

Municipal Police Training Committee
Full Committee Monthly Meeting Minutes
MPTC Lynnfield
August 20, 2025

Call to Order

On August 20, 2025, at 10:11 a.m., Chief James Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order at MPTC Lynnfield, 425 Walnut Street, Lynnfield, MA. Advance notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with the open meeting laws. A quorum of the fifteen-member Committee was present. The meeting was recorded and broadcast over Microsoft Teams.

Attendees: Voting Members

Chief James Hicks	Present
Deputy Chief Christine Amendola	Present
Sergeant Detective Eddy Chrispin	Present
Chief Brian Clark	Present
Chief Edward Conley	Present
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Present
Chief Ryan Couture	Present
Superintendent Lanita Cullinane	Present
Chief Jennifer Gundersen	Present
AAG Mary Nguyen	Present
Major Jody Greene	Present
Undersecretary Gina Kwon	Present
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Absent
Sheriff Tom Bowler	Absent
Detective Jennifer Sattler	Absent

EOPSS/MPTC Staff

Executive Director Rick Rathbun, Deputy Executive Director Amy Fanikos, Jim O'Brien, Gina Masotta, Andrea Nardone, Tanya Hardiman, Jay Gribaudo, Lisa Caputo, Aiesha Grenier, Deb Crafts, Josh Cole, Denise Flagg, Thomas Karns, Kelsey Whelihan, Brian Merrick, Tori Koch, Mary DeFrancesco, and Ryan Mingo.

Guests

Annie Lee (POST), Kimberly Shatford (POST), and Melissa Metzke (MSA).

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Chief Couture to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2025 meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with one abstention (Chief Conley).

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waivers

There were no temporary waiver requests on the August agenda.

Out-of-State Exemptions

There were five out-of-state exemption requests on the August agenda:

David Chenard	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Michael McHugh	Norton PD
Bryan Janeczko	Lowell PD
David Pettingell	Lynn PD
Lauren Apollo	Plymouth Sheriff

At its meeting earlier this morning, the Standards Subcommittee reviewed and made a favorable recommendation to approve the exemption requests.

A motion was made by Sheriff Coppinger and seconded by Chief Conley to approve the out-of-state exemption requests for David Chenard, Michael McHugh, Bryan Janeczko, David Pettingell, and Lauren Apollo. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Academy Exemptions

Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 654 and 655 on the August Bridge Academy A-H Class List were reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Sheriff Coppinger and seconded by Chief Clark to approve the Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 654 and 655 on the August Bridge Academy A-H Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

A Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 438 on the August Bridge Academy I-P Class List was reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Major Greene to approve the Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 438 on the August Bridge Academy I-P Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 350 and 351 on the August Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List were reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Sheriff Coppinger to approve the Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 350 and 351 on the August Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Update on Disciplinary Dismissal Appeals

There are pending appeals from former Student Officers Nadia Hunt and Burke Cushman, who were dismissed from the Boylston Academy and Randolph Academy (respectively) for disciplinary reasons. The hearings will be scheduled at a later date.

Update on Instructor Certification Revocation Appeals

Appeal hearings for former MPTC instructors Christopher Avey of Holliston PD, Anthony Grasso of Agawam PD, Heather Longley of Northampton PD, Joseph Ricupero of Lynn PD, and Michael Crosby (retired Lynn PD) are scheduled for August 26, 2025. Today's agenda also reflects pending appeals from five other MPTC instructors whose certifications were revoked, including Jeremiah Nicastro of Gloucester PD, Hannah Greene of Orleans PD, Christopher Bartolomei of Falmouth PD, Armando Feliciano of Barnstable PD, and Bryan Derochea of Mashpee PD. Their hearings will be scheduled at a later date.

Executive Director's Report

FY26 Budget Update. Executive Director Rathbun informed the Committee that spending and budget plans for FY26 are being finalized with EOPSS and A&F, and he hopes to update the Committee at the September or October meeting.

Facilities. Executive Director Rathbun reported that work on the Marlboro facility remains on schedule.

Recruit Training Update. Chief of Training Andrea Nardone presented an update on recruit academies, including academy start dates, graduation dates, separations and departures, and demographics. Superintendent Cullinane updated the Committee on the Boston Police Academies currently in session. Major Greene updated the Committee on MSP's 91st and 92nd RTTs.

In-Service and Specialized Training. Chief of Training Nardone presented an update on in-service and specialized training and noted that current statistics, broken down by academy and total number of training hours, are included in the Committee's meeting book today.

Bridge Academy. Chief of Training Nardone reported that there are 110 officers in the Bridge Academy A-H Class and 71 officers in the I-P Class who are still working on completing the 2,400 hours of work experience they need for an exemption. In the Bridge Academy Q-Z Class, there are 3 officers who are on leave and 58 officers who are working on their 2,400 hours.

ASHER. Chief of Training Nardone updated the Committee on the ASHER program and noted that all classes currently being offered are in Acadis.

Open Discussion for Items Not Requiring Votes

Sergeant Detective Chrispin discussed three student officers who were recently dismissed from the Boston Police Academy three days before graduation because they failed EVOC. He expressed concern about student officers being separated from academies so close to graduation and said he believes training standards should be reviewed to ensure they are not outdated and that student officers have ample opportunity to graduate. He said he understands that there are CMRs in place but suggested it might be time to reevaluate our standards. Chief Hicks asked Sergeant Detective Chrispin if he was referring to any specific rules or to all ROC rules in general. Superintendent Cullinane said she agrees that we should be giving student officers ample opportunity to complete the academy, but she cautioned that it's a slippery slope and we should make sure we aren't just pushing student officers through the academy because we'd be opening ourselves up to liability issues. Sergeant Detective Chrispin talked about reviewing whether the things we are currently teaching in our academies are actually related to police work and how certain skills are not necessarily as important for all departments. There was discussion among the Committee members about how police reform mandated the standardization of training for all police officers in Massachusetts. Chief of Training Nardone explained that under our current academy rules, student officers have an opportunity to remediate and pass skills training like EVOC.

Chief Gundersen told the Committee that Greenfield Community College is still evaluating whether the western part of the state needs a full-time academy that would run at night and on weekends like the QCC Academy. She said she hopes to have additional information at the September Committee meeting.

Old Business

Working Groups. Deputy Chief of Training Deb Crafts informed the Committee that she has taken the lead on the Campus Police Training Program Working Group, and she has had a few good meetings with the group. Fitness Manager Josh Cole reported that the Fitness Working Group hopes to meet soon, and their initial focus will be on the pilot program in Holyoke. Attorney Flagg informed the Committee that the HRD Cadet Program Working Group has a proposal for the Committee's consideration, and they hope to present it at the next Committee meeting. Undersecretary Kwon said the Academy Consolidation Working Group has met, and EOPSS Attorney Ryan Mingo has drafted a report for the other members of the group to review. They hope to have a final report with recommendations for the Committee by late fall or early winter. Chief Hicks updated the Committee on the Sheriffs Working Group. He explained that there have been many discussions between the Sheriffs and POST, and we are going to be adding additional members to our Sheriffs Working Group, including Undersecretary Kwon. He talked about how some issues have gotten more complex, particularly with respect to defining law enforcement duties, and this could have an impact on other groups such as constables. Sheriff Coppinger added that the Sheriffs have been working with POST for quite some time, and they recently met with Secretary Reidy and Undersecretary Kwon. He believes they are continuing to make progress and appreciates all the discussions they have had.

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Matters not known at the time of posting that legally come before the Committee

None.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025, and will be held in Milford.

Adjournment

Chief Hicks reminded the Committee that we are looking to enter Executive Session following the open portion of today's meeting pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 21(a)(3) and (4), which permit the Committee to meet in Executive Session "[t]o discuss strategy with respect to...litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the...litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares" and "[t]o discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto." Chief Hicks declared his belief that an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the Committees litigating position in the matter to be discussed.

At 11:50 a.m., a motion was made by Chief Clark and seconded by Superintendent Cullinane to enter into Executive Session and not reconvene in open session. A roll call was taken:

Superintendent Lanita Cullinane	Yes
Major Jody Greene	Yes
Chief Edward Conley	Yes
Chief Brian Clark	Yes
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Yes
Chief Jennifer Gundersen	Yes
Chief James Hicks	Yes
Undersecretary Gina Kwon	Yes
Deputy Chief Christine Amendola	Yes
Sergeant Detective Eddy Chrispin	Yes
Division Chief Mary H. Nguyen	Yes
Chief Ryan Couture	Yes

The motion passed unanimously, and the Committee entered into Executive Session.