



Sheriff Michael L. Prozzo, Jr.  
Chairman

State of New Hampshire  
**POLICE STANDARDS & TRAINING COUNCIL**  
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Donald L. Vittum  
Director

**Approved Minutes**

**December 16 2014**

The 449<sup>th</sup> meeting of the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council was called to order at 9:05 a.m by Chairman Prozzo in classroom one at the Arthur D. Kehas Law Enforcement Training Facility and Campus in Concord, New Hampshire.

Members Present: Chairman Michael L. Prozzo, Jr., Sheriff of Sullivan County; Vice Chairman, Commissioner William L. Wrenn, New Hampshire Department of Corrections; Attorney General Joseph Foster; Colonel Robert Quinn, New Hampshire State Police; Vice Chancellor Ronald Rioux, Community College System of New Hampshire; Chief David Cahill, Sunapee Police Department; Judge Sawako Gardner, 10th Circuit District Division, Portsmouth; Chief Peter Morency, Berlin Police Department; Chief Anthony Colarusso, Dover Police Department and Sheriff David Dubois, Strafford County.

Members Absent: Judge James Carroll, 4th Circuit District Division, Laconia

Staff Present: Director Donald L. Vittum, Chief Tim Merrill, Captain Mark Bodanza, and Captain Benjamin Jean.

Guests Present: Nancy Smith, SAAG and PSTC attorney, Timothy King, New Hampshire Police Association, Michael McNeil Farmington Police Department with Attorney Peter Perroni, Gregory Gough, Farmington Police Department with Attorney Donald Blazka, and Chief John Drury, Farmington Police Department.

**Approval of Minutes**

Sheriff Dubois **moved** for the Council to approve the minutes of November 18, 2014. Following a second by Chief Colarusso, the voice vote of the Council was 10-0.

**Director's Report**

Director Vittum summarized the fiscal activity report which was distributed to Council members this morning, adding that Chairman Prozzo had been to recent budget hearings.

**Financial Report**

Was reviewed by Council members as a hard copy addendum.

**New Business**

Sgt Timothy King of the New Hampshire Police Association was present to address Council members about this year's recent interpretation of Pol 402.02 (b), and presented a copy of a suggested administrative rule change.

Council members thanked Sgt. King and mentioned perhaps discussing his suggestion at the next Council planning session.

Gregory Gough and Michael McNeil, both of the Farmington Police Department had requested their appearance before Council and were added as addendum items three and four.

They chose to combine their appearances with their attorneys, Donald Blazka and Peter Perroni in a nonpublic session.

Judge Gardner stated that she had been in practice in the past with Attorney Blazka and asked if she should recuse herself, to which Attorney Blazka stated, no.

After a **motion** by Chief Cahill, seconded by Commissioner Wrenn, and a roll call vote 11-0, the Council commenced a non- public session to discuss personnel issues.

9:21 a.m. non public session begins.

**Motion** to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session by Chief Colarusso, seconded by Chief Cahill, unanimous vote 10-0.

**Motion** to exit the nonpublic session by Chief Cahill seconded by Chief Colarusso, roll call vote was 11-0.

**Motion** by Chief Colarusso to take no further action on the certifications of Michael McNeil and Gregory Gough as no action had been taken previously. Unanimous vote 10-0.

**George Wickson Surrender of Certification Pol 402.02 (a)(4)(d)**

George Wickson was noticed but was not in attendance, this was a voluntary surrender, as part of a disposition reached with the county attorney's office and approved by the court.

