

**COUNCIL ON LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING  
REGULAR MEETING  
OSBI Forensic Science Center, 800 E. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Edmond, OK  
October 15, 2014  
MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sheriff John Whetsel, Oklahoma County  
Major Todd Blish, Oklahoma Highway Patrol  
Dr. James Burke, East Central University  
Chief Bill Citty, Oklahoma City Police Dept.  
Director Stan Florence, OSBI  
Director Norman McNickle, DPS City of Stillwater  
Chief Bob Ricks, Edmond Police Dept.  
Asst. Chief Jason Smith, Mounds Police Dept.  
Chief Randy Wesley, Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse  
Police Dept.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Steve Emmons, Executive Director  
Charles Gerhart, Assistant Director  
John Parker, Director of Administration  
James Wilson, General Counsel  
Jeanelle VanBuskirk, Instructor  
Laurie Schweinle, Recording Secretary

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Sheriff John Christian, Pontotoc County  
Chief Russell Frantz, Shawnee Police Dept.  
Chief Michael Robinson, OSU DPS  
Director Darrell Weaver, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Whetsel called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll was called, and nine members were present, representing a quorum.

**2. Open Meeting Act Compliance**

Sheriff Whetsel confirmed that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

There was no discussion.

**Action Taken:** Chief Wesley made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2014, regular meeting and the September 19, 2014, special meeting as written. Dr. Burke seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief Citty voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes. Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

#### **4. Advisory Council Report**

There was no discussion.

#### **5. Advisory Council Composition**

There was no discussion.

**Action Taken:** Major Blish made a motion to approve the appointment of Captain John Paul to the Advisory Council. Director McNickle seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief City voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes. Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

#### **6. Private Security Advisory Committee (PSAC) Report**

There was no discussion or action taken.

#### **7. Private Security Advisory Committee Composition**

There was no discussion.

**Action Taken:** Chief City made a motion to approve the appointment of Martin Herman, Devon Energy, to the Private Security Advisory Committee. Chief Wesley seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief City voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes. Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

#### **8. Bomb Dog Advisory Council Composition**

There was no discussion.

**Action Taken:** Director Florence made a motion to reappoint Master Sergeant Dennis Reedy, Oklahoma City PD, to the Bomb Dog Advisory Council. Chief Ricks seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief City voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes. Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

#### **9. Drug Dog Advisory Council Composition**

There was no discussion.

**Action Taken:** Chief Wesley made a motion to reappoint Lieutenant Doyle Tosh, Comanche County SO, to the Drug Dog Advisory Council. Dr. Burke seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief City voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes. Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

## **10. CLEET Financial Report**

Sheriff Whetsel asked if there was anything notable in the financial report. John Parker answered there was not but that the current carry over estimate was \$245,000, which was more than anticipated.

## **11. Freedom from Religion Foundation**

Director Emmons advised members that CLEET's General Counsel, James Wilson, was present and passed out his draft letter of response (Attachment A). He explained that the picture included with the letter sent to CLEET was part of the law enforcement code of ethics as developed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and has since been revised. He then asked Council members for their suggestions.

Members had a discussion on how to best respond, and the consensus was to draft a short, concise letter that would advise the Freedom from Religion Foundation that CLEET would review the complaint and also to ask for more information.

## **12. National Certification Committee Update**

Director Emmons informed members that IADLEST had formed a committee to discuss accrediting all outside continuing education training through their organization for a fee. He advised government agencies would be exempt but all outside entities that gain financially from their training would be required to go through IADLEST. Members expressed their support for this idea.

## **13. Basic/Bridge Academy**

Director Emmons advised members that CLEET staff were able to merge the bridge academy into the first nine weeks of the Basic Academy and that this process would become effective with Academy 1501. He also advised that staff were hopeful this would help with the enrollment problems for new hires.

## **14. Neck Restraint**

Director Emmons introduced Jeanelle VanBuskirk, CLEET Defensive Tactics Instructor, and explained that CLEET had recently been contacted with a question about teaching lateral vascular neck restraint (LVNR), which is currently only taught in Defensive Tactics Instructor School (DTI) with a release signed by the participant's agency head. He then asked for the Council's thoughts on CLEET providing this type of training.

Members had a general discussion about their various agency policies and opinions regarding this technique being taught by CLEET. Jeanelle VanBuskirk added that CLEET leaves the decision of when to use this technique up to the agencies and that students may bring in their policies to be reviewed. Director Florence asked if there was any case law regarding this technique. James Wilson, CLEET General Counsel, said that there was not.

