

Minutes of the meeting of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees held at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Brian MacMaster Board Room on Friday, January 11, 2019.

**Board Members Attending:**

Special Agent Brian Pellerin - Chair  
Detective Sgt. Lincoln Ryder – Vice-chair  
Sheriff Scott Nichols  
Chief Charles Rumsey IV  
Ms. Elizabeth Ward Saxl  
Ms. Kimberly Gore  
Interim Commissioner Randall Liberty  
Colonel John Cote  
Mr. Tom Peters II, Esq.  
Deputy Chief David Bushey  
Det. Seth Blodgett  
Colonel Joel Wilkinson  
Mr. Richard Davis

**Board Members Excused:**

Commissioner John Morris  
Ms. Marie Hansen  
DA Kathryn Slattery  
Mr. Levon Travis

**Participants:**

Director John Rogers  
Asst. Director Rick Desjardins  
Attorney Christopher Mann

**Guests:**

None

**I. Item One on the Agenda: Call to Order:**

Chair Pellerin called the meeting to order at 09:05 a.m. and greeted the two new members of the Board, Interim Commissioner Randall Liberty and Deputy Chief David Bushey.

**II. Item Two on the Agenda: Roll Call and Introduction of Board Members**

Chair Pellerin requested that Secretary Green conduct a roll call. Chair Pellerin asked both David Bushey and Randall Liberty to introduce themselves to the Board and presented them with Board pins. He then asked that those present introduce themselves to the new members. Chair Pellerin asked Director Rogers to introduce Debbie Dalzell and Ericka Melanson the Academy’s newest Office staff. Following the introductions, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Pellerin.

**III. Item Three on the Agenda: Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the November 9, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting that were handed out prior to the meeting and to be placed on file with the secretary.**

Moved by Mr. Tom Peters and seconded by Colonel Joel Wilkinson. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**IV. Item Four on the Agenda: Certifications, Waivers and Extensions:**

**A. Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver Requests:**

Assistant Director Rick Desjardins explained the waiver process to the new Board members and then presented the following Basic Law Enforcement Training Waiver Requests.

1. Trooper Recruit James T. French - Maine State Police.

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of the 2017-2018 MCJA Mandatory Law Enforcement Training, and the Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 12/2019.**

Moved by Sgt. Ryder and seconded Mr. Davis. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

2. Officer Cory L. Blancato – Kittery Police Department.

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of Maine Crash Reporting Training, and the Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 11/2019.**

Moved by Sgt. Ryder and seconded Mr. Davis. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

3. Officer Peter J. Dennis – Dover-Foxcroft Police Department.

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of 2017-2018 MCJA Mandatory Law Enforcement Training, and the Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 10/15/2019.**

Moved by Sheriff Nichols and seconded Sgt. Ryder. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

4. Officer James R. Oliver – Portland Police Department.

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of the Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 8/4/2019.**

Moved by Chief Rumsey and seconded Sgt. Ryder. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

5. Officer John F. Nelson of the Portland Police Department.

**MOTION: To approve the Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Waiver, pending successful completion of the Law Enforcement Officer's Certification Examination by 12/21/2019.**

Moved by Sgt. Ryder and seconded Chief Rumsey. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**B. Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Extension Requests:**

None at this time.

**C. Basic Corrections Training Program Waiver Requests:**

None at this time.

**D. Basic Corrections Training Program Extension Requests:**

None at this time.

**E. Law Enforcement Preservice Program Waiver Requests:**

None at this time.

**F. Judicial Marshal Program Extension Requests:**

None at this time.

**G. Part-time Law Enforcement Officer 1040 Hour Extension Requests:**

None at this time.

**H. Course Certification Request:**

None at this time.

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**V. Item Five on the Agenda: Committee Reports**

**A. Complaint Committee: By Mr. Tom Peters**

Mr. Peters told the Board that the CRC took the month of December off, but wanted to personally thank Chief Rumsey and Det. Blodgett for all the work that they do investigating for the CRC. He mentioned that the revocation hearing that was requested was withdrawn by the officer and the case is now concluded.

Mr. Peters told the Board that out of the 16 pending cases, some of the cases will go to trial in January, but most are awaiting trial dates. He stated that by the next Board Meeting, the committee would be bringing forth a number of these cases for a vote.

