

Municipal Police Training Committee
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

February 17, 2021

Call to Order

At 10:05 AM, Chief Jim Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order. This was a virtual meeting which will be recorded. A roll call was taken for attendance.

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	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Not Present for Roll Call
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Not Present for Roll Call
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

MPTC Staff

ED Robert Ferullo, Sheila Gallagher, Andrea Nardone, Denise Flagg, Rick Smith, Joanne Heres, Lara Thomas, Rose Sauvageau, Pat Caggiano, Alison Taylor, John Melander, Dori Ference, Lynda Kearns, Mary Bragg, Maura Landry, Nicole Hamwey, Jack Dillon, and Kevin Donnelly.

Guests

Heather Brouillette, Donna DaVeiga, Haydee Martinez, Chief Emil Fioravanti, Ronald Fisette, Jeffrey Scott, Jerry O'Rourke, Lisa Lane McCarty, Peter Roddy, Joe Cecchi, Steve Martel, Chief Riter, Joanne Heres, Joseph Witkowski, Thomas Grady, Lt. Mark Giammalvo, Marc Spigel, Mike Miksch, Steve Taranto, Thomas Zarelli, Vincent Lamberti, and Kevin Ritaccio.

Review/Approval of Minutes

AAG O'Brien noted one correction to the January minutes. On page 3 of the minutes regarding Dean Isabella, the phrase "767-hour Police Academy" should be "767-hour Providence Police Academy".

AAG O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 27, 2021, meeting with that one modification. 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 Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Not present for Vote
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waivers

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

Richard Owens	Boxford
Mark Theirault	Beverly
Justin Marrs	Beverly

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

Chief Kyes 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 Richard Sullivan	Aye

Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Not Present for Vote
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Permanent Exemptions

The Committee considered seven (7) requests for permanent exemptions.

Thomas Belinski

Yarmouth PD

Yarmouth Police Chief Frederickson is requesting a permanent exemption for Thomas Belinski to work as a police officer for the Yarmouth Police Department. Thomas Belinski graduated from the Municipal Police Training Committee Reserve Academy on July 17, 2011. Officer Belinski then began working as a seasonal police officer for Provincetown Police Department. In 2013, Officer Belinski relocated to Virginia where he graduated from the 720-hour Central Shenandoah Criminal Justice Training Academy on September 6, 2013, and upon graduation was certified as a law enforcement officer in the state of Virginia. Since 2013, Officer Belinski has worked as a police officer for the Charlottesville Police Department in Virginia. During his tenure at the Charlottesville Police Department, Officer Belinski has made numerous arrests and has received specialized training in a variety of topics. Thomas Belinski is CPR and 1st responder certified and will be certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations once he relocates to Massachusetts.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Thomas Belinski contingent upon Officer Belinski becoming certified in firearms in compliance with MPTC regulations.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Thomas Belinski contingent upon completion of his firearms certification in accordance with MPTC regulations. 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 Richard Sullivan	Aye

Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Not Present for Vote
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Stephen Dawson

Marion PD

Chief Nighelli of the Marion Police Department is requesting a permanent exemption for Stephen Dawson to work as a police officer for the Marion Police Department. Stephen Dawson graduated from the 770-hour Broward College Institute of Public Safety in Florida on November 14, 2018. Officer Dawson then began working as a road patrol officer for Broward Sheriff’s Department in Florida. He has worked for the past two (2) years as a Deputy Sheriff for Broward County conducting criminal investigations into a variety of crimes including armed robbery, domestic violence, aggravated battery and check fraud. On January 22, 2021, the Marion Police Department extended Officer Dawson a conditional offer of employment, contingent upon the approval of this permanent exemption. Officer Dawson is CPR and 1st responder certified and is certified in firearms pursuant to MPTC regulations.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Stephen Dawson.

Chief Kyes made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Stephen Dawson. 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 Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Robert Marvil, Jr.

