



# **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

**August 18, 2016**

#### **1. Welcome and Roll Call**

**Chief Anthony Pesare** called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:00 a.m. on **August 18, 2016**.

Chief Pesare asked Donna Lavallee to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Palmer, and LTC Todd Catlow as appointed designee for Colonel Steven O'Donnell. Members absent are Chief Edward Mello and Mr. Shawn Brown. A quorum has been met. Also present were, Captain Ann Assumpico, Lieutenant Scott Raynes, David Ricciarelli, Susan Urso Esq., Mr. Paul Andrews, Esq., Paul Dutra, Donna Lavallee, R.I. Police Chief's Association Executive Director Chief Sydney Wordell (ret), Lt. Michael Chalek, URI Police Department, (ret) Captain Joseph Coffey (Warwick PD) and Cheryl Watson of Gateway Health.

#### **2. Approval of the minutes**

Chief Pesare asked for approval of the minutes from the last meetings dated June 9, 2016. Chief Palmer made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2016; LTC Catlow seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, the motion carries.

Chair Pesare made a motion to table Agenda items 3 & 4 until later in the meeting. LTC Catlow seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries

#### **5. Request for Certification of the West Warwick/Coventry Swat Team**

Lieutenant Raynes stated that members of the Rhode Island Tactical Officers Association have requested approval of re-certification for the West Warwick/Coventry SWAT team. Upon their review, they have met all of the requirements for re-certification. Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the request of re-certification of the West Warwick/Coventry SWAT team; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

#### **6. Request for certification of the Warwick PD Law Enforcement Sniper School**

Lt. Raynes stated that he has received a request from the Warwick PD for the POST certification of their Law Enforcement Sniper School. Warwick is in need to certify law enforcement snipers. This course is more for the senior members of the SWAT

team as it is an advanced course and requires their top shooters. Lieutenant Raynes has reviewed the course and its material and curriculum and has compared it to NESPAC and the FBI curriculum and this course has covered all the basics. The lead instructor will be Officer Dale Drowne, Warwick PD. Off. Drowne is one of the most experienced instructors in the state. The other instructor will be Normand Houle, Special Forces Member. Given his background and experience, he is considered a world class shooter. Lieutenant Raynes is recommending POST Certification of this course. LTC Catlow asked if this is a first time approving a Sniper School and Lt. Raynes replied yes. Chief Pesare asked if the snipers would be Warwick officers and Lt. Raynes replied yes, they would be part of the SWAT team. The School will be held in Vermont and will be 40 hours. LTC Catlow stated that other than comparing the curriculum, did he compare the instructors. Lt. Raynes replied that Officer Drowne has even more experience than the instructors at NESPAC. Paul Andrews asked about insurance while they are in the school. Paul Dutra responded stating that if the school is coordinated by the department officially, the insurance would follow the officers to Vermont. As for the individual contractor, he recommends that he have evidence of his own insurance. Chief Pesare asked Lt. Raynes to check with Warwick PD to be sure Mr. Houle has insurance coverage. LTC Catlow made a motion to approve certification of the Warwick PD Law Enforcement Sniper School; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

**7. Request for certification of Officer David F. Dolan, Pawtucket PD, as a Use of Force Instructor**

Lt. Raynes is recommending approval of Officer David F. Dolan as a Use of Force Instructor. Officer Dolan is LOCKUP Certified. Chief Pesare made a motion to approve certification of David F. Dolan as an Academy Instructor; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

**8. Request for approval of Firearms Qualification Courses**

Lieutenant Raynes explained the following Firearms Qualification Courses have all been reviewed by himself and Detective Glenn Cipalone, Cranston PD, and are all recommended for approval.

Department of Correction: Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the Department of Corrections Firearms Qualification Course; LTC Catlow seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

East Providence P.D.: Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the East Providence PD Firearms Qualification Course; LTC Catlow seconded the motion, With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

Charlestown PD: Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the Charlestown PD Firearms Qualification Course; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

Glocester PD: Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the Glocester PD Patrol Rifle Qualifications Course; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

Johnston PD: Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the Johnston PD Firearms Qualification Course; LTC seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

Middletown PD: LTC Catlow made a motion to approve the Middletown PD Pistol Qualification Course; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor 2-0, motion carries. (Chief Pesare abstained from the vote)

### **3. Discussion on the Mental Health First Aid mandated Training (Chapter 42-28.2 of the General laws)**

Chief Pesare explained that all Police Chiefs received a letter from the legislation requiring recruit and in-service training for Mental Health.

(ret) Captain Joseph Coffey introduced Cheryl Watson of Gateway. He stated that he is working on the national level. He suggested that the cost should be weighed heavily. He outlined briefly that in 2008, he co-authored the curriculum. In 2014, the program was fully adopted. The full certification process includes registration, certification and a manual. Re-certification is web-based every 3 years. Field training is included.