**B. Administrative Rules Committee:**

- 1. No report at this time.

**C. Law Enforcement Training Committee: Det. Sgt. Lincoln Ryder**

Sgt. Ryder stated that Trooper Ryan Brockway of the Maine State Police was familiarizing himself with the process of the CAC (Child Advocacy Center) and was finalizing lesson plans on interviewing for Child Sex Offender cases.

Mr. Desjardins stated that he had no more information regarding Jim Gioia's progress on a computer program which will benefit the instruction of Investigations in the Basic Law Enforcement Program.

**D. Corrections Training Committee:**

1. No report at this time.

Chair Pellerin stated he would be reaching out to Board members in the next few weeks to see who might be willing to fill Dir. Larry Austin's seat on the Corrections Training Committee and Dep. Chief Berry's seat on the Administrative Rules Committee

**E. Policy Standards Committee: Chief Charles Rumsey**

Chief Rumsey stated that last year the committee spoke with accredited TAC Teams in Maine about adding rounds to the lists of less than lethal munitions. It was mentioned that a product on the list (Taser-XREP) was not being made and not in use anymore and it was suggested that it be removed from the list. A discussion regarding the policies and standards to Use of Force situations and how teams study each call on its individual risks.

**MOTION: To notify all Chiefs/Sheriffs and the Maine Chiefs Association in writing that as of 1/1/2020 the Taser-XREP would be removed from the Board list of approved munitions.**

Motion made by Mr. Peters and seconded by Sheriff Nichols. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**VI. Item Six on the Agenda: Report Board Chair: Special Agent Chair Pellerin:**

1. Deputy Chief Amy Berry completed her last appointment to the Board in December of 2018 as the Municipal Law Enforcement Representative. Deputy Chief Berry was the longest serving member of the Board, serving almost 23 years. Deputy Chief Berry was well respected and a valued contributor in the many positions on the Board she held over the years to include; Board Chair, Board Vice-Chair and Chair to many of the Board's subcommittees. A discussion ensued to identify the best way to recognize Deputy Chief Berry's contributions over the years.
2. A welcome and recognition was offered to Deputy Chief David Bushey of the Bangor, Maine Police Department as the new Municipal Law Enforcement Representative and to Corrections Commissioner Randall Liberty (pending legislative confirmation). With the new appointments to the Board, committee assignments would be reviewed in the coming weeks and vacancies will be filled as needed.
3. Sheriff Scott Nichols was recognized for his reappointment to the Board as the Sheriff's representative in December of 2018 by Gov. LePage.
4. On January 10, 2019, Director Rogers, Assistant Director Desjardins, DA Slattery and I attended the District 1 Chiefs meeting in York County regarding several issues to include the new BLETP buy out that went into effect on 1/1/2019, the new John Doe system of selecting BLETP Cadets and the MCJA PFT standards. The discussion also touched on the Board's review of Reserve Officer training standards. Director Rogers presentation was well received and there was notable support from several of the agencies in District 1, regarding the long overdue review and increase in some of the reserve officer training standards currently held by the Board.

## **VII. Item Seven on the Agenda: Report from the Director John Rogers:**

### **1. General Items:**

- The annual reports went out on 12/10/2018 to all law enforcement and corrections agencies via email. They are due on 1/31/2019 and after logging in and collating all the data, I will report the certificates to be suspended at the March Board meeting for any law enforcement or corrections officer not meeting the training standards. I will also be tabulating how many F/T and P/T females LEOs and CO's that the Board certifies.
- I will write Letters of Guidance on behalf of the Board of officers who are late doing their mandatory training and completing it prior to the March Board meeting, if it is their first time. If it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent time, it will be referred to the Complaint Review Committee.
- I had 2 vacancies for an Office Associate II that were filled on 12/3/2018 who will be working directly for Karen Green. They are:
- Debbie Dalzell who comes to us from the private sector working in a similar position at Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor (Northern Light – new name). She has a billing background and will be preparing all the billing that needs to go to the Service Center. She has 23 years of experience in this field.
- Ericka Melanson comes to us as a lateral transfer from DHHS where she worked in a similar position in the Support Enforcement Bureau. She has 6 years of experience in this field. With only 6 weeks on the job, both Debbie and Ericka seems to be fitting in very well.
- Training Coordinator James Birt retired on 12/31/2018 after 11 years here at MCJA. This is his 2<sup>nd</sup> retirement, as he spent 23 years as an officer with Windham PD. Jim said at 68 it was time. We had a lunch where he received gifts and a plaque on his last day of work. His position was just approved to fill from the new Governor.
- On January 10, 2019, I was asked to address the District 1 Chiefs (York County) on some MCJA issues, such as the new BLETP buy out that went into effect on 1/1/2019, the new John Doe system of selecting BLETP Cadets and the MCJA PFT standards. Board Chair Brian Pellerin and Board Member Kathy Slattery and Assistant Director Desjardins was also in attendance.
- Evidently the Maine Chiefs has put together a committee to review the Board's PFT standards in an attempt to lower the BLETP entrance to 30% instead of 40% because some chief feel this may be hurting the recruiting of law enforcement officers. There is a committee that has been selected but has not met yet. I do know Sheriff Nichols and I have been selected.

