

Municipal Police Training Committee

Monthly Meeting Minutes

MBTA Training Academy

March 16, 2016

Call to Order

At 9:39 AM, Chairman Jim Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order and greeted all present. Chairman Hicks informed all attendees that the meeting would be recorded and that there were members of the media present.

Attendees

Chairman Jim Hicks – Natick; Jennifer Queally- U/S EOPSS; Scott Livingstone- Western MA; Gloria Andrews-Ward – MBTA; Joseph Vieira – MPA; Michael Botieri – SEMPCA; Matt Roy – MSP; James O'Brien- AG's Office

MPTC Staff

Dan Zivkovich, Marylou Powers, Dan May and Sheila Gallagher

Guests

Shannon Hickey, Rick Cipro, Kevin Hope, Glen Anderson, Steven Colvin, and Kathy Curran

Review/Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Minutes of February 17, 2016. The motion passed by unanimous voice.

Police Standards and Training

The following requests were presented and approved by the Committee:

Temporary Waivers:

Michael Alibozek	Cheshire, PD
Nicholas Barros	Rehoboth PD
Daniel Bartini	Great Barrington PD
Corbin Keating	Rockport PD
Tyler Miller	Hinsdale PD

A motion was made and it was seconded to accept the five temporary waivers. The motion passed by unanimous voice.

Permanent Exemptions:

Arcadio Gonzalez	RI/Millis PD
Christopher Hodges	CT/Acton PD
Constantino Natale	RI/Seekonk PD

A motion was made and it was seconded to accept the 3 requests for permanent exemptions. The motion passed by unanimous voice. There were no requests for disciplinary hearings at this time.

Open Discussion

There were no items presented for open discussion.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Zivkovich announced that there was an article in the Boston Globe describing a recruit who recently graduated from the Reading Police Academy. The recruit stopped to assist a person who was injured in a crash on Route 128. The recruit used his training from the academy to respond to the situation.

ED Zivkovich also praised Lisa Lane, Jim West and Chief Denmark for revamping the basic training for sergeants. The program will be very useful for sergeants.

Opioid Bill

ED Zivkovich mentioned that the recent passage of the Opioid bill does not have a significant impact on MPTC training because the MPTC has been rolling out Narcan training for recruits and inservice since 2014 and has already incorporated the training requirements contained in the bill.

Distance Learning

The distance learning vendor is ready to roll out the online component of the firearms training. The online supervisor recertification for suicide prevention is progressing.

Database

Chief Hicks asked whether the distance learning project is separate from the database. ED Zivkovich relayed that it is and the vendor for the database has been selected but is on hold due to a funding issue.

Funding

ED Zivkovich stated there will be a 350K shortfall in the MPTC's budget due to the fact the Plymouth and Randolph recruit academies started around the same time in May which meant they both ended three months into the next fiscal year.

The MPTC is allowed to collect \$3000 to train a recruit in each academy, which does not cover the entire cost. When Plymouth and Randolph started, both academies overlapped for three and half months into the fiscal year. Since any funds in the recruit training account at the end of a fiscal year go back into the general fund and cannot be used and since the MPTC cannot prorate a class and must collect money on the first day of the academy, the MPTC was required to subsidize the two academies which led to the shortfall. As a result, ED Zivkovich decided to delay the database project and cancelled some specialized classes. For example, RAD classes were cancelled and some FBI LEEDA classes were rolled back. Additionally, ED Zivkovich froze spending on equipment and supplies.

Chief Livingstone asked whether the MPTC can borrow money from fiscal year 2016 to cover the deficit in fiscal year 2015. ED Zivkovich responded that money in the retained revenue account can only supplement full time recruit training. However, the issue will be reconciled by utilizing money coming from the MPTC's general fund budget.

Chief Hicks added that the MPTC previously faced a similar shortfall in the past. The MPTC continually hopes that there will be legislation that increases the fee for each recruit and allows funds in the recruit training account to roll into the next fiscal year so the MPTC will not have to supplement.

ED Zivkovich added that the reason he allowed for two academies to run simultaneously was his desire to get officers on the street and the increase in funding for training. Currently, Governor Baker's budget has some language that allows the MPTC some flexibility in rolling over money from the recruit training account into the next fiscal year. There was some further discussion regarding the MPTC's budget.

Recruit Officer Training Updates

Boston: presently at 69 student officers. Graduation will be at the end of June or early July.

Boylston: 37 officers graduated Jan 15, 2016. February class is cancelled due to low enrollment.

Lowell: Anticipates beginning a class of 60 officers May 23, 2016.

MSP: 158 officers in the RTT remain in week 22 and graduation is expected on April 1, 2016, from DCU Worcester. An SSPO/SPMA class of 60 recruits will begin April 11, 2016.

NECC: 26 officers will graduate on March 18, 2016. The NECC is requesting to begin another class of 40 on April 25, 2016.

Plymouth: 40 officers graduated on March 11, 2016, from Memorial Hall in Plymouth. The next class will begin on April 11, and it is full with 51 recruits.

Randolph: 43 officers remain and graduation is scheduled for June 24, 2016.

Reading: 43 officers graduated February 11, 2016. The next class is March 14, 2016.

Springfield: hoping to have a class of 60 Springfield officers only around late May/June.

Transit: 47 recruits remain in the academy on day 3 and anticipated graduation is in August 2016.

WMASS: 37 officers graduated on February 12, 2016. The next class of 48 will begin on March 28, 2016.

