

COUNCIL ON LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING
REGULAR MEETING
K.O. Rayburn Training Center, 2401 Egypt Road, Ada, OK 74820
July 23, 2014
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sheriff John Whetsel, Oklahoma County
Chief Michael Robinson, O.S.U. DPS
Dr. James Burke, East Central University
Sheriff John Christian, Pontotoc County
Director Stan Florence, O.S.B.I.
Chief Russell Frantz, Shawnee Police Dept.
Director Norman McNickle, DPS City of Stillwater
Director Darrell Weaver, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics
Chief Randy Wesley, Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse
Police Dept.

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Emmons, Executive Director
Charles Gerhart, Assistant Director
Chris Sutterfield, Chief of Operations
John Parker, Chief of Administration
James Wilson, General Counsel
Shannon Butler, Academy Coordinator
Tracy Shivers, Asst. Academy Coordinator
Cindy Donnelly, Academy Admin. Asst.
Laurie Schweinle, Recording Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Major Todd Blish, Oklahoma Highway Patrol
Chief Bill City, Oklahoma City Police Dept.
Chief Bob Ricks, Edmond Police Dept.
Asst. Chief Jason Smith, Mounds Police Dept.

GUESTS:

Chief Don Sweger, Bristow Police Dept.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Whetsel called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Burke seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Director Weaver voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

4. Advisory Council Report

There was no discussion.

Action Taken: Director Florence made a motion to accept he report. Director Weaver seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Director Weaver voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

5. Advisory Council Composition

There was no discussion.

Action Taken: Director Weaver made a motion to reappoint Asst. Chief Brandon Berryhill, Broken Arrow PD, to the Advisory Council. Director Florence seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Director Weaver voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

Action Taken: Chief Robinson made a motion to appoint Johnny Blevins, OK Department of Corrections, to the Advisory Council. Chief Wesley seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Director Weaver 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. Curriculum Review Board Report

There was no discussion or action taken.

8. Curriculum Review Board Composition

There was no discussion.

Action Taken: Director Weaver made a motion to reappoint Captain Marshall McDonald, Oklahoma County SO, to the Curriculum Review Board. Chief Robinson seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Director Weaver voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

Action Taken: Sheriff Christian made a motion to appoint Sheriff Shannon Smith, Seminole County SO, to the Curriculum Review Board. Director Florence seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Director Weaver voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

9. CLEET Financial Report

Director Emmons directed members' attention to the FY '15 Proposed Budget (Attachment A). There was no discussion or action taken.

10. Mandatory Annual COP Meeting

Director Emmons advised members that a meeting was held in May for all the COP directors, and it was decided to make it an annual event. He advised that a committee had formed at this meeting to discuss issues related to COP.

Tracy Shivers entered the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Director McNickle asked how many COP students were enrolled statewide. Director Emmons replied that he did not know but could get that information. Sheriff Whetsel asked that the COP schools submit a sheet to CLEET at the beginning and end of each semester with the number of students.

11. Annual Curriculum Update for Academy Cities and COP

Director Emmons that this meeting would be held August 5, 2014, to ensure that all COPs and Academy Cities have the most current curriculum and that it would become an annual event.

12. Impact of Budget Reallocation

Director Emmons advised members that HB 3531 had passed late in session and would allow CLEET's Private Security Division to keep 100% of the licensing fees it collects.

Dr. Burke left the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Director Emmons then advised this bill goes into effect August 23, 2014. He added that because of the passage of this bill CLEET's General Revenue had been cut by about \$203,000 but that services should not be impacted this year and Private Security should benefit in the long run from this change.

Dr. Burke returned at 10:22 a.m.

13. CLEET Personnel Update

Director Emmons advised members of the impending retirement of two CLEET employees, Ron Mitchell and Chris Sutterfield. He reported that staff were discussing how use these open positions. One option would be to hire another IT person so CLEET's current programmer could build a new information database as the current database is in severe disrepair and crashes are becoming more frequent. Director Emmons also reported that another goal was to hire an additional instructor for the Basic Academy.

Members then had a general discussion regarding the pros and cons of CLEET building its own program as opposed to purchasing one.

Director Weaver left the meeting at 10:41 a.m. He returned at 10:43 a.m.

Members offered advice including continuing to ask the legislature and grant funding.

Sheriff Whetsel offered his congratulations to Ron and Chris.

14. OSU-OKC Partnership

Director Emmons advised members that CLEET would soon be opening an office at OSU-OKC which would be open two days per week and staffed by Norma Floyd.

15. Oklahoma City PD Donation of Surplus Equipment to CLEET

Director Emmons advised that Major Weaver of Oklahoma City PD had approached CLEET about donating approximately 100 light bars and 100 cages to CLEET to be distributed to CLEET students that were in need of equipment. He advised this would operate in the same way as the vest donation and that the only issue is where to store this equipment. Sheriff Whetsel asked if the cages and light bars were for crown victorias. Director Emmons replied that they were.

Director Weaver asked CLEET General Counsel James Wilson if CLEET could accept donations of SUVs for the driving program. Mr. Wilson replied that CLEET could. Director Emmons added that CLEET is always interested in donations.

