

Municipal Police Training Committee
600 Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA
Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2024

Call to Order

On July 17, 2024, at 10:13 a.m., Chief James Hicks called the monthly meeting of the Municipal Police Training Committee to order at 600 Kelly Way, Holyoke, 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
Chief Brian Clark	Present
Chief Edward Conley	Present
Sheriff Kevin Coppinger	Present
Sheriff Christopher Donelan	Present
Chief Thomas Gammel	Present
Chief Jennifer Gundersen	Present
Undersecretary Gina Kwon	Present
Major Jon Provost	Present
Detective Jennifer Sattler	Present

EOPSS/MPTC Staff

Executive Director Robert Ferullo, Chief Jeff Farnsworth, Atty. John Melander, Atty. James O'Brien, Atty. Gina Masotta, Tanya Hardiman, Lisa Caputo, James Gribaudo, Amy Fanikos, Michele Lyons and Shannon Carney

Announcements

Holyoke Academy Director Michele Lyons welcomed the Committee to Holyoke.

Chief Hicks welcomed Detective Sattler and Deputy Chief Amendola to the Committee.

Chief Gammel has been assigned to the Standards Subcommittee.

The Committee held a moment of silence for the recent loss of two MPTC staff members: Jean Avril and Rose Sauvageau.

Chief Hicks spoke about ED Ferullo's tenure with the MPTC. This is the toughest job in the Commonwealth with many masters and directors. ED Ferullo has improved the MPTC's training to police officers of the Commonwealth to a degree that we could not have imagined 5 years ago.

Undersecretary Kwon praised ED Ferullo's professionalism and his accomplishments with the MPTC. She then presented a plaque from EOPSS to ED Ferullo celebrating his retirement.

ED Ferullo thanked the Committee for allowing him to serve as ED for the past 5 years.

Chief Donelan spoke about the progress that MPTC has made under ED Ferullo's direction and his 20 years of commitment to the MPTC beginning as an instructor in 1999 and ending with his retirement as executive director in 2024.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Chief Conley to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2024, meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed with three (3) abstentions (Sheriffs Coppinger and Donelan and Chief Gammel).

Police Standards and Training

Temporary Waivers

There were no temporary waiver requests on the July agenda.

Out-of-State Exemptions

There were two out-of-state exemption requests on the May agenda.

Michael W. Dempsey	Westwood PD
Matthew T. Sheidel	Westwood PD

At its meeting earlier today, the Standards Subcommittee reviewed and made a favorable recommendation to approve the exemption requests for both Officers Dempsey and Sheidel.

A motion was made by Sheriff Coppinger and seconded by Chief Gammel to approve the out-of-state exemptions for Officers Dempsey and Sheidel. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge Academy Exemptions

A Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 636 on the July Bridge Academy A-H Class List was 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 Major Provost to approve the Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 636 on the July Bridge Academy A-H Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 424 on the July Bridge Academy I-P List were reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Sheriff Donelan and seconded by Chief Clark to approve the Bridge exemption request for Officer numbered 424 on the July Bridge Academy I-P Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 324 through 335 on the July Bridge Academy Q-Z List were reviewed and recommended by the Standards Subcommittee. Coursework was completed and payroll has been verified.

A motion was made by Chief Gammel and seconded by Chief Gundersen to approve the Bridge exemption requests for Officers numbered 324 through 335 on the April Bridge Academy Q-Z Class List. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Disciplinary Update

Chief Gundersen presented updates on recent disciplinary appeals hearings:

Kyle DeCoste. The subcommittee upheld the Class 2 tobacco use and Class 1 unbecoming conduct charges. A Decision was made to bar SO DeCoste from attending an MPTC academy for one year from the dismissal date.

Chief Hicks asked for information on tobacco use on college campuses. No final answer was supplied to this question.

Executive Director's Report

2025 Budget. The budget is still pending. Specialized training is currently on hold until funds are released. Contracts are ready to be signed and scheduled in Acadis while waiting for funds.

FBI Leea is now a civil service requirement, and Dean Crisp classes will be added to the civil service requirements.

Lynnfield Police Academy must add 38 weeks of in-service training. Lowell Police Academy is no longer offering in-service training.

Upcoming programs. We will be offering NASRO classes every month through June, in addition to 3-day programs.

A Civil Rights symposium is being offered in August.

Facilities. An update on the East Falmouth academy was presented. The Marlboro facility is expected to be completed in 16 months. Initial funding is in place for the North Shore range but no planning as of yet.

Basic Training. Basic Training Manager Amy Fanikos, presented updates on recruit academies, including academy start dates, graduation dates, and demographics.

Ma. Fanikos also offered updates on the following academies:

Merrimack is ending their ROC program. There are 15 students who will continue their training in Lynnfield. Chief Hicks stated that Merrimack will need to contact the Committee in writing about ending their program.

Chief of Training Nardone has been in contact with QCC regarding their program.

Fall River / New Bedford is in need of an academy of 50 student officers. Discussion was held as to how best to accommodate these students.

Greenfield Community College is interested in replicating the QCC program. Senator Comerford has secured funding for a pilot program.

Discussion was held as to how we can assist in the success of these programs.

Old Business

Code of Conduct for Instructors. Atty. Masotta explained that letters have been sent to all current instructors to update their Code of Conduct documentation.

Firearms regulations: Atty. O'Brien discussed the minor revisions to the firearms regulations.

A motion was made by Chief Gundersen and seconded by Sheriff Donelan to accept the most recent revision to the Firearms regulations. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Regulations. Atty. Melander asked that the Committee review the regulations and be prepared to vote on them at the August meeting due to time constraints today.

Use of Force update. The MPTC is working with POST-C on a policy. This may be ready to present to the Committee in August.

New Business

Executive Director position. The recruitment subcommittee will be holding their first meeting today. The committee consists of: Chiefs Hicks, Clark Conley and Donelan and Undersecretary Kwon. Attorneys O'Brien and Masotta will work with the Committee, along with a representative from Human Resources.

Questions and statements from the Committee regarding the ED position.

Deputy Chief Amendola asked if ED Ferullo will be involved in the decision-making process. The answer is no. The recruitment subcommittee will review resumes and perform interviews. Their recommendations will be forwarded to Secretary Reidy.

Undersecretary Kwon stated that it will be difficult to replace ED Ferullo. We hope to have someone with a similar vision to fill this role.

Executive Director Ferullo commented that the MPTC needs an ED who is involved both professionally and emotionally to see the vision of the MPTC through.

Chief Gundersen asked if there is a job description for this position. A final draft of the job description has been sent to the subcommittee for their review at today's meeting.

Interim Executive Director. Chief Hicks introduced Chief Jeff Farnsworth to the Committee. Chief Farnsworth will be acting as our Interim Executive Director while the recruitment process is happening.

Chief Farnsworth spoke to the Committee about the impact that ED Ferullo has made and the fact that his work and vision has taken the MPTC in a new direction. Chief Ferullo's accomplishments at the MPTC are far and wide. Chief Farnsworth plans to join the MPTC and keep the current vision moving forward.

Next Meeting

The next MPTC meeting will be held on August 21, 2024, in Randolph MA.

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Adjournment

At 11:50 a.m., there was a motion by Sheriff Donelan and seconded by Chief Gammel to adjourn the meeting. A vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.