating a part-time academy. Chief Gammage made a motion to grant accreditation to the Adams Co. S.O. for the Southwest Mississippi Regional Training Academy. Chief Hawkins seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Presentation from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (Bob Morgan):

Bob Morgan made a presentation on the progress of the Accreditation Commission. He reminded the Board that they created this commission in 2004. He presented the Board with handouts with further information about the Commission. He stated that 23 states have developed a State Accreditation Program. We now have 140 standards that have to be met for State Accreditation. There are 27 agencies in the state that have achieved State Accreditation with 5 to 6 other agencies working toward that goal. Nine agencies have gone further and achieved National Accreditation. Several in attendance reported on their experiences with the Accreditation Program and how pleased they were.

Line of Duty Deaths 2015 - Law Enforcement Monument:

Six officers were killed in the line of duty during 2015.

John B. Gorman - EOW - 1/21/15 Gaming Commission

Johnny E. Gatson - EOW - 3/10/15 Warren Co. S.O.

Josie Wells - EOW - 3/10/15 U.S. Marshals Service

Benjamin J. Deen - EOW - 5/9/15 Hattiesburg P.D.

Liquori T. Tate -EOW - 5/9/15 Hattiesburg P.D.

Iris J. Smith - EOW - 5/25/15 Department of Corrections

Our law states that federal officers that die in the line of duty that are assigned to our state are eligible to be listed on the state monument. Also officers with the Department of Corrections are eligible.

Mr. McKay made a motion to have the listed name engraved on the monument. Chief Barnett seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Review Legislation:

The Board reviewed and discussed bills that had been introduced this session that would effect the Board. Most of the bills died in committee. The one active bill, SB 2362, would move the Board's funds from a special fund to the general fund. This bill will be monitored and discussed at the next meeting.

Certification of Officers:

Director Davis presented 3 F/T basic academy classes and 1 P/T academy class for certification pending completion of all requirements. A list of 35 F/T equivalency candidates, and 8 P/T equivalency candidate was presented for certification pending completion of all requirements. Sheriff McGee made a motion to approve the academy 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:

The Board was presented with a CD that contained the new full-time, part-time and refresher curriculum. There have been no complaints so far concern the new curriculum. It was noted that officers needing the refresher course that drop in and take the refresher during a basic course would actually receive many more hours of training than those that attend the few classes that are available that offer the straight 120 hour course.

Mr. Davis reported that from mid January to March 8th, the staff has processed 433 new applications requesting certification and 325 terminations. This number is a large increase over normal activity, but is mainly due to 16 new sheriffs taking office.

It was reported to the staff that the Towns of DeKalb and Bassfield discontinued their police departments and were entering into an agreement with their Sheriff's departments to provide law enforcement services.

The staff wants to look at the Updating of Skills requirement to be sure that those needing this training are receiving the same training regardless of the academy they choose to use.

Mr. Davis asked for feedback about changing the law to allow the staff to reimburse the academies for the cost of tuition instead of reimbursing the agencies individually.

There are still some policies that need to be reviewed for updating, the staff will continue to work on these updates.

Different scenarios concerning officer behavior were presented to the Board to get their opinion on how the staff should respond to certain situations. Some of the remarks concerned a mayor trying to run a police department and the Board gave the opinion that a chief not following a mayor's instruction was not insubordination that should affect his law enforcement certification.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting was set for May, 2016, but the exact date will not be determined until after the law enforcement memorial dates are set.

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

Sheriff McGee made a motion to adjourn, the motion received a second from Chief Hawkins. The motion carried without opposition and the meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement
Officer Standards and Training