Members then had a lengthy discussion about what kind of liability, if any, CLEET would assume by teaching this technique. Chief Wesley asked if any POSTs had been subject to a lawsuit because of this being taught. Director Emmons replied he was not aware of any.

Members came to a consensus that more research needed to be done on the teaching of this technique and possible liability for CLEET as a result.

**Action Taken:** Major Blish made a motion to table this item until the next regular meeting and also for CLEET staff to research the policy and guidelines and possible liability of this technique being taught by CLEET. Chief Ricks seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief City voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes. Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

## **15. Helmets for Basic Academy Defensive Tactics Training**

Director Emmons advised members that CLEET staff had researched possible helmets for Basic Academy students' defensive tactics training. Assistant Director Gerhart added that CLEET had purchased a cleaning system through the ALERRT grant that could also be used to clean these helmets. He then presented the type of helmet recommended by CLEET Defensive Tactics Instructor, Jeanelle VanBuskirk, which is a soccer style helmet.

Chief Wesley left the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Chief City advised that the Oklahoma City PD academy students were wearing a boxing style helmet.

Chief Wesley returned at 10:57 a.m.

Chief City added that his department had implemented a week of recovery within defensive tactics training and an EMT at these classes as well. Members then had a general discussion about how to improve the safety of this training.

Director McNickle left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Director Emmons also mentioned the issue of needing to replace the mats. Jeanelle VanBuskirk advised that four mats can be purchased for approximately \$27,500.

Director McNickle returned at 11:03 a.m.

Jeanelle VanBuskirk advised members that CLEET needed to upgrade to higher fall mats, which would be much more expensive than the ones mentioned earlier. Sheriff Whetsel expressed his support for perhaps using the surplus CLEET is projected to have in carryover funds to accomplish this.

Members then discussed the differences between types of helmets, specifically boxing and soccer.

Chief City left the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Chief City returned at 11:09 a.m.

Members had a general discussion about how students would procure the helmets for training.

**Action Taken:** Director McNickle made a motion to require incoming CLEET Basic Academy students to bring with them CLEET approved headgear for defensive tactics training. Chief Ricks seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief City voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes.

Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

## **16. Legislation to Carry Over Continuing Education Hours**

Director Emmons advised members that Major Bill Weaver, Oklahoma City PD, had made a motion at the last Advisory Council meeting to support legislation that would allow peace officers to carry over continuing education hours to the next year. Director McNickle asked how difficult that would be for CLEET. Director Emmons explained that it would be a technical issue for the records division, but if CLEET could get a new information database that this could be built into it.

Members then discussed the status of CLEET's database and the pros and cons of rebuilding the system versus buying one.

Director Florence left the meeting at 11:21 a.m. and was not present for the vote.

**Action Taken:** Chief Ricks made a motion to postpone this item until CLEET has a database capable of this. Chief Wesley seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief Citty voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes. Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 8-0.

Chairman Whetsel dismissed the meeting for a break at 11:22 a.m.

All present members returned to the meeting at 11:29 a.m. except for Chief Citty.

## **17. OSU-OKC CLEET Office**

Sheriff Whetsel advised that he had attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the CLEET OSU-OKC office and suggested having a Council meeting there next year.

Chief Citty returned to the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Sheriff Whetsel then introduced the issue of how to collect fees at the new office. Director Emmons advised members of the current problems with doing this. Members discussed the best way to accomplish this with John Parker, CLEET Director of Administration. No action was taken.

## **18. Actions Against Peace Officers**

There was no discussion.

## **19. Divisional Reports**

There was no discussion.

## **20. Rules/Legislative Changes**

Director Emmons gave a brief summary of the proposed rule changes and reminded members that the Bail Enforcement Act would become effective February 1, 2015.

## **21. Director's Report**

Director Emmons advised members that four internal candidates had been interviewed for the Training Manager position and that a second interview would be held for the top two.

Director Emmons then passed out pictures of the improvements made to the driving track (Attachment B).

Director Emmons also advised members that the September training initiative had trained over 400 officers and that there would be another in Broken Arrow at the Northeastern State University campus on December 1-4.

## **22. Proposed 2015 Meeting Dates**

**Action Taken:** Chief Wesley made a motion to approve the proposed meetings with the exception of the January 2015 meeting, which he moved be changed to January 14, 2015. Director Florence seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief Citty voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes. Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

## **23. New Business**

Director Emmons advised members that if they legislative requests for CLEET to bring those to staff.

## **24. Adjournment**

**Action Taken:** Chief Citty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Burke seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Major Blish voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Chief Citty voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Ricks voted yes. Chief Smith voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.