



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Municipal Police Training Academy

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Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police

Lieutenant Scott N. Raynes
Executive Director
Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training
Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2015

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Anthony Pesare called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 9:33 a.m. on **May 7, 2015**.

Chief Pesare asked Donna Lavallee to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Edward Mello, Mr. Shaun Brown, and Chief David Palmer. Absent from the meeting today is Colonel Steven O'Donnell and he has appointed Captain Joseph Philbin as his designee. Also present were Lieutenant Scott Raynes, David Ricciarelli, Mr. Richard B. Woolley, and Donna Lavallee.

2. Approval of the minutes

Chief Pesare asked for approval of the minutes from the last meetings dated February 25, 2015. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2015; Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, the motion carries.

3. Request from Chief Wetherall, CCRI PD, for a waiver of the 3-year rule for (ret) Captain Michael J. Higgins

Chief Pesare stated that after a review of all the records, he does not feel a waiver is needed. Lt. Raynes explained that he retired in 2010 from Warwick PD and from 2010-2013, he worked as a Special Police Officer for E. Greenwich PD. The Town of East Greenwich requires that all "specials" receive all of the training that a regular police officer receives. Therefore, there was no break in service. Chief Pesare instructed Lt. Raynes to advise Chief Wetherell that a waiver is not required.

4. Review of the American Red Cross Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers curriculum for POST Certification

Dave Ricciarelli explained that he has reviewed this curriculum and it is a great program; however, is it in the POST best interest to support vendor programs? Lt. Raynes stated his concern is that approval of this would open Pandora's Box as we are already receiving calls from vendors to approve their programs. Chief Mello asked why they are seeking POST certification and Dave Ricciarelli explained it has a lot to do with meeting the accreditation standards. Chief Mello stated that the POST should

not take any further action on these vendor requests. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the American Red Cross Curriculum and Chief Palmer seconded the motion. After a roll call vote of 0-5, the motion was defeated.

Lieutenant Raynes asked if we can vote to alleviate any further inquiries. Chief Pesare made a motion that in the future, the POST does not certify vendors who charge a fee for their services. Chief Mello seconded the motion. Chief Pesare then withdrew his motion and second by Chief Mello. Chief Mello then made a motion that any vendor curriculum request be required to make their written request to the POST directly. Chief Palmer asked if they should add in the request why they want the certification. Chief Mello suggested looking at the curriculum to see if we want to adopt anything from it. Mr. Brown stated he has concerns with certifying outside vendors and Lt. Raynes agreed, stating that there is no benefit to the Academy. Chief Palmer made a motion to certify the curriculum, not the vendors. Chief Pesare seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, motion passes.

5. Discussion of Cooper Standards/50 percentile

Lieutenant Raynes explained that he brought this up at the Chief's meeting a few meetings ago. Our entrance standards currently are the Cooper Standards 40th percentile and he feels it is a disservice to the Academy and the Police Departments. Captain Philbin stated that the RISP use the 50 percentile and translates to a better Academy. Lt. Raynes stated he went back three classes and if we were using the 50 percentile standards, we would have lost 3, 5 and 3 recruits, respectively. Chief Mello raised the questions that if we raised it to 50% and Providence uses 40% and we certify their Academy, would that be a problem. Lieutenant Raynes replied that we actually certify their curriculum, not their entrance standards. Chief Mello asked that he hear the discussion on Item 6 (Statewide P/T test) before voting on this item.

6. Update on Statewide P/T testing update

Lieutenant Raynes stated that he has been receiving requests from chiefs for several years regarding a statewide P/T test. Right now, some preliminary research has been done and a fee is being proposed to anyone taking the P/T test. There would be two tests per year, one in January and one in July. The certification would be good for one year. He is working on an on-line registration, pamphlet, etc. Chief Palmer stated he strongly believes in this testing process. Chief Mello states a number of oppositions present itself in both items. Mr. Woolley suggests that the fees could present a problem because he doesn't know if the POST has the authority to impose fees. Chief Mello asked if it would be feasible to do the 40 percentile at the initial P/T testing and then raise it to the 50 percentile at the Academy P/T testing. He also asked about the feasibility about running the testing under the RIPCA? Perhaps they can incur some of the fees. He sees this as a priority and maybe we can commit more effort from the RIPCA. He said he wants to continue to work on it and if an Executive Director is appointed soon, this should be a priority. It was the general consensus to continue to work on this Statewide P/T testing.

Back to Agenda Item 5, Lieutenant Raynes he will table the 50 percentile Cooper standards as he feels it is more important to work on the Statewide testing. Chief Pesare asked Mr. Woolley to check the state statute regarding charging a fee for the testing.

7. Certification of Cranston PD SWAT Team

Lieutenant Raynes stated that on April 27, 2015 , members of the Rhode Island Tactical Officers Association (RITOA) met with the Cranston PD SWAT team and have recommended re-certification. The Cranston PD SWAT team has met all of the requirements for re-certification. Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the Cranston PD SWAT Team for re-certification; Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion passes. (Mr. Brown excused himself to take a business call).

8. Request for Approval of Firearms Qualification Courses

- Barrington PD
- Central Falls PD
- E. Greenwich PD
- Newport PD
- Rhode Island Airport Corporation
- Rhode Island Department of Corrections
- Smithfield PD
- South Kingstown PD
- W. Greenwich PD

Lieutenant Raynes stated that he, along with Captain Phil Gould, our Lead Firearms Instructor, reviewed the Firearms qualification courses for the above departments and they have met all of the requirements and therefore, he is recommending approval.

Chief Pesare made a motion to approve all of the above-named Firearms Qualification Courses; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

9. Certification of Academy Instructors:

- Det. Steven Gabriele – Coventry PD – Firearms Instructor

Lieutenant Raynes read a short bio on Detective Gabriele. Chief Pesare made a motion to certify Detective Gabriele for the Firearms Instruction; Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

10. Update on Continuing Education

Captain Ricciarelli gave an update on the current in-service training calendar and a preview of a few trainings on the schedule for the remainder of the year.

11. Adjournment

Chief Mello made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 5-0, (Mr. Brown returned to meeting) meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna M. Lavalley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant