



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

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Colonel Ann C. Assumpico
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Director, Department of Public Safety

Lieutenant Scott N. Raynes
Executive Director
Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2017

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 **May 11, 2017**.

Chief Pesare asked Donna Lavallee to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Palmer, and Colonel Ann C. Assumpico. Mr. Brown and Chief Mello were absent. A quorum has been met. Also present were, Captain Darnell Weaver, RISP; 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; Director Stephen Baker, Major Jagoda, Paul Ricci; Chief Paul King, Major Tina Goncalves, Lt. Driscoll; Chief Josue Canario, Capt. Scott McNally.

2. Discussion/Approval of minutes:

Chief Pesare asked for approval of the minutes from the last meetings dated February 23, 2017. Chief Palmer made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 23, 2017; Chief Pesare seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, the motion carries.

3. Approval for an exception to the "Three-Year Rule" for Paul L. Ricci, University of Rhode Island

Chief Pesare stated that the POST received a letter from Director Baker requesting a waiver of the three-year rule for Paul Ricci. He then asked Director Baker to state his case.

Director Baker explained that Paul Ricci is a 20-year veteran of the North Providence PD, where he retired in February, 2013 as Captain. He was hired immediately upon retirement by URI, as a civilian as head of Information Technology. In his position, he has worked very closely with the Police Department and has received numerous trainings. He is also part of the Accreditation Department, moving forward toward State Accreditation. Chief Palmer attested that he worked with Paul in North Providence and has nothing but praise for him.

Chief Palmer made a motion to grant Paul L. Ricci the exception to the "Three Year Rule"; Colonel Assumpico seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

4. Appeal of the dismissal of Recruits Sherwayne Jones (Pawtucket PD) and Waldorf Pognon (Bristol PD)

Lt. Raynes explained that both Recruits Jones and Pognon have failed the Basic Water Rescue program. Lt. Raynes then went into great detail reviewing the Basic Water Program. It is a 10 hour program, consisting of give 2-hour classes at the pool at CCRI. No changes have been made in the curriculum since 2005 when the current instructors (Shawn Turcotte and Bob Hart/Warwick PD) took it over. He then reviewed the exact timeline of what occurred with both recruits during their time in the water. As it stands now, they have both failed the skill of treading water for 10 minutes. Lt. Raynes stated that it is his opinion that if a re-test is approved, it would be a disservice to everyone who passed initially and discredits the Academy and its standards. He feels the line must be drawn. He further explained that both recruits have received the assistance of Sgt. A.J. Barth, Middletown PD, and Recruit Wyrostek of Barrington PD on weekends. He stated that there is no doubt that both recruits would go into the water to help someone but what would happen is the question.

Chief Pesare stated he wasn't aware that Sgt. Barth had assisted but he feels comfortable to proceed. He re-confirmed that both have passed the practical but not the skill of treading water. Chief Palmer asked if 10 minutes is adequate or does the standard need to be re-visited. Captain Ricciarelli explained that initially it was 3 minutes but increased due to the American Heart Association to 10 minutes. Steve Branch (former instructor) brought that change so the recruits would have the necessary techniques. Captain Weaver added that the RISP's requirements are 10 minutes as well. Chief Pesare stated that this is a "survival skill" and that he feels the Academy has gone above and beyond to assist them both. He then asked both Chiefs to address the POST with their requests.

Chief King complimented the staff on the ton of work they have done with the recruits. He stated the staff has gone above and beyond. He feels it is more a mental issue and he is looking for more time up until graduation to have his recruit work on this. He is hoping to break the mental block he has for the water. Chief Pesare asked Chief King if he is asking that he re-take the skills portion before graduation and Chief King responded yes.

Chief Canario also thanked the staff and said there is no doubt that they have been more than helpful. He said this issue is close to his heart due to losing Recruit Jean-Georges and his community being surrounded by water. But it is a bitter pill to swallow as we are in Week 17 and he has a lot invested at this point. He further explained that he has a friend that is a retired Admiral in the Navy and he has been meeting Recruit Pognon daily and was told that he can now tread water for 6-8 minutes. His appeal to the POST is that he is looking for more time until graduation to be re-tested. He stated he disagrees with Lt. Raynes that this is unlike a technique like Firearms or Use of Force. He feels it can be done. He then asked if the Chief or his designee could be present at the test-out and asked what happens if he doesn't pass. Chief Pesare stated that issue will not be addressed at this meeting as it is not on the agenda.