Action Taken: Director McNickle made a motion to approve the donation of light bars and cages from Oklahoma City PD to CLEET. Director Florence seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Director Weaver voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 9-0.

16. Basic/Bridge Academy Enrollment

Director Emmons advised members that after the first bridge academy some enrollment issues had arisen concerning CLEET's ability to get newly hired officers in a Basic Academy within the 6 month time limit. Currently all Basic Academies are full until spring 2015, and departments are being affected. He reported that part of this could also be to the high turnover rate in Oklahoma law enforcement as CLEET trains about 400 officers per year, which is higher than states of similar populations.

Director Emmons then discussed some possible solutions to this problem including overlapping the beginning of each Basic academy with a bridge academy as they are similar in length and instruction. He also said that the northeast chiefs had offered to host a bridge academy. Chief Sweger expressed concern over allowing outside agencies to conduct bridge academies as it could lead to the same problems Reserve Academies face with CLEET staff being unable to closely monitor them. Members then had a general discussion about this problem and the possible solutions.

Members expressed support for the idea of running bridge and basic academies together through the first few weeks if possible. Sheriff Whetsel directed CLEET staff to put together ideas for this possible solution as well as any other ideas and bring those back to the Council at the next meeting.

17. Specialized Instructor Certification

Assistant Director Gerhart presented the policy, application, and staff report for the proposed off-site Defensive Tactics Instructor (DTI) Schools. He advised members that the policy mirrored that of the off-site firearms instructor schools and recommended they vote for approval.

Director Weaver asked if there was a policy on head gear. Assistant Director Gerhart replied that there was not, that it would be up to the hosting agency, and that CLEET does not currently require the wearing of head gear during DTI school. Several members expressed concern over this not being included in the current policy with the recent death of a trainee at Oklahoma City PD that was due to a head injury. Assistant Director Gerhart assured members that it could be added to the policy.

Members then discussed who would supply the required head protection and ultimately decided it would be the hosting agency. Assistant Director Gerhart added that there was a section within the policy that reads, "Any deviations from the above specifications require written documentation for consideration containing logical justifications for such requests," which would allow the host agency to require the student to supply their own head gear.

Action Taken: Director McNickle made a motion to approve the off-site Defensive Tactics Instructor School policy and application with the addition of language to require students to wear head protection provided by the host agency. Chief Robinson seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Director Weaver voted yes. The motion carried 8-0.

18. Proposed Executive Session to include matters pursuant to 25 O.S. 1995, Section 307(B)(1): "Discussing the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of any individual salaried public officer or employee," the employment of Rick Amos, Breanna Atkeson, Julie Bender, Walt Birdsong, Tami Burnett, Aaron Burrows, James Burton, Shannon Butler, Nancy Carson, Jeff Coble, Cindy Donnelly, Ricky Doyle, Lori Easley, Jim Elliott, Steve Emmons, Cheryl Evans, Greg Evans, Norma Floyd, Charles Gerhart, Kelly James, Natalie Johnston, Steve Lanier, Tammy Long, Paul McCaddon, Michael McCartney, Ron Mitchell, Brian Miller, Linda Mosley, Lisa Nessel, Joe Noble, Mike Palmer, John Parker, Erica Ross, Laurie Schweinle, Tracy Shivers, Catherine Streater, Chris Sutterfield, Joshua Sutton, Michael Taylor, Briana Tully, Jeanelle VanBuskirk, Roberta Weathers, and James Wilson, all individual salaried employees.

This item was skipped initially and not revisited until 11:58 a.m.

Action Taken: Dr. Burke made a motion to enter executive session. Chief Robinson seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 8-0.

The Council entered executive session at 11:58 a.m.

19. Resume Meeting Following Executive Session

Action Taken: Director McNickle made a motion to resume open session. Chief Robinson seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 8-0.

The Council resumed open session at 12:26 p.m.

Action Taken: Director Florence made a motion that the Council direct Director Emmons to work with OMES to obtain direction on how to conduct market surveys for all CLEET positions and seek guidance on how to achieve fair compensation, while including CLEET budget considerations, and bring those findings back to the Council. Sheriff Christian seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 8-0.

20. Actions Against Peace Officers

There was no discussion.

Director Florence left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

21. Divisional Reports

There was no discussion.

22. Legislative Update

Director Emmons reminded members that the OACP legislative committee would be starting soon and also that Commissioner Thompson, OK Department of Public Safety, would like to form a legislative committee to serve all of public safety.

Director Weaver left the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

23. Director's Report

Director Emmons advised members that CLEET had completed ten regional meetings with a total of 128 in attendance.

Director Florence returned to the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Director Emmons advised members that CLEET was looking at hosting a bridge academy in Claremore, incorporating rifle training into the Basic Academy curriculum, parking lot repairs, updating the firearms simulator, offering a military bridge academy, and would be hosting another training initiative at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee on September 8-12, 2014.

24. New Business

There was no discussion.

25. Adjournment

Action Taken: Chief Robinson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chief Frantz seconded the motion. Chairman Whetsel voted yes. Chief Robinson voted yes. Dr. Burke voted yes. Sheriff Christian voted yes. Director Florence voted yes. Chief Frantz voted yes. Director McNickle voted yes. Chief Wesley voted yes. The motion carried 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.