

Municipal Police Training Committee
Standards Subcommittee Meeting
MPTC Headquarters - Randolph
March 15, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

At 9:10AM on March 15, 2023, an in-person meeting of the Standards Subcommittee was called to order at MPTC headquarters, Randolph, MA. Advance notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with the open meeting law. A quorum of the seven-member Subcommittee was present.

Subcommittee Members Present

- AAG Jennifer Cotter
- Sheriff Kevin Coppinger
- Chief Jennifer Gundersen
- Superintendent Nora Baston
- Major Steven McCarthy

MPTC Staff Present

- Jim O'Brien
- Denise Flagg
- Will Freeman

Guests Present

- Chief Michael Shaw, Webster Police Department
- Deputy Chief Bobby Wheeler, Webster Police Department
- Chad Hunter, Plymouth Harbormaster
- Cameron Wentworth, Plymouth Assistant Harbormaster

II. APPROVAL OF 2/15/23 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Standards Subcommittee Meeting minutes from the February 15, 2023 meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with one abstention (Sheriff Kevin Coppinger).

III. POLICE WAIVERS AND OUT-OF-STATE EXEMPTIONS

Temporary Waivers

There was one temporary waiver on the March agenda.

1. Charlie Vargas

Easthampton PD

- Training: Graduated from the Western Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association Reserve/Intermittent Academy on January 23, 2021.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **August 2021 - Present:** Special Police Officer with Easthampton PD enforcing state, federal, and local laws.

- Exigency: Chief Robert Alberti reports that the City of Easthampton has financial constraints and employee shortages that require it to make this request for a temporary waiver to allow for full-time employment of Officer Vargas.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes (TY22 in-service complete).
- Firearms Certified: Yes (TY22 in-service complete).
- Expected Academy: the next Holyoke Police Academy after the one starting 4/3/23 (tentatively 9/1/23).

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full Committee that Charlie Vargas be granted a temporary waiver that (a) allows the officer to work on a fulltime basis for up to 270-days and (b) requires the appointing authority to successfully enroll the officer in a fulltime MPTC operated or authorized police academy prior to the waiver's expiration on December 15, 2023. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Out-of-State Exemptions

There were three out-of-state exemptions on the March agenda.

1. Benjamin Church

Mattapoisett PD

- Basic Training: Graduated from the 594.25-hour 180th New Hampshire Full-Time Police Academy on December 20, 2019.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **December 2019 – May 2022**: Full-time Police officer for the Wolfeboro, NH Police Department (just under 2½ years).
 - **May 2022 - Present**: Full-time NH State Trooper (approximately 10 months).
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Yes. Certified Taser Instructor.
- Break-in-Service: No.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes (3/2/23).
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes (3/3/23).
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: Yes (78.45% on 2/13/23).

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full Committee that Officer Benjamin Church has the necessary out-of-state training/experience needed to obtain an exemption from the requirement of completing a fulltime MPTC operated/authorized Police Academy. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Riley LaCroix

Mashpee PD

- Basic Training: Graduated from the 594.25-hour 180th New Hampshire Full-Time Police Academy on December 20, 2019 and immediately after attended another 122-hours of Probationary Troopers' In-House Post-Academy training from December 23, 2019 to January 16, 2020.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **January 2020 – Present**: NH State Trooper (3+ years) assigned to Troop B/ Bedford NH and from March 2021 to present as a Special Events Response Team member.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Multiple ICS training courses.
- Break-in-Service: No.

- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes (11/18/22).
- MPTC Firearms Certified: No.
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: No.

Officer LaCroix had not completed his firearms qualification training or the police officer core competency exam. The matter was continued for consideration at the April meeting.

3. James Harrop

Mass General PD

- Basic Training: Graduated on January 25, 1995 from a 96-hour MA CJTC Reserve/ Intermittent Training Program held at Massasoit College, Canton, MA, and then on February 2, 2001 from the 640-hour North Carolina Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy.
- Work Experience as a law enforcement officer:
 - **January 1995 – October 1988**: Special/auxiliary police officer for the Attleboro Police Department.
 - **June 2000 – September 2000**: Officer with Mass General Hospital.
 - **February 2001 – April 2001**: Full-time police officer with the City of Rock Mount, NC Police Department.
 - **April 2001 – Present**: Police officer with Mass General Hospital (certified SSPO from August 2001 to June 2022).
 - **June 2012 – June 2013**: Reserve police officer for Bridgewater State University.
- In-Service/Specialized Training: Did not do any TY22 in-service training.
- Break-in-Service: No.
- CPR/1st Responder Certified: Yes (3/23/01 and 4/20/22).
- MPTC Firearms Certified: Yes (2/13/23).
- MPTC Police Officer Core Competency Exam: No.

