

Municipal Police Training Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting
January 27, 2021

Call to Order

At 10:04 AM, Chief Jim Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order. This was a virtual meeting. A roll call was taken to account for who is present at the meeting which will be recorded.

Attendees: Voting Members

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Absent
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

MPTC Staff

ED Robert Ferullo, Sheila Gallagher, Andrea Nardone, Joanne Gardiner, Eileen Goodick, Denise Flagg, Laura Nichols, Rick Smith, Lara Thomas, Rose Sauvageau, Larry Norman, Pat Caggiano, Alison Taylor, John Melander and Stephen Mullaney.

Guests

Heather Brouillette, Donna DaVeiga, Haydee Martinez, Chief Tyrone Parham, Gomez, Chief Emil Fioravanti, Ronald Fisette, Jeff Scott, Jerry O'Rourke, Pat Cragin, Lisa Lane McCarty, Donald Scranton, Peter Roddy, Joe Cecchi, Alicia Malone, Christopher Stechmann, Andrew Rezendez, Jim Mulcahy, Ray Mooney, Chris, Moore, George Devlin, Mike Donahue, Patrick Clark, Steve Martel, Tom Flynn, and Michael Donahue.

Review/Approval of Minutes

AAG O'Brien said there was one correction for the December meeting minutes. The start date for the next Randolph Recruit class should be revised to "February 8, 2021" from "February 8, 2020".

AAG O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 16, 2020, meeting with that one correction. Chief Kyes seconded the motion and a roll call

was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Abstain
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waivers

The Standards Subcommittee reviewed three (3) temporary waiver requests.

Sean Riley
Joshua Bradley
Curtis Weaver

Gloucester PD
Dalton PD
Bernardston

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve all three (3) of the temporary waivers.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to approve the three (3) temporary waivers. Chief Livingstone seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Permanent Exemptions

The Committee considered four (4) requests for permanent exemptions.

Dean Isabella

Seekonk PD

The Town of Seekonk is requesting a permanent exemption for Dean Isabella to work as the police chief for the Seekonk Police Department. Dean Isabella graduated from the 767-hour Providence Police Academy on November 9, 1987. Mr. Isabella worked for the Providence Police Department for thirty-three (33) years where he served in many capacities, including patrol officer, District Commander from 2007 through 2014, and Captain for the Administrative Division within the department from 2014 through 2019. In 2019, he retired and began working as the Assistant Director for the Department of Children, Youth and Families where he is currently working. During his career he earned numerous awards and has served as adjunct faculty for Roger Williams University teaching for the criminal justice program. Dean Isabella is CPR and 1st responder certified and will be qualified in firearms with an MPTC instructor.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Dean Isabella. Chief Hicks suggested that the motion to approve the permanent exemption should be contingent upon Dean Isabella completing his firearms qualification.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Dean Isabella contingent upon completion of his firearms qualification. Chief Livingstone seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

William Sampson

Middleton PD

The Town of Middleton is requesting a permanent exemption for William Sampson to work as the Police Chief for the Middleton Police Department. Chief Sampson graduated from the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Council Basic Reserve Intermittent Academy in Worcester County on May 14, 1992, and the Worcester Sheriff's Office Basic Training Academy on April 27, 1990. For fourteen (14) years, he worked full-time as a certified Deputy Sheriff for the Worcester County Sheriff's Office and as a part-time officer for Paxton and Hubbardston Police Departments. He then moved to Florida where he graduated from a (822) hour Florida Basic Recruit Academy. He passed the state officer certification examination in November 2000, and was certified on February 12, 2002, as a law enforcement officer after satisfying the requirements set forth by the Florida Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Training. He served as a Detective for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and as a Detective Sergeant for the Florida Attorney General's Office and as a Detective for the Boynton Beach Police Department. After working for thirteen (13) years in Florida, Chief Sampson relocated to Vermont where he has served as the Police Chief for the Windsor, Vermont Police Department for six (6) years. He completed the Basic Training Waiver Course for full-time law enforcement officers in Vermont and is a full-time, certified police officer. He has completed all required in-service trainings and has attended numerous specialized trainings over the past thirty- three (33) years. Chief Sampson is certified in CRP/1st Responder and has qualified in firearms with an MPTC instructor.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Chief Sampson.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Chief Sampson. Chief Kyes seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Haydee Martinez

UMass Dartmouth PD

Chief Fioravanti is requesting a permanent exemption for Officer Martinez to work as a Deputy Chief for the UMass Dartmouth Police Department. Officer Martinez graduated from a 485-hour Chicago Metro Police Academy in 2001. She was certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board as a law enforcement peace officer on April 13, 2002. The Chicago Metro Police Academy provides training for both campus and municipal police officers with the same curriculum. Upon graduation, Officer Martinez began working as a patrol officer for the Northwestern University Police Department where she has worked for nineteen (19) years. Northwestern University Police Officers are armed and had mutual aid agreements with municipal police departments including Evanston. In 2007, Officer Martinez was promoted to sergeant and worked as a shift supervisor. She was promoted to the rank of lieutenant in 2016. Officer Martinez has completed annual in-service trainings and attended the Staffing Command Executive Program of the Northwestern Police Department. If an exemption is granted, Officer Martinez will become certified in CPR/1st responder and qualified in firearms with an MPTC instructor.