Worcester: 37 remain in week 9 of the academy. 29 of the recruits are from Worcester and graduation scheduled for July 1, 2016. Potentially, there could be an academy planned for the end of the year with a class of 44.

Old Business

MANG (modified reserve basic training program)

ED Zivkovich opened that MANG would like to have another reserve basic training class. LTC Rich Cipro added that the National Guard would like all MPs to be dually certified to better position the MPs for civilian deployments.

There was some discussion about how many hours of police training MPs should be required to have for certification. Lt Cipro was asking for 232 hours and ED Zivkovich evaluated both programs. ED Zivkovich stated that armed reserve officers have 345.5 hours and the recommendation is that MPs will need 242 hours to make up the difference to satisfy the certification.

Chief Hicks welcomed AG Jim O'Brien who arrived late to the meeting but informed him that the meeting was being recorded in accordance with public meeting laws.

Lt Cipro added that he uses certified instructors for the program, and it will be offered over the weekends. The collaboration of the modified reserve basic training program has been nationally recognized. After further discussion, Lt Cipro stated that the National Guard is prepared to go forward with ED Zivkovich's recommendation.

A motion was made to accept ED Zivkovich's approved course of hours for the reserve intermittent program, and it was seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice.

Reserve Intermittent Training and Hours

Chief Hicks opened that he was interviewed about the reserves and that when he was offering his opinion about the program it was from his perspective as a police chief not as the chairperson for the MPTC. Chief Hicks stated that there needs to be further discussion about how the reserve program was developed and its purpose. Also, Chief Hicks added that there needs to be some clarification as to what the statute intended when it delineated full time and part time officers. Additionally, the MPTC needs to consider what authority it has to determine a course of study for the reserves. Chief Hicks emphasized that the MPTC has not taken a vote changing the requirements for the reserve program, and he opened the issue up for discussion.

Chief Hicks stated that the first issue is figuring out what is the history of the reserve program. EOPSS legal will look at the statute and try to determine what the intent of the legislators was when the statute was created. U/S Queally added that recruit training is an important issue, and the MPTC needs to consider all parties and communities that will be impacted by this change.

Chief Livingstone relayed that there are some chiefs in Western Massachusetts who mistakenly believed that the MPTC had already voted on the issue. According to Chief Livingstone, many of the departments in Western Massachusetts rely heavily on reserves and if there is a mandatory increase for training hours, it could negatively impact many departments that have financial constraints.

There was some discussion regarding the future of reserves and the intent of G. L. c. 41 §96 B which authorized the MPTC to establish standards for police training. Chief Hicks announced that he plans on organizing a subcommittee working group to research the reserve issue. The reserve issue will indefinitely remain on the agenda.

U/S Queally commented that this is a really important issue for communities and she offered to attend the next Western Mass Chiefs meeting to clarify that the MPTC has not taken a vote and wants to hear from everyone.

Funding

The budget will not be completed until June. Last year the MPTC was appropriated \$5 million for the budget and A & F decreased the MPTC's budget to \$4.8 million. U/S Queally mentioned that police training is an important topic for Governor Baker. AG O'Brien asked ED Zivkovich whether the glitch with an A & F miscalculation was fixed. ED Zivkovich responded that the glitch has not been fixed even though he has submitted a report to rectify the miscalculation. Additionally, the earmark for the Boylston academy was missing from this year's budget. Chief Hicks asked whether we have considered expenses for equipment. ED Zivkovich added that EOPSS gave the MPTC money to upgrade the

bathrooms for the Randolph Academy. Hopefully, in May the MPTC will have a firmer budget and be able to make more definitive plans.

Training Year 2017 In-Service Training

ED Zivkovich stated that the MPTC had previously voted that there will be 40 hours of annual, inservice training. However, the MPTC has not determined whether there will be mandatory topics, mandatory lesson plans or whether there will be a separate training for chiefs of police. One of the topics mentioned was policing the teen brain. The MPTC piloted a program through Strategies for Youth. A second topic which is being explored is the Blue Courage program. There was some discussion how the training would be rolled out this year.

Before the topics for inservice can be selected, there was some discussion as to which model will be rolled out for TY 2017. U/S Queally asked what models for inservice worked best for inservice training. ED Zivkovich stated that when the MPTC provides the lesson plan for inservice topics it seems to run smoother and provides consistency for police. Chief Hicks added that in the past when the MPTC did not provide the lesson plan for inservice training it was due to budget constraints. Chief Hicks asked ED Zivkovich when the MPTC should select topics to gather the subject matter experts. U/S Queally asked how many topics could be included based upon the current model. ED Zivkovich said typically there is a full day of legal updates and a half day of defensive skills. ED Zivkovich discussed how inservice was rolled out this year.

There was discussion about the opioid issues and how this could be integrated with police training. ED Zivkovich added that the MPTC may want to determine today if any topics will be mandatory or how the blocks of training will be allocated each day.

A motion was made to roll out the same model of training as last year's inservice which included the following:

Day 1: day of legal

Day 2: defensive tactics + one block of training

Day 3: two blocks of training

Day 4: regional area of choice.

The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice.

A motion was made to select subject matter experts for the topics of dynamics of addiction, active shooter, juvenile interactions/policing the teen brain and elder adults. U/S Queally proposed an amendment to change the topic from juvenile interactions/policing the teen brain to youth issues which was a broader topic. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 @ MPTC Headquarters in Randolph.

Dan reminded us that the WMass Police Officer Memorial Day is May 18 and often we have our May meeting at the academy so that we can all participate .

Adjournment

The motion was made, seconded and passed at 12:09am to adjourn.