Captain Assumpico stated that the RISP has two certified troopers and asked that when they teach, do they need a clinician in class? Captain Coffey responded that the law requires a clinician to be part of the training for the following reasons:

- Builds relationships with the officers
- Gives the instructor some relief
- Proven successful
- Clinician can be free if this is during their work day

Cheryl stated that the training cost about \$500/per training session. The trainings can be broken up into two blocks and held at any time or day. Captain Assumpico asked if there is tracking for this and Captain Coffey said no personal officer information is input. Sue Urso stated that after reviewing the RIGL, this is mandated training. Captain Assumpico asked if other companies could come forward. Captain Coffey responded that anyone that's certified can train. You would have to find a class (one was just held in NYC). The cost is approximately \$2,000.00 per person. Chris Fernandes, Warwick PD, was looking for a course for certification but was deployed before he could attend. Captain Coffey offered to continue training the recruit candidates pro-bono. Chief Palmer asked if it would be cost efficient to send an officer to become certified and Captain Coffey suggested that Gateway may be holding a class. Lieutenant Raynes suggested that the manual be sent to CCRI and become part of the recruit bookstore purchase. Chief Pesare added that we are required to establish a training committee to review and refine the curriculum. He will sit on it and asked Captain Coffey and Cheryl Watson to assist in an advisory position. They both accepted and agreed to assist. Captain Coffey recommended a community-based advocate be part of the committee as well. Chief Palmer recommended Melissa and

Dennis Leahey, as they have been instrumental as CIT instructors. Chief Pesare made a motion to form the committee to review the Mental Health curriculum and make training recommendations; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries. Under discussion, Chief Wordell stated that he doesn't believe there is any timetable on this. He doesn't know how long the process will take and when the in-service training will be 100% compliant. Chief Pesare stated he has no idea either but wants to do it right and be ahead of the curve. Chief Palmer suggested contact Melissa Leahey.

#### **4. Psychological Testing Standards discussion**

Chief Pesare stated that Lt. Chalek is present to represent URI. Lt. Chalek stated that about 2-3 years ago, Dr. Gallagher attended a Police Chief's meeting and stated that could be the end of the URI Testing Services, due to funding. That would have left law enforcement in a bad situation. Because of its deficit, they were looking to possibly close down these services. He added that they are funded now and re-iterated how helpful and cooperative Dr. Gallagher is. His opinion is that if this policy is adopted, URI Testing Services is the only one to meet the qualifications and he suggests and strongly recommends that the URI Testing Services be the sole provider.

Chief Pesare thanked him for his input and added that this has never been about Dr. Gallagher or the testing services. This is about having qualified people administer the examination. In fact, Dr. Gallagher has been more than helpful in putting the policy together. He asked Legal Counsel to review the policy prior to today's meeting and asked her input. Sue Urso stated she reviewed the policy and based on RI Laws, it is the POST discretion to come up with a policy. From a legal standpoint, the policy is sound. Chief Palmer added that Dr. Gallagher is very accommodating; however, if police chiefs had other outlets, her burden wouldn't be so bad and the departments would have the ability choose someone else. LTC Catlow added that Dr. Gallagher has been very co-operative, especially when there are multiple agencies looking for testing at the same time. Given this fact, her schedule can be tight and it would be a good idea to have an alternative source.

Chief Pesare made a motion that the Psychological Testing Policy, as written, be passed but not to be effective until July 1, 2017. The staff will develop criteria for the certification of examiners to meet the new policy. LTC Catlow asked if there would be any issues that would prevent Dr. Gallagher to qualify. Chief Pesare responded no, she actually helped him develop the guidelines. Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

#### **9. Update Continuing Education**

Captain Ricciarelli reviewed the upcoming Training Schedule and some of the trainings that are planned for the upcoming year. He has visited some other training venues as well and will be planning some continuing education training at different sites around the state. He stated that he met with Paul Dutra of the Trust and went over statistics and where training could be of help.

#### **10. Update on Class 2016-II**

Lieutenant Raynes informed the members that the Class is in Week 5. There were 56 recruits on Day One and the class now consists of 52. The four that left did so of their

own accord. He thanked Middletown PD and Newport PD for graciously supplying us with two CTO's for this class due to the class size.

Chief Pesare asked if there was any other business. Paul Dutra thanked David Ricciarelli for meeting with him this week. They defined some core issues that in-service training could be helpful in reducing risk to the communities. He further stated that in 2004, there was an initiative to create a model Use of Force Policy. This was opened up to all law enforcement in R.I. In 2012, the policy was updated and brought to the POST to recognize that the model policy was representative of best practices.

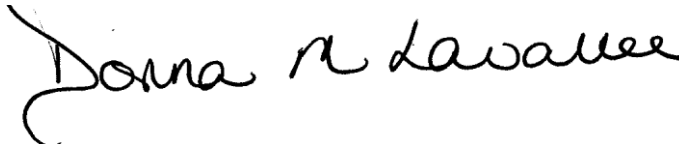
Updates are now in order with some recommendations from IACP, CALEA, etc. Letters will go out on September 1 to all agencies to join the Trust beginning September 15<sup>th</sup> for an introductory meeting at the Warwick PD. There will be an agenda every two weeks and by the end of the year, the Trust should have an updated policy and hope to bring it to the POST after the first of the year.

Chief Pesare then thanked Chief Wordell for attending the meeting. Chief Wordell stated that he is hoping to spend more time with the legislatures in order to have significant input when legislations that reduces police discretion is considered. He is hoping in his capacity as Executive Director to bring to the Chiefs what needs to be prioritized.

#### **11. Adjournment:**

Chief Pesare made a motion at 11:30 a.m. to adjourn the POST meeting; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, the motion carries and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna M. Lavalley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna M. Lavalley  
Administrative Assistant