Holliston PD

Chief Stone of Holliston Police Department is requesting a permanent exemption for Robert Marvil, Jr. to work as a police officer for the Holliston Police Department. Robert Marvil graduated from the 758-hour Municipal Police Academy in Delaware County Community College in Pennsylvania on June 20, 2006. Upon graduation he began working full-time as a police officer for the Upper Darby Police Department in Pennsylvania, where he is currently employed. During his tenure with the Upper Darby Police Department he has worked in many capacities including patrol, SWAT, and narcotics. Officer Marvil is CPR and 1st Responder certified and will become certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations upon his relocation to Massachusetts.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Robert Marvil, Jr. contingent upon Officer Marvil completing his firearms certification in accordance with MPTC regulations.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Robert Marvil, Jr. contingent upon completion of his firearms certification in accordance with MPTC regulations. 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 Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

Russell Ventura

Oak Bluffs PD

The request for Russell Ventura is actually not an exemption request but a request for the Committee to waive the requirement that Office Ventura must return to a full-time academy after a break-in-service of more than five (5) years.

Chief Blake of the Oak Bluffs Police Department is requesting a waiver for Russell Ventura to work as a police officer for the Oak Bluffs Police Department. Officer Ventura graduated from the 944-hour Boylston Municipal Police Academy in 2005. After graduating he began working part-time for the Oak Bluffs Police Department, the

Dukes County Sheriff's Department and the Edgartown Police Department where he worked from 2000 through 2009. In 2009, he was hired full-time by the West Tisbury Police Department where he worked until 2014 when he left law enforcement because of HIPAA protected medical issues. Officer Ventura graduated from the Martha's Vineyard Law Enforcement Council Police Academy on December 21, 2020. This is a 330-hour full-time reserve academy that is simulcast from Topsfield, Massachusetts. Chief Kyes explained that the participants on Martha's Vineyard physically reported to a room in the police department in Martha's Vineyard each day to watch the simulcast and were supervised and proctored by the police chiefs each day of the training. Officer Ventura is CPR and 1st Responder certified and is certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the request for a waiver of the requirement that Officer Ventura attend a full-time academy after a five (5) year break-in-service. The Subcommittee noted that the Committee has discretion with respect to these requests and has previously allowed officers to attend alternative trainings in lieu returning to a full-time academy. There were cases where officers were required to attend in-service trainings to supplement what was missed during the break in service or to attend a reserve academy. Members of the committee notes that, in this case, Officer Ventura proactively attended the 330-hour Reserve Police Academy.

AAG O'Brien made a motion to approve the waiver of the full-time academy requirement after a five (5) year break-in-service for Russell Ventura. 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 Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Not Present for Vote
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

David Wallant

New Bedford PD

Chief Cordeiro of the New Bedford Police Department is requesting a permanent exemption for David Wallant to work as a police officer for the New Bedford Police Department. David Wallant graduated from the 944-hour Vermont Police Academy on November 16, 2018. Upon graduation he worked full-time as a patrol officer for the Brandon Police Department in Vermont from March 2018 until September 1, 2019. Since September 1, 2019, Officer Wallant has worked for the Barre Police Department in Vermont where he remains employed. Officer Wallant is CPR and 1st responder certified and will become certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations upon his relocation to Massachusetts.

The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Officer Wallant contingent upon him becoming certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

Superintendent Sullivan made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for David Wallant contingent upon completion of his firearms certification in accordance with MPTC regulations. Sgt. Viera 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 Richard Sullivan	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.

This request was discussed at length last month. A summary of Officer Stechmann's training and employment history consistent with the information contained in the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting was given. Officer Stechmann graduated from the 96-hour Agawam Massachusetts Basic Reserve Academy on April 19, 1988

and has completed several hundred hours of training since then.

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. 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.

The matter was not voted on last month because there was a concern that this request encompassed a larger issue and could impact several other UMass police officers. ED Ferullo advised the Committee that research was done since the last meeting on this issue and there are only four (4) officers that are similarly situated to Officer Stechmann. Based upon this new information, the subcommittee was comfortable that this was not a widespread issue and considered Officer Stechmann's request. The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Officer Stechmann.

Chief Livingstone made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Christopher Stechmann. 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 Richard Sullivan	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. If approved, it is anticipated that Officer Martinez will be promoted to the position of Chief upon the retirement of Chief Fioravanti in six (6) weeks. Haydee Martinez is CPR and 1st Responder certified

and has been certified in firearms in accordance with MPTC regulations.