### **2. Basic Law Enforcement Training Program (BLETP):**

- The 35<sup>th</sup> BLETP started on August 13, 2018 and graduated on December 14, 2018. We had 58 Cadets complete all the requirements and 4 still need to come back to take the MARC Scenario that were unable to because of various injuries. Gov. Paul LePage gave the commencement speech.
- I have selected 2 new Cadre for the 36<sup>th</sup> BLETP who are Det. Jared Mitkus of the Lincoln County SO and Ptl. Alec Thompson of the Biddeford PD. They are replacing Cpl. Jeremy Somma from Lewiston PD who is returning after 13 BLETP classes and Sgt. Brian Olson from Westbrook PD who is returning after 2 classes.
- I had 140 names and/or John Doe slots down for the 36<sup>th</sup> BLETP, which will start on 1/22/2019. I took 68 to start (2 more than ever before) out of the 93 that qualified, which gave me the longest waiting list ever. (25)

### **3. MCJA Budget Issues:**

- As of this point, we have no budget issues for the FY 20/21 budget year and are awaiting potential changes as the new administration takes office in January. We have 2 requests in. First an increase in headcount for a new Training Coordinator position that will focus on Use of Force issues in FY 20 and an increasing of \$140,099 in FY21 to make up for the lost traffic fine money that goes into the Special Revenue Account.

**4. Other Issues:**

- **Need Vote:** I would propose that you officially vote for all the certifications that I issued on your behalf, between the last Board meeting and this Board meeting under New Business that are included in a handout. In summary, they are as follows: **(See handout)**
  - a. 58 – Basic Law Enforcement Training Program Certifications
  - b. 15 – Basic Corrections Training Program Certifications
  - c. 17 – Municipal Ordinance Prosecution Certifications
  - d. 1 – K-9 Article Search Team Certification
  - e. 1 – K-9 Tracking Without Apprehension Team Certification
  - f. 4 – K-9 Drug Detector Teams Certifications
  - g. 1 – Law Enforcement Advanced Certification
  - h. 18 – Breath Testing Device Instructor Certifications
  - i. 1 – Law Enforcement Chaplain Certification
  - j. 4 – Crisis Negotiator Certifications
  
- **Need Vote:** Under New Business, I would like to recommend that the Board accept the donation of Cpl. Eugene Cole Shadow Box given to the academy from the 35<sup>th</sup> BLETP as their legacy gift. This shadow box will be displayed in the Joseph E. Poirier III Quiet Lounge in building A. The donation must be accepted by the Board per, 25 M.R.S. §2803-A(17).

**MOTION: To accept the Certifications that were issued by Director Rogers on behalf of the Board since the last Board meeting on November 9, 2018.**

Motion made by Chief Rumsey, seconded by Ms. Ward-Saxl **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**MOTION: To accept the 35<sup>th</sup> BLETP gift of Corporal Eugene Cole Shadowbox.**

Motion made by Col. Wilkinson and seconded by Sheriff Nichols. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**

**VIII: Item Eight on the agenda: Old Business**

1. None at this time.

**IX: Item Nine on the agenda: New Business**

1. None at this time.

**Chair Pellerin asked for a motion of adjournment.**

Moved by Sheriff Nichols and seconded by Chief Rumsey. **Motion Passed Unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:38am.



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Richard P. Davis