Captain Bodanza was sworn in by Chairman Prozzo. He explained that George Wickson was a certified New Hampshire police officer and has been so since 2000 when he was certified by PSTC as a part time officer and then became full time certified with Plaistow. There was a temporary suspension on George Wickson by Pol 402.02 (b) with an order from the Council dated March 4, 2014, jeopardy to the public and criminal justice system. PSTC has received the disposition from the court on Mr. Wickson for the charges of criminal threatening and also a bail violation he plead guilty to those two charges and under Pol 402.02 (d) he has now been convicted as police officer of a misdemeanor crime and which criminal threatening and by physically conduct he purposefully placed another in imminent fear of bodily injury or conduct he pointing a knife at the victim's neck while stating "shut up or I'll slice you". He was also found guilty of violation of bail conditions, false impersonation RSA 104:28 (a) put on the Plaistow Police Department's patrolmen's uniform without authority and then gave a public appearance and indicated that he was an officer with that agency. As a result of those two charges he plead guilty, he was sentenced to twelve months in the house of corrections all was suspended for a three year period on the conditions that he be of good behavior that he also partake of an anger management evaluation. He was also given nine days stand committed consecutive on the violation of bail order and as a result of that he also agreed as part of the sentencing to surrender his New Hampshire Police Certification and not to see police officer employment again.

**Motion** by Chief Cahill to revoke the certification of George Wickson immediately, and require him to appear before the Council if he seeks law enforcement employment in the future, the motion was seconded by Sheriff Dubois. Council vote was 10-0 in favor of the motion.

**Motion to reconsider/rehear Robert Russell**

Commissioner Wrenn had signed a motion to deny prepared by PSTC's attorney Nancy Smith, SAAG. The Council was asked to review the motion in order to ratify it.

(Chief Colarusso and Judge Gardner recused themselves from this discussion and vote).

**Motion** to ratify the motion to deny for rehearing/reconsideration for Robert Russell by Sheriff Dubois, the motion was seconded by Chief Morency. Council vote was unanimously in favor of the motion, 8-0,

Previous and/or Unfinished Business

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**PT&E Requests**

PTE

**Officer Mark Ridge, Hanover Police Department**

Will be granted certification upon successful completion of the medical exam, entrance fitness test, Full-time Academy Law Package

**Addendum #2 Jeremy Jeffers, Marlborough PD**

**Officer Jeremy Jeffers , Marlborough Police Department**

Will be granted certification upon successful completion of the medical exam, entrance fitness test, and the Full-time Law Package of the Full-Time Police Officer Academy, he must remain enrolled in the requested academy.

**Requests for Extensions**

Note: Extensions granted until the first council meeting following the fitness testing for the requested Academy, and, if testing is successful, to the first council meeting following the end of the requested Academy.

**Full-Time Police Officer Academy**

166<sup>th</sup> Academy January 5, 2015 to April 10, 2015; entrance fitness test December 22, 2015

167<sup>th</sup> Academy May 4, 2015 to August 21, 2015; entrance fitness test April 20, 2015

**The 167<sup>th</sup> Academy will be the first academy to initiate the change from 14 to 16 week duration.**

**Part-Time Police Officer Academy**

268<sup>th</sup> Academy February 7, 2015 to May 8, 2015; entrance fitness test January 24, 2015.

**Corrections Academy**

99<sup>th</sup> February 2, 2015 to April 3, 2014, entrance fitness test January 20, 2015.

**Andrew Vautrin, Keene Police Department** (DOH: 11/02/14) Not Part-time certified. Will be granted the extension until the first council meeting following the fitness testing for the requested academy, and, if testing is successful, to the first council meeting following the end of the requested academy with the stipulation that the officer must remain actively enrolled in the 167<sup>th</sup> academy and may continue working only in the direct presence of a certified officer.

**Luke Antrin, Keene Police Department** (DOH: 11/02/14) Not Part-time certified. Will be granted the extension until the first council meeting following the fitness testing for the requested academy, and, if testing is successful, to the first council meeting following the end of the requested academy with the stipulation that the officer must remain actively enrolled in the 167<sup>th</sup> academy and may continue working only in the direct presence of a certified officer.

**Shane Arsenault, Weare Police Department** (DOH: 05/04/2014) Not Part-time certified. Will be granted the extension until the first council meeting following the fitness testing for the requested academy, and, if testing is successful, to the first council meeting following the end of the requested academy with the stipulation that the officer must remain actively enrolled in the 167<sup>th</sup> academy and may continue working only in the direct presence of a certified officer.