Officer Harrop originally planned to enroll in the A-H Bridge Academy Training Program, but ended-up not doing so, and instead decided to seek an out-of-state exemption based on his training from the North Carolina Basic Law Enforcement Training Academy. It then took him several months to obtain the curriculum from the North Carolina Academy. In light of the non-traditional nature of this exemption request, the Standards Subcommittee did not make a recommendation to the full Committee.

IV. BRIDGE ENROLLMENT/EXEMPTIONS/HOURS

Bridge Exemptions

The Standards Subcommittee considered Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 603 through 606 on the March Bridge Academy A-H Class List.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full Committee that it approve Bridge exemption requests for officers numbered 603 through 606 on the March Bridge Academy A-H Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Standards Subcommittee considered Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 100 through 127 on the March Bridge Academy I-P Class List.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full Committee that it approve Bridge exemption requests for officers numbered 100 through 127 on the March Bridge Academy I-P Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Standards Subcommittee considered Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 1 and 2 on the March Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full Committee that it approve Bridge exemption requests for officers numbered 1 and 2 on the March Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Hours

1. Joshua Kimball

Cohasset PD

At the February meeting the Subcommittee recommended, and the full Committee approved, counting the marine patrol shifts and officer patrol shifts of Cohasset police officer/deputy harbor master/natural resource officer Joshua Kimball towards his 2,400-hour Bridge requirement. Following the meeting, MPTC staff reported that his cumulative marine patrol and officer patrol shifts only totaled 785.5 hours. It was unclear from the vote whether MPTC staff should also be counting his Cohasset natural resource hours. The Subcommittee confirmed that, based on the information available, natural resource hours should not be counted towards his 2,400-hour requirement.

2. Cameron Wentworth

Plymouth Harbormaster

MPTC staff requested assistance from the Standards Subcommittee regarding whether the hours of Plymouth Deputy Harbormaster Cameron Wentworth should be counted towards his 2,400-hour Bridge requirement. Plymouth Harbormaster Chad Hunter and Deputy Harbormaster Wentworth appeared in-person to provide detailed information about Deputy Harbormaster Wentworth's job duties and functions. The presentation included pointing-out that the full Committee had previously approved the hours of Harbormaster Hunter and two of his deputies.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the full Committee that the hours of Plymouth Deputy Harbormaster Cameron Wentworth be counted towards his 2,400-hour Bridge requirement. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Michael McGuire

Wareham PD

MPTC staff requested assistance from the Standards Subcommittee regarding whether the hours of Wareham Natural Resources Officer Michael McGuire should be counted towards his 2,400-hour Bridge requirement. He was not present, and the Subcommittee took no action.

V. INTERRUPTION-IN-SERVICE/ACADEMY/MODIFIED PT

Webster police officer Joshua Collins was injured during the execution of a search warrant on July 23, 2014. He remained out of work until a PERAC medical panel cleared him to return to duty, which he did on February 6, 2023, more than 8½ years after going out.

As a result of his interruption-in-service of more than five years, and in compliance with the MPTC's CMRs, the Webster Police Department wishes to enroll Officer Collins in the Boylston Police Academy beginning April 24, 2023. However, he has twice failed the pre-entry 1.5-mile run and, without an accommodation, will not be eligible to attend. Webster Police Chief Michael Shaw and Deputy Chief Bobby Wheeler appeared in-person at the Subcommittee meeting to ask that the Committee waive or modify both the "pre-academy" and "in-academy" fitness standards for Officer Collins. The Subcommittee did not make a recommendation to the full Committee.

VI. DISCIPLINARY DISMISSAL APPEALS

The David Bosini/WMASS appeal was heard by the Standards Subcommittee on February 15, 2023. A decision has been drafted and will be finalized by the end of the week.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:13AM a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Subcommittee meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.