

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2007

I. Call to order

Colonel Stephen M. McCartney called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:10 a.m. on November 15, 2007 in RIMPA-Lincoln.

II. Roll call

Colonel McCartney conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Colonel Stephen M. McCartney, Chief George L. Kelley, III, Chief Anthony Pesare, Colonel Brendan Doherty, Chief Anthony J. Silva, Mr. Robert Driscoll, Mr. Richard B. Woolley, Esq., Captain David Ricciarelli, Captain Glen Shibley.

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Colonel McCartney asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved following no further discussion.

Mr. Driscoll made motion to accept the minutes; Chief Kelley seconded the motion. After no further discussion and all in favor (5-0), the minutes were accepted.

Director Silva stated that Donna Lavalley is attending a training class and therefore the minutes of today's meeting are being taped.

Colonel McCartney stated that is within the law and that was fine.

IV. Report on 2007-III Recruit class, incoming 2008-I class

Chief Silva referred this item to Captain Ricciarelli. Captain Ricciarelli spoke about the current status of the present class, which began on

August 14, 2007. There are currently 36 candidates and 1 waiver candidate and they are currently in EVOC all week. Capt. Ricciarelli said that re-tests will be given next week to the candidate who has failed the Patrol test, as well as the Firearms written and practical testing. The department has been kept abreast weekly on the candidate's standing.

Capt. Ricciarelli expressed his gratitude to the Use of Force staff who tested-out the recruits last Saturday and did an outstanding job.

The 2008-I class will begin on Dec. 3rd and he is working on the curriculum, which may include a few changes as did this past class, including a segment on Mental Health Illness and an expanded segment on Terrorism. There will be a total of 26 recruits in this class representing 16 agencies.

V. Continuing Education Calendar

Chief Silva spoke briefly of the upcoming in-service trainings that will be available.

He also spoke of the upcoming "Less than lethal force" training which is scheduled for two days in January. This training is being offered through a grant

from the "100" Club of \$100,000, which was given to the RIPCA, whom we will be partnering with. Chief Kelley stated that he sees this being a viable outlet that money can be available to the Police Academy for training. Director Silva stated that Steve Cronin,

Director of the “100” club will be at the next Police Chief’s meeting.

VI. Medical Standards

Captain Ricciarelli spoke of a potential recruit who came to the Academy on his own accord regarding medical standards. He was a potential recruit for Central Falls; however, Dr. Greene would not sign off on the medical form due to his color-blindness. The department withdrew his “Conditional Offer of Employment” and subsequently he came to the Academy. He was given a copy of the medical standards as he was going to pursue his own testing. Capt. Ricciarelli asked if this would be opening “Pandora’s Box” to have a person entertain testing on his own. Mr. Woolley stated that this should not be entertained without an agency sponsor - - you cannot have a potential recruit come to the Academy on their own accord. Colonel McCartney agreed with Mr. Woolley, stating the sponsoring agency should step up to the plate, not the candidate. Without a sponsor, the Academy should not entertain independent requests.

VII. FY 08 Supplemental Budget & FY 09 Budget

Chief Silva stated that he sent the Budget to Colonel Doherty and that he forwarded it to the Governor. We are requesting additional funding - - without that money, we will run out half way through the next Academy class.

Colonel McCartney says this is an area of concern and we need to pay close attention to it during the coming months.

Chief Silva explained that we are under a new process now where the

Budget is sent directly to Colonel Doherty first. He praised the Colonel and his staff for the cooperation we have received during this submission process. Chief Silva stated that he is waiting to hear any day now if the Academy's request for supplemental funding will be approved.

VIII. 2008 POST meeting Dates

The dates for the upcoming year were reviewed and all members were asked to check their schedules for any conflicts. If there are, please notify Director Silva.

IX. Discussion on consolidation of public safety

Colonel Doherty spoke about the upcoming re-structuring of some state agencies, that will be falling under the umbrella of "Public Safety", of which he will be the Director of. Such agencies will be E-911, Fire Marshalls, Sheriffs, Marshalls and the Rhode Island Municipal Police Academy. The target date to have all agencies re-structured is July 2008; however, some agencies will be affected as early as January, 2008. The Colonel stated that he doesn't foresee an impact on the Police Academy. He has no intent to change anything regarding the duties of the POST and he will support what is currently being done. He stated that he has great respect for the POST members and the Police Academy.

Colonel McCartney stated that with the current personalities, he foresees everything to remain status quo and the POST and RIMPA have the obligation and will continue to advise the Colonel in his position as Public Safety Director.

Chief Pesare suggested that the POST take a look at the legislature

relative to the POST and maybe change the language to solidify the relationships thereof.

Chief Silva explained the organization chart - - because the Police Academy now falls under Public Safety, Colonel Doherty would be in the organizational chart under the Governor.

Colonel Doherty agreed with the suggestion of Chief Pesare and stated perhaps a change in the language of the legislature could be made.

XI. Review and Approval of Donald W. Wyatt Detention Facility training academy curriculum

Director Silva reviewed the reason for this item - - at the last assembly, "Peace Officer Defined" was amended to include peace officers of the Wyatt Detention Center. Included in the amendment, however, is the stipulation that the curriculum be approved by the POST. It was voted on at the last POST meeting that since no one here is qualified to do this, the curriculum would be reviewed by an outside agency. Chief Silva stated that A.T. Wall graciously agreed to assist. We received a letter from Lt. Rathbun from the R.I. D.O.C. dated October 24, 2007, recommending approval of the course.

Colonel Doherty asked if the letter was from A.T. Wall because he would have reservations if something came up in the future that would put Director Silva in a difficult position.

Chief Pesare suggested that he knew of someone from Roger Williams who was an expert on curriculum and training and it may be a good idea to have him look at the curriculum as well.

Mr. Woolley stated that it would be better to have the letter from

A.T.Wall as opposed to a “3rd party”.

Motion was made by Mr. Driscoll to table this matter until A.T. Wall himself sends in a letter and/or get a further opinion by the person mentioned by Chief Pesare. The motion was seconded by Colonel Doherty. After no further discussion, and all in favor (5-0), motion was passed unanimously.

XII. Old/New Business

Chief Kelley reported that while he was in New Orleans his department received a call from the press regarding recruits and the swim portion of the test. He was wondering if anyone knew anything about this. Colonel McCartney stated that it was probably related to the new hiring process in Cranston.

XIII. Executive Session

Colonel McCartney asked for a motion to move into Executive Session, pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2). Chief Kelley made the motion to enter into Executive Session and it was seconded by Colonel Doherty. A roll call vote was taken. The motion was unanimously accepted (5-0).

A motion was made by Chief Pesare to close the Executive Session and seconded by Mr. Driscoll. After no discussion, and all in favor, the motion was passed unanimously (5-0) after a Roll call vote, to close the Executive Session and go back to Open Session.

XIV. Adjournment

Chief Pesare thanked everyone in nominating him to the POST. Colonel McCartney stated that was the easiest appointment to make. Mr. Driscoll made motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Chief Kelley. After no further discussion and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Donna M. Lavallee