The Subcommittee did not recommend that the Committee approve the permanent exemption request for Officer Martinez. The primary issues concerned the hours of training Officer Martinez received and whether her training was comparable to Massachusetts.

AAG O'Brien provided a synopsis of the Subcommittee's concerns. The Subcommittee found that Officer Martinez's work experience was similar to Officer Abu, who was approved last month. Officer Martinez worked at Northwestern University Police Department which is in an urban area. Northwestern Police Officers carry firearms and have full arrest powers.

In 2002, the Chicago Metropolitan Police Academy consisted of 485 hours. The Subcommittee opined that the Chicago Metropolitan Police Academy was comparable to the Special State Police Officer Academy (SSPO) in Massachusetts or the Reserve Intermittent Academy.

Chief Hicks shared the concern of the Subcommittee regarding the training prong. Chief Hicks asked how many hours the Massachusetts Municipal Police Academies required back in 2002. AAG O'Brien asked how long the Chicago Metropolitan Police Academy is today. Officer Martinez believes it is under 600 hours. Currently, Massachusetts Municipal Police Academies are approximately 750-760 hours.

Officer Martinez asked for a list of the curriculum of the MPTC academies so that she could provide more information to the Committee. Chief Hicks told Officer Martinez that the MPTC can provide an overview of the curriculum and the hours involved.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to continue this request for a permanent exemption and put it on the agenda for next month. Chief Kyes seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Christopher Stechmann

UMass Amherst

Chief Parham is requesting a permanent exemption for Officer Stechmann to continue working as a police officer for UMass Amherst Police Department where he has worked for the past 17 ½ years.

Officer Stechmann graduated from the 96-hour Agawam Massachusetts Basic Reserve Academy on April 19, 1988. He worked as a reserve officer for the Lenox Police Department, working between 16 – 40 hours a week. He attended an 8-week Federal Law Enforcement Training Council Academy and graduated from a 623-hour Municipal Police Training Academy in New York on August 25, 2000. Additionally, Officer Stechmann has completed one hundred and four (104) hours of training in Radar, Breath Test Operator and Field Sobriety Tests. He also completed eighty (80) hours of police instructor courses in New York. He worked at New York State University Police Department for two (2) years where he exercised full police powers, carried a firearm and issued motor vehicle citations. The UMass Amherst Police Department hired Officer Stechmann in 2002. At that time, Officer Stechmann passed the required, Massachusetts basic criminal law exam on October 28, 2002, and completed a 12-week field officer training.

In 2003, former Director of Training Marylou Powers provided Officer Stechmann with an advisory letter indicating that he would likely receive a favorable recommendation for a permanent exemption if an appointing authority requested one on his behalf. There is no record that Officer Stechmann received an exemption at that time.

In 2010, legislation passed and authorized the MPTC to oversee the training for UMass and environmental police officers. On November 10, 2010, the MPTC passed a resolution that required all UMass police officers to meet the same standards as a municipal police officer in all aspects of training.

The Subcommittee made no recommendation to the Committee on this request.

AAG O'Brien explained that this request encompasses a larger issue and could impact other UMass and environmental police officers. When UMass hired Officer Stechmann, the MPTC did not have jurisdiction over UMass and therefore he did not need to request a permanent exemption. Since Police Reform legislation passed on December 31, 2020, this issue is now coming to light since police officers will need certification which was not previously required.

Undersecretary Reidy, Chief Hicks, and Chief Kyes agreed with AAG O'Brien that this exemption request highlights a more complicated issue. Various sections of the Police Reform legislation need to be carefully reviewed. This issue is the focus of many discussions at this point and not something that can be resolved during this meeting. Undersecretary Reidy recommended that this matter be continued until the next meeting.

Chief Parham also raised a concern that Officer Stechmann's training records are not accurately reflected in Acadis database. ED Ferullo reported that his staff is addressing the Acadis issues with the support of EOPSS and Administration and Finance.

AAG O'Brien made a motion to continue this matter to a later date so that the issue can be dealt with on a larger level. Undersecretary Reidy seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Police Standards

There were no disciplinary appeals hearings.