Chief Palmer stated that his gut feeling is that 1 or both will fail because of the time limit but he is leaning towards granting the appeal. He asked if Bristol would assist the Pawtucket recruit with his training. Chief Canario stated he will personally agree to help the Pawtucket Officer as well. Chief Palmer added that both sound like they would be good officers and it is a very difficult decision because 17 weeks have already been invested. Chief Pesare asked Chief King if they've started any remedial and he replied yes, he's been in the pool approximately 10 times at the Boys Club and he wants him to work with a counselor as he believes it is more of a mental issue.

Chief Pesare made a motion that Recruit Jones of the Pawtucket PD be given one final chance to pass the swim portion of the curriculum at the discretion of the Academy staff and Lieutenant Raynes. Chief Palmer seconded the motion. It was put to a vote, 2 voted for the motion (Chief Pesare and Chief Palmer) and 1 nay vote (Colonel Assumpico). Motion carries, 2-1.

Chief Pesare made a motion that Recruit Pognon of the Bristol PD be given one final chance to pass the swim portion of the curriculum at the discretion of the Academy staff and Lieutenant Raynes. Chief Palmer seconded the motion. It was put to a vote, 2 votes for the motion (Chief Pesare and Chief Palmer) and 1 nay vote (Colonel Assumpico). Motion carries, 2-1.

Under the discussion, Chief Pesare added that this must be done by graduation and if either one does not pass, they do not pass the Academy. Colonel Assumpico thanked Lt. Raynes for the staff's work and relying on our guidelines and standards. Chief Pesare stated that he feels we should put this discussion on the next agenda as to whether the departments should be required to administer a swim test prior to entering the Academy. Captain Ricciarelli stated that the POST has entertained this subject several times but has only resulted in a letter to the departments advising them to prepared their recruits. Colonel Assumpico added that her concern is to how many chances does someone get? There should be some preparation prior to entering the Academy. Chief Wordell stated he feels this should open the door to review this practice and perhaps put a minimum requirement on swim and firearms.

Captain Weaver then asked what the test-out is going to be for Recruits Jones and Pognon and Lt. Raynes stated since they completed everything but treading water, it would only be that portion. Captain Weaver asked why not have them do the entire test like all the other recruits had to do. Colonel Assumpico asked legal counsel their thoughts. Sue Ursa replied that the POST has a lot of discretion and Paul Dutra said from a liability stand point, he understand Captain Weaver's point but it is at the discretion of the POST.

5. Psychological assessment credentialing – Application review

Captain Ricciarelli stated we have received an application from a Christopher J. Cunningham for the Psychological assessment and that it has met all the standards. Colonel Assumpico asked if a background check needed to be done and Dave replied no, not by the Academy. DOH vigorously vets their licensees.

Chief Pesare made a motion to certify Dr. Christopher J. Cunningham for Psychological Assessments as a person that can perform Psychological Evaluations for the Police Academy. Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

6. Approval of the Woonsocket SRT Team Re-Certification

Lt. Raynes stated that members of the Tacticals Officers Association have reviewed and recommended approval of the Woonsocket SRT Team for re-certification and he is recommending POST approval.

Chief Pesare made a motion to approve the request for Re-Certification of the Woonsocket SRT Team; Colonel Assumpico seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

7. Request for approval of Firearms Qualifications Courses

Lieutenant Raynes said he had numerous Firearms courses to present for certification. They have all been reviewed by himself and Captain Gould and he recommends approval.

- Central Falls Police Department
- Coventry Police Department
- Jamestown Police Department
- Johnston Police Department
- Little Compton Police Department
- Newport Police Department
- North Providence Police Department
- RI Department of Corrections
- Warwick Police Department
- Westerly Police Department

Chief Pesare made a motion to certify all the above Firearms courses and Colonel Assumpico seconded the motion. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

8. Update on Continuing Education

Captain Ricciarelli reviewed some trainings that were recently held as well as the upcoming trainings. He also outlined the “My Blue Line” training.

9. Update on Class 2017-I

Lt. Raynes stated that the current recruit class is in Week 18 and at Role Play. He explained a little about the workings of Role Play and how important it is and the staff keeps making it better with each class. Graduation is set for May 26th and the next class will begin in July.

Chief Pesare complimented the Academy staff on all of the innovative strides that have been made in the Curriculum such as role play, etc.

10. Adjournment:

Chief Pesare made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 am and Chief Palmer seconded the motion, With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

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