This request was discussed at length last month. A summary of Officer Martinez's training and employment history consistent with the information contained in the minutes of the January 27, 2021, meeting was given. 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. Upon graduation, Officer Martinez began working as a patrol officer for the Northwestern University Police Department where she has worked for nineteen (19) years.

At the January meeting, the matter was postponed to allow the MPTC an opportunity to compare the training Officer Martinez completed during her career to the substance and hours of the 2002 MPTC recruit curriculum.

AAG O'Brien explained that the Subcommittee considered two (2) things. First, in 2002, the MPTC Police Academy was an 800-hour program. Officer Martinez completed a 400-hour Staff and Command Executive program with the Northwestern Police Department as well as an 80-hour First Line Supervisor School. Considering the additional hours of Ms. Martinez's training along with the 485-hour academy she attended exceeds the 800 hours of academy training Massachusetts recruits received. Second, Officer Martinez has significant experience at a world-class university in an urban/suburban setting just north of Chicago. The Subcommittee made a favorable recommendation to the Committee to approve the permanent exemption for Haydee Martinez.

Chief O'Donnell made a motion to approve the permanent exemption for Haydee Martinez. Superintendent Sullivan 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 Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye
Major Dan McGinn	Aye

The motion passes.

ED Ferullo told the Committee that there has been a significant increase in requests for advisory letters. Since the police reform legislation passed in December, ED Ferullo commented that this procedure may need to be reviewed at some point. The MPTC has also received many requests from departments across the state seeking documents regarding the training their officers have received. The records within the last five (5) years are easily accessible. However older records will take some time to locate.

Disciplinary Appeals Hearings

There were no disciplinary appeals hearings.

Open Discussion

No items discussed.

Executive Director's Report

Recruit Officer Training Update

Boston: The current class has ninety-seven (97) recruits. The recruits are scheduled to get their second COVID-19 vaccination shot on Friday. The next class is scheduled to begin on June 28, 2021 with 110 recruits.

Boylston: The current class of eighteen (18) recruits is expected to graduate on February 19, 2021. The next class of twenty-four (24) recruits is scheduled to start on April 26, 2021, and is full. There is a waitlist. A second academy at Boylston is being considered to accommodate any waitlists for the Boylston and Western Massachusetts academies.

Cambridge/Northeastern: The current class began in January and have relocated to the Royal Sonesta to allow for social distancing.

Cape Cod: The current class is in week 7 with forty-four (44) recruits. Graduation is scheduled for May 27, 2021.

FSU: The next class is scheduled to begin on May 17, 2021, with twenty-six (26) seniors going into the academy. Orientation is scheduled for April 15, 2021.

Lowell: The next class is expected to begin in late spring/early summer.

Merrimack: There is no update.

MBTA: There are seventeen (17) recruits in the current class. Graduation is scheduled for June 11, 2021. The next class is tentatively scheduled to begin in late spring.

NECC: The current class is in session with another class planned to begin in June.

Plymouth: The next academy will start on March 1, 2021 with thirty-five (35) recruits.

Randolph: The current class started on February 8, 2021, with forty-seven (47) recruits. A second academy will start on March 15, 2021, to accommodate Lynn and Fall River. ED Ferullo indicated that the Cooper Test for the second class was done last Saturday and there was a 40% failure rate. There will be a retest. If the class is not full after the retest, the class will be reopened to recruits from other agencies.

Reading: The current class of twenty-two (22) recruits is scheduled to graduate on March 5, 2021. The next class is scheduled to begin May 10, 2021, and there are seven (7) available seats.

Springfield: The current class is in week 19 with thirty-four (34) recruits.

SPMA: The current class will graduate on February 19, 2021.

Western Mass: The next class is scheduled to start on March 22, 2021. The class has twenty-four (24) recruits and is full. Currently there is a waitlist.

Worcester: The current class is in week 4 with twenty-six (26) recruits.

Chief Hicks asked if recruits were encouraged to get vaccinated before they attend the academy. ED Ferullo has been working with the departments to have the recruits vaccinated as police officers for their departments.

Facilities Update

The new location of MPTC headquarters in Randolph is open. The MPTC has been authorized to occupy the entire building which will make room for two (2) additional classrooms. The current Randolph ROC is located at headquarters and specialized trainings are scheduled there as well. There is a Sexual Assault Instructor class scheduled in Randolph next week.

