

MINUTES

BLEOST MEETING
July 13, 2017

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chairman Barnett.

Roll Call:

Chairman Barnett 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. James Dale, Board Counsel

Board members not present were:

Hon. Michael Guest
Assistant Chief Ray Hawkins
Mayor Gary Rhoads

Staff members present were:

Mrs. Bebea Boney
Mr. Robert Davis
Ms. Geneva Hill
Mr. Bob Morgan
Mrs. Donna Rogers

Speakers/guests present were:

Director Clint McMurry, Columbia LE Training Academy
Lt. Brian Brown, NMLETC
Ex. Director Ken Winter, MACP
Director Amy Vanderford, MDCCLETA
Sgt. Bradley Wilkins, SRPSI
Major Louis Elias, HCLETA
Trooper Gary Seale, MHP
Chief Luke Thompson, Byram P.D.

Chief Joey East, Oxford P.D.
Commander Herman Horton, JPD
Sheriff K.C. Hamp, Tunica Co.
Lt. Col. Thomas Tuggle, MLEOTA

Introductory Remarks:

The guests introduced themselves and they were welcomed by Chairman Barnett. Captain Lori Travis is the new board member serving as the designee for the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Captain Travis is in her 24th year of service with MHP and has served in enforcement, as an instructor for 12 years, in MBI, and as MHP Training Director. She currently is assigned to accreditation.

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 with a second from Dr. Mallory. The motion carried without opposition.

Old Business

Request for Approval of In-Service Training:

1. National Highway Traffic Administration - Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program; 24 hours.
2. 2017 Trauma Informed Conference - Dept. Of Mental Health - Law Enforcement and First Responder's Track; 7 hours.
3. Elite Training Specialists, Inc. (Garry Welch) - VIP Executive Protection Specialist Course; 32 hours - Tactical Knife Fighting and Knife Defense; 8 hours - Tactical Operations Causality Care; 8 hours - Tactical Rifle/Carbine Basic Course; 16 hours - Tactical Shotgun Basic Course; 8 hours.

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

Discuss Proposed Changes for Chapter 8: Certification Based on Equivalency of Training and Refresher Training - Final Vote to Adopt; Discuss Changes to Refresher Course - Final Vote to Adopt; Discuss Start Date of Changes; Reimbursement:

The proposed changes to Chapter 8 were approved at the last meeting to be posted with the Secretary of State with the intent to adopt. The Board, at their last meeting, recommended that the Chief's Association and the Sheriff's Association review these proposed changes.

The proposed changes were presented for a final vote. The changes were reviewed and discussed. Representatives from the Chief's Association stated that they were in agreement with most of the changes, but were not in favor of repeating the full academy after a 10 year break in

service. They felt that by adding a physical fitness requirement and additional training to the Refresher Course, it was not necessary to require a former officer that has completed the full-time basic academy to repeat the entire course.

After other discussion, Dr. Mallory made a motion to adopt the proposed changes. The motion died for a lack of a second.

The Board recommended that the staff make the necessary changes to the proposal and bring this back to the Board. This would include proposing changes to the Refresher Course that would provide officers that have been out of service for over 5 years the skills necessary to perform the job.

Discuss Full-Time Accreditation for Columbia Law Enforcement Training Academy:

At the last meeting, the Board voted to table for further study the proposal to approve full-time accreditation for the Columbia Law Enforcement Training Academy.

Director McMurry stated that he has met all standards set by the Board and is requesting full-time accreditation as an alternative training site for his corner of the State. He had many letters of support from Sheriffs in that area.

Board members reviewed the number of cadets trained over the State in the past few years as well as the impact that the opening of the Harrison Co. L.E. Academy had on SRPSI. Vice President for External Affairs at USM, Chad Driskell sent a letter asking the Board to carefully study demand and market territory as a part of this process. He stated that USM is a publicly supported university and he would question why a profit group would be allowed to compete against a public entity in the wake of tough budgets all around. He further stated that approval of more competition may impair SRPSI's ability to train.

Several comments were made concerning the need for additional training academies. Members commented, "if the current number of academies meet the need, then there is no need for another academy" and "does the Board have to approve every request or look at the need".

Chief Gammage made a motion to deny this request for academy accreditation. Captain Travis seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

Discuss Basic Law Enforcement Officer Training Needs Assessment from MS Association of Chief of Police:

Director Ken Winter of the Chief's Association stated that his group sent out a basic training needs assessment to chiefs and sheriffs. He stated that the number one issue was verbal communications. He stated that he heard over and over again that when officers come back from the academies that they don't know how to talk to the public and communicate in a way that's acceptable in this profession. Some chiefs say that they have to retrain them in some of these areas. This survey was done just to see if there were areas of training that needed improving. He said that officers need to be better grounded in critical thinking skills. He stated that the goal of training is for the officer to retain the knowledge and be able to apply it in the field. He referred to the survey report stating that adult learning best occurs when the instruction includes a variety

of deliveries including lecture, small group exercises, case studies, role playing, and videos. Trainers should avoid placing officers in a training setting as passive recipients of facts only.

The Association recommends that the Board incorporate a complete verbal communications program into basic training, provide funding for a pilot instructor's program, develop training programs and testing that teach and evaluate a basic training student's ability to apply critical thinking and decision making to potential scenarios that will be encountered on the street, and liaison with our state's universities for the development of critical thinking and decision making evaluations for basic training courses.

After discussing this issue, Sheriff Johnson made a motion to have the Curriculum Committee review and discuss the recommendations in the presented report. Mr. Swetman seconded the motion and it passed without opposition.

New Business

Discuss VA Law Enforcement Training Center:

A Municipal Police Department is requesting the Board to consider the VA Basic Police Officer Course equivalent to our basic training. Several years ago this training was ruled as not equivalent.

The course is 320 hours in duration and approximately one-fourth of the course length is devoted to interpersonal skills in dealing with situations involving people with diminished capacity.

The course is offered in Arkansas. The Arkansas POST requires officers who have completed the VA course that seek certification in Arkansas to complete their full academy.

Sheriff Johnson made a motion not to accept this course as equivalent and it was seconded by Mr. Swetman. The motion passed without opposition.

Certification of Officers:

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

Director Davis advised the Board that legislation was created to be sent through the channels to hire an investigator. Recent cases were presented to the Board to show the need for an investigator.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next meeting was set for September 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Planning Building .

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. Dr. Mallory made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Sheriff Johnson, no opposition.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement
Officer Standards and Training

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