



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

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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

November 27, 2017

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Edward Mello called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:02 a.m. on **November 27, 2017**.

Chief Mello asked Donna Lavalley to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Edward Mello, Chief Palmer, Colonel Ann C. Assumpico and Mr. Shaun Brown. A quorum has been met. Also present were, Lt. Colonel Kevin Barry, Captain Darnell Weaver, RISP; Lieutenant Scott Raynes; David Ricciarelli; Susan Urso Esq.; Paul Dutra; Donna Lavalley; R.I. Police Chief's Association Executive Director Chief Sydney Wordell, Chief John Desmarais, Chief Brian Sullivan, Captain Michael Chalek and Captain Eric Dolan.

2. Discussion/Approval of minutes:

Chief Mello asked for approval of the minutes from the last meetings dated August 10, 2017. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 10, 2017; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, the motion carries.

3. Approval/Certification of the “West Warwick/Coventry SWAT Basic Operator’s Course”

Lieutenant Raynes explained the course and stated that it covers more policies due to the two departments. He stated that this course meets, and exceeds, all core competencies. Mr. Brown asked if the MOU has been approved by the elected officials. Lt. Raynes stated that they have been a regional team for 8 years. Paul Dutra added that this would fall under the “Emergency Mutual Aid” Statute, 45-42-1, and they would be covered anyway even without an MOU. Mr. Brown suggested that yes, the team would be covered but this item is looking for approval of a course, not a team; therefore, he would be more comfortable with the MOU.

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve and certify the West Warwick/Coventry SWAT Basic Operator’s Course subject to confirmation that the MOU has been signed by elected officials of the town(s). Chief Palmer seconded the motion and with all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

4. Review of the new Cooper Standards

David Ricciarelli reviewed the new Cooper Standards, which consists of a relatively minor change in the 1.5 mile run. The standards data should remain the same for 3-5 years. Lieutenant Raynes stated

that this change will be effective 7/1/18 and for the recruit class 2018-II. A letter with the new data chart will go out. Dave further stated that we will have a PFS/PFAB class in January and the tables will be reviewed.

5. Request for Instruction Certification

Lt. Raynes stated that we have some instructor's that have been added to our staff that need certification. All resumes and certifications are enclosed in the packets.

a.) Lt. Joseph Habershaw, RI Capitol Police – Shotgun

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve and certify Lt. Habershaw; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

b.) Off. Nicholas St. Lawrence, Newport PD – Shotgun

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve and certify Off. St. Lawrence; Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

c.) Off. Scott Slack – Pawtucket PD – Firearms

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve and certify Off. Slack; Colonel Assumpico seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries

d.) Off. Holly Barrett – Burrillville PD – Firearms

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve and certify Off. Barrett; Colonel Assumpico seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries

e.) Off. Benjamin Costa – Middletown PD – Mental Health First Aid

Chief Palmer made a motion to approve and certify Off. Costa; Colonel Assumpico seconded the motion. Mr. Brown recused himself from the vote. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

f.) Off. John Patterson – Middletown PD – Mental Health First Aid

Chief Palmer made a motion to approve and certify Off. Patterson; Colonel Assumpico seconded the motion. Mr. Brown recused himself from the vote. With all in favor, 3-0, motion carries.

g.) Off. Sean Rochette – Woonsocket PD – Building Searches

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve and certify Off. Rochette; Colonel Assumpico seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

6. Request for approval of Firearms Qualifications Courses

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

- Brown University Police Department
- East Greenwich Police Department
- East Providence Police Department
- North Kingstown Police Department

Mr. Brown a motion to certify the above Firearms courses and Chief Palmer seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

7. Status Review of Dr. Christopher Cunningham

Review and consider action regarding Dr. Cunningham as previously authorized to conduct "POST officer entry level psychological screening of police recruits. This discussion and/or action is the result of information regarding pending litigation against Dr. Cunningham.

Chief Mello stated that in May, 2017, the POST approved Dr. Cunningham to conduct pre-entry level psychological testing for police recruits. Dr. Cunningham is subject to civil litigation for misconduct as a priest. Based upon this information, Chief Mello suggest immediate suspension from his right to perform the testing. Currently, the Department of Health is reviewing his current license status.

Captain Chalek added that the URI Testing Service has upgraded its staff and technology so there is now a fast turnaround on the results. Chief Wordell stated that Chiefs have reached out who have used him or scheduled testing and asked what the recommendation is to them. Chief Mello suggested any certification already submitted to the Academy must be accepted. The suspension would be effective immediately as of today. Lt. Raynes stated that the Psychologicals are two-part and what if a department has had 1 part done but not the second. Chief Mello stated that he would suggest that if it is not in the Academy's hands signed by today, then it is not effective. If the report is not delivered to a specific Chief and signed and completed by today, then it shouldn't be accepted. Chief Mello suspects it would only affect about 10-12.

Chief Mello made a motion to suspend Dr. Cunningham's status effective immediately; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries. Lt. Raynes added that the POST will notify the Chiefs of this.

8. Academy Staff/Executive Director Staffing changes

Chief Mello asked Colonel Assumpico to address the Academy staff changes. Colonel Assumpico stated that there have been some changes and that Lt. Chris Zarrella will be the new Executive Director and asked him to introduce himself. Lt. Zarrella stated he looks forward to his new role at the Academy.

Chief Mello welcomed Lt. Zarrella and publicly thanked Lt. Scott Raynes. He stated that he values the relationship with the POST and the Police Chiefs and under his leadership and staff, the Academy has produced great recruits! He has been a good friend and a great Director. Chief Palmer echoed his sentiments and further stated that he commends him for always contacting the Chiefs to discuss recruits and their progress and applauded him for turning out great recruits. He always made

sure there was a direct line of communication and the Chiefs were always made aware of any happenings with their recruit candidates.

Chief Mello stated that the POST members are in a transition period. Currently there is one vacancy due to Chief Pesare's retiring from the position. The RIPCA has asked the Governor to consider appointing members via transition and staggering their appointments.

9. Update on Continuing Education

Captain Ricciarelli reviewed some trainings that are on schedule for the upcoming months.

10. Update on Class 2017-II and Class 2018-I

Lt. Raynes stated that the current recruit class is in Week 20 with 39 recruits schedule to graduate on December 15th. We had Orientation for the incoming class 2018-I for 73 candidates and the P/T testing is scheduled for December 2nd.

11. Adjournment:

Chief Mello made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am and Chief Palmer seconded the motion, With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant