

Law Enforcement Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
June 7, 2012

- Rick Gauthier called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm with Board members Keith Clark, Mike O'Neil, Jim Hughes, Jim Leene, Lt. Dee Barbic, Paco Aumand, Karen Horn, Cindy Maguire, and non-board members Jonathan Williams (VLCT) and Suellen Royea present.
- Rick Gauthier reviewed the letter from Senate Government Operations Committee detailing topics for the LEAB to review and submit a report on in January 2013. The topics were S.132 a bill to amend the membership of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council, S.248 a bill to restructure the licensure and regulation of law enforcement officers, and S.87 a bill dealing with internal investigations of law enforcement officers. Rick reported that the subcommittee looking into licensing has met in person and by conference call. Dr. Roger Goldman, national known for his certification work, participated in a conference call and noted that Vermont has the weakest standards for decertification. A lengthy discussion was held around the process of when/how decertification occurs, those that are notified of the decertification, clarification on what duties are allowed once decertified, and common causes of decertification. It was noted that there is a national database where you can see if an officer has been decertified or a decertification action ever taken against them. This led into a discussion about different organizational models. Specifically, one model focuses on the training needed for job performance while another model is focused on creating standards for hiring, training and decertification. It was recognized that as standards are developed and adopted, it will be hard for municipalities and small town policing. A suggestion was made to have a hybrid system which incorporated both models; i.e. the larger areas could use the model focused on standards while the smaller agencies could use the training model.

It was noted that S.132 is basically S.248 and will be addressed together. Rick Gauthier will be asking Steve McQueen to help work on the confidentiality issue in S.248. S.87 will be worked on by the Board.

- The constable issue was discussed. The bill says that Constables need to have started their training by May 2012 and will need to finish their FTO training by July 2013. Karen Horn reported that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns will be sending out notification saying that unless the Constable is current getting training, they will no longer have law enforcement authority. Rick Gauthier noted that S.503 removed the elected piece. Training, equipment, and policies regarding Constables were included in the discussion.
- Those in attendance were agreeable to the direction the subcommittee is taking.

- Rick Gauthier reported that there might be some quick legislation in January 2013 to remove the impossible elements of S.503. There currently at 15-17 constables currently in the training process.
- Cindy Maguire updated the Board on the status of the project to draft key components for policies. It was decided that Robert Appel, Colonel L'Esperance and herself will meet again to summarize the components and then send out a summary to the group.
- Rick Gauthier reported that changing from bias free policing training to fair and impartial policing training has been well received. The content has changed as well. Cindy Maguire requested a copy of the PowerPoint, which Rick Gauthier agreed to send to her.
- A discussion was held regarding S.87, internal investigations. Suggestions included: the Board taking testimony in person only to address the questions, and hearing from a police and a fire union representative. Mike O'Neil offered to talk to Burlington's police union and the fire union.
- Paco Aumand made a motion to adjourn. The next three Board meetings were schedule for September 6th, October 11th, and December 6th, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Department of Public Safety Headquarters Building, 3rd floor conference room. Motion to adjourn was seconded by Jim Hughes. Meeting adjourned at 2:18 pm.