**Requests for Specialized Training Grant Funds (Balance: \$10,028.84 )**

**Wakefield Police Department** was granted funds for Michael Fenton to attend the FBI New England LEEDS at Mashantucket CT Foxwoods Resort and Casino, from February 9 to February 13, 2015.

**Portsmouth Police Department** was granted funds for Darrin Sargent to attend the Leadership Seacoast Training, from January to June, one Wednesday per month in Portsmouth NH.

**Ongoing Physical Fitness Testing Requests for Fitness Testing Extensions**

Tr. Michael Feinauer, 2014 New Hampshire State Police

Off. Michael Zappala, 2013 Hooksett Police Department

Off. Robert Acres, 2014 North Hampton Police Department

Off. Michael Gilman, 2014 Rockingham County Sheriff's Department

Off. Justin Ferland, 2014 New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game

Off. Emmett Macken, 2014 Manchester Police Department

Russell Poitras, 2014 Chief, Grafton Police Department

James Cailler, 2014 Merrimack County Sheriff's Department

Carrie Sargent, 2013 Division of Field Services Probation Parole

Frank Hebert, 2014 Weare Police Department

Grant Nichols, 2014 Deputy Chief New Hampshire Division of Ports and Harbor

James Wilson, 2014 New Hampshire Liquor Commission

Addendum # 5 included in consent calendar

Medical extensions for fitness testing received after the agenda closed

Eric Robertson, 2013 Barnstead PD

Allison Vachon, 2013 NHAGO

Adam Dyer, 2013 Londonderry PD

Christopher Gilroy, 2013 Hampton PD

Michael Hutchinson, 2013 Northfield PD

Stephen Akerstrom, 2014 Belmont PD

Micheal Beaulieu, 2013 Springfield PD

Richard Tellifson, 2013 Concord PD

Glenn Bergeron, 2013 NHDOC

Vincent Ruel, 2013 NHDOC

Raechel Moulton, 2014 Belmont PD

End of Consent Calendar

**Motion** to approve the consent calendar, including addendum items by Chief Cahill, seconded by Chief Colarusso, unanimous vote 10-0.

Chief Merrill asked if the Council, as in past years, would continue to accept requests for medical extensions for fitness testing up until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion** by Sheriff Dubois, seconded by Chief Cahill, for the staff to receive medical extensions up until December 31, 2014, to be added to the January 27, 2015 agenda, unanimous vote by Council, 10-0.

Other New Business

The rules currently in final proposal status, Pol 404.03 and Pol 404.04, have been accepted by Office of Legislative Services and are on the Joint Legislative Committee for Administrative Rules consent calendar for their meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>. The final adoption of the rules will be added to the January 27, 2015 Council meeting agenda.

General

Staff addressed the Council about increasing the number of recruits in the academy to 65. Council members discussed this issue regarding the staff's and facility accommodating this increase of recruits in time and financing. Prior to this past academy graduation, the Council had agreed to increase the number of recruits to 62, with an additional law package student, the staff reported that the increase from 60 to 63 went well.

Further discussion ensued amongst Council members including the cost for meals for five additional recruits, the demand for sending additional recruits by agencies, the agencies that requested recruits skip over academies to accommodate individual agency schedules.

Motion by Sheriff Dubois, seconded by Commissioner Wrenn, to return to accepting a total of 60 recruits per academy. The Council vote was 5-5 and the motion failed.

Motion by Chief Colarusso, seconded by Attorney General Foster, to accept 63 recruits, and revisit increasing the number of recruits after the first session of the sixteen week long academy is completed. The Council vote was 5-5 and the motion failed.

Chairman Prozzo thanked Vice Chancellor Ronald Rioux for serving on the Council as this was the Vice Chancellor's last meeting.

This was also Chairman Prozzo's last Council meeting, he thanked all the the Council members and expressed his appreciation to the staff at Police Standard and Training.

#### Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

The next meeting of the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council will be held on January 27, 2015, at nine o'clock in the morning.

Upon a motion by Chief Cahill, seconded by Colonel Quinn, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,



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Vice Chairman William L. Wrenn