ED Ferullo is working with DCAMM to develop a facility similar to Randolph in the Reading area. Also, DCAMM is exploring facilities in Springfield as well.

The MPTC will also need to find temporary facilities to accommodate training officers in Defensive Tactics, De-escalation and Use of Force as required by the police reform legislation. Additionally, the MPTC may consider leasing a gymnasium or field house to host the entry level fitness test similar to how the Human Resources Division is handling the Physical Abilities Test. ED Ferullo would like to have a centralized location for recruits to run the Cooper Test and also to allow potential candidates to preview the test either in person or via video.

There is also a plan to engage a design firm through DCAMM to build a training facility modeled after the State Police Academy.

FY 2020-21 Budget

The MPTC budget was level funded this year and will have to use a portion of the training fund to offset operating costs. ED Ferullo is hopeful that there will be a supplemental budget which will include money for training related to police reform and the increased facilities.

There are ongoing discussions with fiscal and the Human Resources Division to deal with MPTC staffing needs. ED Ferullo intends to add more staff to the financial group to deal with the fiscal consequence of meeting our police reform requirements.

Specialized Training

The MPTC is wrapping up the Fair and Impartial Police Training. By the end of May, the MPTC will have offered fifty (50) classes of this program and trained close to 2,000 officers. Anyone who attended the train-the-trainer will be able to continue training internally when there is a need.

The MPTC is in the preliminary stages of developing a Police/Community Interaction Training which models a program from New Orleans. ED Ferullo will provide an update during the meeting next month.

Maura Landy is training more instructors to teach the Sexual Assault Investigator Course. The plan is to offer multiple trainings to eliminate the current waitlist.

In the last quarter of 2020, the MPTC trained and certified 1,600 officers in firearms. The Patrol Tactics group is developing Defensive Tactics and De-escalation trainings which will be ready for the spring and can be offered outside.

New Business

Code of conduct

Andrea Nardone presented a draft Code of Conduct for MPTC instructors. This Code of Conduct would apply to all MPTC curriculum instructors not just staff instructors. The draft incorporates mandates contained in the recent police reform legislation. Chief Botieri was concerned that there was no process to appeal. ED Ferullo suggested that the MPTC could implement a process similar to the discipline process when a recruit is dismissed from an academy. Chief Kyes stressed the standard for any appeal process should have an objective and not subjective standard. Prior to the next meeting, the MPTC will revise the Code of Conduct to include an appeals process.

Instructor Certification Proposal

ED Ferullo summarized the amended process for instructor certification. The proposal streamlines the application process, but still involve the Chiefs during the application process. The proposal also simplifies the current leveling of instructors to: instructors, lead instructors and instructor trainers.

For the next meeting, Chief Hicks requested that the MPTC provide a written proposal to the Committee for a full discussion. This issue will remain on the agenda for the March meeting.

Old Business

Quinsigamond College

Quinsigamond College is proposing a full-time evening academy to begin in September 2021. Classes would meet Monday through Thursday evenings from 4:30 –10:30 PM and alternating Saturdays from 9AM – 5PM. This would be a 9 month program. There would be three (3) 40-hour weeks included. Captain Cecchi indicated that this is a collaborative effort with Worcester State University and that there are twelve (12) police chiefs in support of the program. He also indicated that there is an eye toward diversity and that there is financial aid and scholarships available. There are nine (9) other state that have similar programs.

Chief Hicks raised the concern that the MPTC is required to evaluate the possibility of consolidating all academies into one academy. If the MPTC authorizes a new academy, it is contradicting that mission.

Captain Cecchi will provide a written proposal that will include states with similar programs, in advance of the next meeting.

In-Service Training

Chief Hicks emphasized that the Committee must decide the topics for in-service at the March meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for **March 17, 2021**.

Adjournment

Chief O’Donnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Superintendent Cotter 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	Not present for the Vote
Chief Thomas O’Donnell	Aye
Superintendent Richard Sullivan	Aye
Superintendent Winnie Cotter	Aye
Sergeant Joseph Vieira	Aye

Major Dan McGinn

Aye

The motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned.