

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

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Colonel Brendan P. Doherty Chief Anthony J. Silva

Commissioner, Department of Public Safety Executive Director

**Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police Municipal Police Training
Academy**

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2011

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Colonel Stephen M. McCartney called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 10:01 a.m. on February 24, 2011 in RIMPA-Lincoln.

Colonel McCartney asked Donna Lavallee to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Stephen M. McCartney, Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Edward Mello, Mr. Robert Driscoll, and Captain Wilfred Hill and Lt. Ernest Quarry representing Colonel Brendan Doherty. Also present were Chief Anthony J. Silva, Mr. Richard B. Woolley, Esq., Captain David Ricciarelli, Captain David DelBonis, Lisa

Holley, Esq and Deputy Chief Paul Shanley of Brown University.

II. Approval of the minutes

Colonel McCartney asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting dated November 18, 2010 and from the Special Meeting of January 19, 2011. Mr. Driscoll made a motion to accept the minutes; Chief Pesare seconded the motion. After no further discussion and all in favor (5-0), the motion carries and minutes were accepted.

III. Request from Deputy Chief Paul J. Shanley of Brown University Department of Public Safety regarding consideration of a tuition reduction for recruit candidates that attend the Academy.

Deputy Chief Shanley stated that Brown University currently pays \$4,000.00 per recruit. This class has five Brown recruits enrolled and therefore, he is asking for a reduction due to the large group.

Chief Silva explained how the formula was derived many years ago. Basically, it is based on the Police Academy budget of approximately \$400,000. However, this year's budget has been decreased to \$362,902. The Director also reiterated that the Academy gets tremendous support from Brown University in the form of sending instructional staff for EVOC, Use of Force, etc.

Mr. Driscoll made a motion to deny the request. Chief Mello seconded the motion.

Under discussion: Mr. Driscoll asked what type of reduction are they looking for? Deputy Chief Shanley answered that they are looking for a graduated reduction. Chief Pesare asked if this would be a one-time request. Deputy Shanley stated based on the new Academy budget

figure, the amount per recruit should be adjusted accordingly.

After discussion, members of the POST voted and motion was denied 4-1.

Chief McCartney then stated that based on historical data, the budget was higher. Based on the present budget, it reduces the amount, under the formula that Brown would have to pay per recruit. Lisa Holley stated there is two ways to frame this. There is no legal member in place setting a fee based on a formula. The second question is, do you want to offer a multi student discount? She is concerned that if they have five recruits and don't want to pay that amount of money, we could lose the revenue. Also, by Brown sending 5 recruits, did that take a seat away from a city or town? There is no memo of understanding in place at present with Brown University.

Chief Mello asked if there was any more talks with CCRI about fees for seats. Chief Silva stated no, not discussed yet. But we pay a rent here at CCRI and that increased by 5% yearly. Chief Pesare suggested that the first step would be to establish an M.O.U. with Brown University. He made a motion to have Chief Silva start the process of drafting an MOU between the Municipal Police Academy, POST and Brown University. Chief Mello seconded the motion. All in favor, 5-0, motion carries. Chief Pesare amended the motion to state that the Director of the Academy and representatives of Brown University will begin to draft the M.O.U. to address all issues discussed. Chief Mello seconded the motion. All in favor, 5-0.

Chief Silva stated as an FYI that the next POST meeting is not until

May and the Academy will be almost over by then. The invoice was sent to Brown early in January. Colonel McCartney stated they already established a motion relating to this. Chief Silva stated nothing was discussed about the pending tuition invoice. Captain Hill asked if there was a time frame on the invoice and Ms. Holley stated that there was never a legal agreement in place and the time frame of the invoice is not an issue. Once the MOU is in place, we can re-invoice Brown. Chief Mello asked Deputy Shanley that if we follow the budget, that would give them approximately a \$2,000 discount per class. Would that satisfy Brown for this class? Deputy Shanley agreed that \$3600 per student is very fair and an MOU would follow. Chief Silva stated that each budget fiscal year anticipates the revenue of two Brown Students and Capt Hill asked if we could make a graduated scale after the first two Brown recruits to ensure budget issues. Captain Hill made a motion not to collect on the Brown invoice until an MOU is in place and the budget issue resolved. Chief Pesare seconded the motion. All in favor, 5-0, motion carries.

IV. Discussion on sustainability of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, namely the current position of Basic Training Officer (BTO) at the Academy.

Captain David DelBonis recused himself from the meeting. Chief Silva explained that we currently have two positions funded by the Stimulus and one is the Basic Training Officer position. This is funded for approximately 36 months from last January. He had a meeting with Mr. Steve Whitney, Fiscal Advisor, for the State. Chief Silva had a discussion with him about “selling” seats at the Academy

to generate revenue. He was very interested. Colonel McCartney asked if their back was up against the wall, is the BTO position a priority and Chief Silva answered yes. Colonel McCartney asked if there was any inference from Mr. Whitney that if we created revenue, the positions would be retained. This discussion came up previously and we talked about it seriously but never made a plan. Other than that, there are not a lot of options with the exception of grant monies but that is risky at best. Chief Pesare stated that the overall issue right now is do we sell seats? Chief Silva stated that it works in other states..it is an asset to the Criminal Justice program in Rhode Island and there is a big interest in this. Colonel McCartney stated that we should definitely move forward with this in a progressive manor. He asked if we could move forward in this budget cycle. Mr. Driscoll stated that this is something he is very interested in and ultimately we need a plan to act on, even if it's a model from another state. Ms. Holley stated that this was discussed in November and she couldn't move forward until she got an articulation agreement. Chief Silva stated that was another issue..that was the discussion with CCRI only. This is selling seats to "John Doe". Mr. Driscoll made a motion to establish a plan to move forward with this idea, even if it's starting with a model from another state. Colonel McCartney seconded the motion. Under discussion, Chief Mello asked if the plan moved forward, will that put added pressure on the staff? How do we get out of it if it creates added work to the staff but get no additional funding for the staff? Colonel McCartney stated that it has to be implicitly worded in the plan through DPS to the governor. We have talked

about it enough, we now need to move forward for sustainability. Chief Silva asked if DPS is OK with us to start working on this. Ms. Holley stated that originally Colonel Doherty has concerns about the financial aspect of this when the discussion came up of CCRI. Capt. Hill asked if this is opening up Pandora's Box if it was based on selling seats based on financial ability. Chief Silva stated that he shared the same concerns and the agreement would state we would have the ability for financial aid/scholarships. If raising money, the agreement must be in place where a percentage goes into an account for aid. Colonel McCartney stated there would be three ways to enter the academy: Sponsorship, free agent, based on need. Ms. Holley stated that procedurally you could create a restricted receipt account.

The State was reluctant to do it, but just set one up for the Fire Academy. You may want to include in your plan that the monies generated from the seats would go into the restricted receipt account to fund positions. Chief Mello asked if we could also include scholarships. Ms. Holley stated that you could put in the plan that one seat would be reserved for lower income, etc. We are passed this year's budget; however, you need to move quickly to get it into the next budget. Chief McCartney asked Chief Silva if he could move forward on this plan and Chief Silva responded yes, he would.

The POST members voted all in favor to accept the motion, 5-0, motion carries.

V. Update on USDOJ/BJA GRANT

Chief Silva gave an updated report on the BJA Grant. This grant has been a windfall..we have been able to purchase a new copy machine,

do training, purchase an ID Maker, place all computers and hardware and software, purchase a new phone system and order a student response system. We have been able to beef up the infrastructure of the Academy through this grant.

VI. Update on current 116th Session, Recruit class/Academy Schedule

Captain DelBonis reported that this is the first class of the new 20-week schedule and they are in Week 7. Next week begins Firearms training. Also, because of the class size, we will be asking departments for help with Role Play week.

VII. Update on Continuing Education

Captain Ricciarelli reviewed the Con-Ed Calendar.

VII. Discussion of 117th Session, July 25, 2011

Chief Silva stated that the next class beginning July 25th could potentially exceed beyond 55 seats. If it goes beyond that, we will be looking to start a class on July 25th and another a month later and run two simultaneously.

As for Breathalyzer certification, we have been notified by Al Giusti of the Department of Health that no breathalyzer classes will be offered due to the lack in manpower in his office. Therefore, the recruits of the next two classes will not be certified. Ms. Holley stated that this is a huge problem and Chief Silva stated that Chief Mello sent a letter to Mr. Steve Costantino and the POST should do the

same. Chief Pesare suggested requesting a meeting with someone from the Governor's office, since this is such a critical issue. David Ricciarelli stated that Breathalyzer certification is part of our curriculum and we would not be meeting our standards. Richard Woolley stated that he would bring this issue up to Mr. Coyne, Assistant to the A.G.

IX. Request by Providence Police Department for POST certification of Patrol Rifle Operator's Course

Chief Silva stated he has a letter from Major Melaragno from the Providence Police Department asking for POST certification of their Patrol Rifle Course. Captain DelBonis stated that RITOA also works in conjunction with Providence to offer this course state-wide. He was an instructor for RITOA and he reviewed the manual in its entirety and has been through the training, which is outstanding and well run. Chief Pesare stated that several of his officers have participated in the training and he agreed. Chief Pesare made a motion to certify the Patrol Rifle Operator's Course and Chief Mello seconded the motion. After no discussion, motion carries 5-0.

X: Approval of East Greenwich P.D. tactical team

Chief Silva stated that he received a letter from RITOA stating that E. Greenwich PD has

met the qualifications for certification of their Tactical team.

Chief Mello made a motion

To approve the certification and Chief Pesare seconded the motion.

XI: Approval of RIMPA Instructors

Chief Silva has three instructors he is asking for POST certification of; namely, Sgt. Earl

Read who instructs Crash Investigation; and Dave Holden and Tammy Mello for Animal

Cruelty instruction. Mr. Driscoll made a motion to approve and Chief Pesare seconded the motion.

Chief Pesare asked if he could have a moment before adjournment to ask legal counsel a

question. Can the POST house the Rhode Island Commission of Accreditation? He briefly

explained the Commission and its goals. Mr. Woolley stated it can be in the scope of the

Commission statute and he would check further.

XII: Adjournment:

Mr. Driscoll made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chief Pesare seconded the

motion. After all in favor, 5-0, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Donna M. Lavalley, Administrative Assistant