Open Discussion

Update on Police Reform Legislation

Chief Hicks provided an update on the Police Reform legislation which passed on December 31, 2020. He summarized the pertinent parts of the Act, including the addition of four (4) voting members to the Committee and additional non-voting members that will be joining on July 1, 2021. Chief Hicks also summarized the responsibilities and obligations the legislation imposed on the MPTC. Chief Hicks acknowledged that the CMRs will have to be reviewed. There are several mandates that the legislation requires which the Committee already does. Chief Hicks suggested that the Committee develop subcommittees to address the changes contained within the legislation. The volume of work required is too much for the MPTC staff to deal with on its own.

Chief Hicks reiterated his concern that the issues raised by UMass with respect to Officer Stechmann is a much larger issue affecting various agencies. Jeffrey Scott from the Massachusetts Parole Board commented that there are eighty-six (86) parole officers who share similar concerns.

ED Ferullo said that MPTC staff as well as additional personnel will work to address the data integrity of Acadis. The group will begin validating and confirming the information with each department. Next month, ED Ferullo will provide an update about potential bridge academies.

Executive Director's Report

Recruit Officer Training Update

Boston: The current class is in week 9 of the academy. The class is expected to graduate the second week of June. There are ninety-five (95) recruits in the class.

Boylston: The current class of eighteen (18) recruits is expected to graduate on February 19, 2021. The next class is scheduled to start on April 26, 2021, with twelve (12) available seats.

Cambridge/Northeastern: The current class is in week 2 with twenty- three (23) recruits.

Cape Cod: The current class is in week 4 with forty-five (45) recruits. Graduation is scheduled the week before Memorial Day.

Lowell: The class graduated in December.

FSU: There are twenty-nine (29) seniors scheduled to graduate on May 15, 2021, and their academy would begin on May 17, 2021.

Merrimack: An authorized pilot program is scheduled to begin in September 2021.

NECC: The current class is in week 11 and the next class is scheduled to start on June 7, 2021.

Plymouth: The next academy will start on March 1, 2021, with thirty-eight (38) students. There are 5 available seats.

Randolph: The next class is scheduled to start on February 8, 2021, with forty-seven (47) students. A second academy will start on March 15, 2021, to accommodate Lynn and Fall River. The class will have between 35-40 students.

Reading: The current class of twenty-two (22) recruits is expected to graduate on March 5, 2021. The next class is scheduled to begin May 10, 2021, and there are thirteen (13) available seats.

Springfield: The current class started in October. There are currently thirty-seven (37) recruits.

SPMA: The current class is in week 18 and will graduate on February 19, 2021.

SSPO/National Guard – The current class will graduate this Friday.

Transit: The current class started on January 4, 2021, with forty-four (44) students.

Western Mass: The next class is scheduled to start on March 22, 2021. The class is full at twenty-four (24) students.

Worcester: The current class started on Monday. There are thirty (30) recruits in the class.

The MPTC continues to meet with Quinisigamond College about potentially offering an evening academy for full-time officers. The next meeting with Quinsigamond College is scheduled for February 3, 2021.

COVID impact Update

All academies are adhering to COVID restrictions, including those with graduating classes. The MPTC is keeping track of all the vaccinations. At this point, graduation ceremonies are restricted to staff and recruits.

Facilities Update

ED Ferullo announced that MPTC headquarters in Randolph will be operational on

Monday.

FY 2020-21 Budget

The budget is expected to be released today and it is anticipated that the MPTC budget will be funded at \$3.5 million. ED Ferullo has had positive conversations with the financial people who are supportive of seeking a supplemental budget to support police reform and other gaps in MPTC operations. ED Ferullo reported that the car rental fund is approximately forty (40) percent of what it was pre-COVID.

Specialized Training

ED Ferullo explained that COVID has impacted specialized training. The MPTC is focused on offering more sexual assault investigator classes and is committed to eliminating the existing backlog. There is a sexual assault instructor training scheduled for the last week of February to certify sexual assault instructors. The MPTC plans to offer two (2) sexual assault investigator classes each month to assist departments in need of sexual assault investigators.

New Business

Code of conduct

Andrea Nardone gave the Committee a draft of the Code of Conduct for instructors. This Code of Conduct would apply to all MPTC instructors, including staff instructors or anyone teaching for the MPTC.

The Code of Conduct draft will be provided to the Committee members in advance of the next meeting for their review and comments. There will be further discussion and a possible vote next month.

In-Service:

Chief Hicks asked the Committee if it intended to require forty (40) hours of in-service for TY 2021-22. ED Ferullo said that the MPTC intends to include training that is mandated by the Police Reform legislation for next year's in-service.

Chief Kyes made a motion to keep in-service at 40 hours. Chief O'Donnell seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye

Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Old Business

No additional business was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2021, and will be virtual.

Adjournment

AAG O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chief O'Donnell seconded the motion and a roll call was taken.

U/S Terrence Reidy	Aye
Chief Jim Hicks	Aye
AAG Jim O'Brien	Aye
Chief Michael Botieri	Aye
Chief Brian Kyes	Aye
Chief Scott Livingstone	Aye
Chief Thomas O'Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.