

**ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD  
4500 SOUTH SIXTH STREET ROAD, ROOM 173  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62703-6617**

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON the PTI PROJECT  
Double Tree Suites by Hilton, Downers Grove, Illinois  
June 1, 2016 – 2:00 P.M.**

**I. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

The June 1, 2016 meeting of the Special Committee on the PTI Project was held in Downers Grove, Illinois, and was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman John Schlaf. Roll was taken by John Keigher, and a quorum was established.

Committee Members present:

Retired Chief John Schlaf, Chairman  
Mayor Laurel Lunt Prussing  
Chief Jan Noble  
City Manager Tim Gleason (via speaker phone)

Committee Members absent:

Sheriff Pat Hartshorn

Staff present:

Brent Fischer, Executive Director  
John Keigher, Legal Counsel  
Ellen Petty, Personal Assistant to Executive Director

Others present:

Vicki Munson, Mobile Team Unit #4  
Rick Watson, Sheriff of St. Clair County  
Thomas Fleming, Director, Cook County Sheriff's Training Institute  
Michael Casey, Director, Suburban Law Enforcement Academy  
Chris Campbell, Director, Illinois State Police Academy  
Van Muschler, Director, Southwest Illinois College Academy  
Mike Schlosser, Director, Police Training Institute

## II. REVIEW MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2016 COMMITTEE MEETING

**Motion was made by Noble, seconded by Prussing, and carried by all members present to approve the minutes as presented.**

## III. UPDATE ON PTI

John Schlaf gave an overview of what has transpired with this project since the last meeting, indicating that there have been a number of meetings between U of I legal staff and the Board since the last meeting in an attempt to finalize the agreement, but unfortunately, that was not done. Mr. Schlaf gave his compliments to John Keigher for his efforts and working long hours trying to get the deal finalized so it would go through. The fact that an agreement was not able to be reached was certainly not due to any lack of effort on the Board's behalf by Mr. Keigher.

Shortly thereafter, the Board was contacted by the Buffett Foundation and asked to meet once again. At that meeting, Howard Buffett challenged the Director and committee to continue to come up with some kind of new proposal for a Decatur training facility, with a deadline of June 1st. They have done just that, and have developed a plan for an advanced training center and shared that plan with Buffett Foundation representatives. The Foundation representatives were excited by the plan that was developed, and that brings us here today.

Director Fischer expanded by saying that the issue came up with whether or not we could guarantee that we can sustain the facility with the training being conducted there. The University still plans to move the PTI students out to the quonset huts over the upcoming summer months. The committee voiced concerns to the University about this. Initially they had committed a certain amount of money to making improvements to the Willard Airport facility. But with the financial situation facing the University now, there's just no way they're going to be able to do that. Therefore, the committee thought that if it could bring the academy classes out to the new Decatur facility, which would have residential capabilities, it could prevent the students from having to attend classes out at the quonset huts, having the training and lodging all right there in one area. With the tuition from that, the sustainability of the facility would be assured.

When the committee was looking for partners, as it talked about in a previous meeting, Richland Community College in Decatur has a law enforcement program. They also have a 2 + 2 program with WIU. The committee also approached the Executive Institute to see if they had any potential uses for the facility. Director Susie Nichols indicated that she could utilize it for executive level training, but also shared that WIU had been considering a pre-service program for their Law Enforcement program. They propose to have up to 50 of their top law enforcement students from the program finish up their college career at this facility with the ultimate goal of working for a law enforcement agency. This would also help with the

sustainability, in that the students themselves would be paying tuition for this pre-service program.

Initially, the Board would need to limit the number of academy classes to two classes per year, with a max of 60 students each, plus one pre-service class a year, with a limit of 50 students, due to the residential requirements of the classes. This would then allow time in the schedule to do specialty training like CIT, Lead Homicide, K-9, or Coroner training in conjunction with the Coroner's Association.

There was discussion among the committee members regarding clarification of current practices at PTI with housing & transportation using the 4<sup>th</sup> Street facility as compared to the Willard Airport quonset huts, the Board's history with the University, as well as how those matters would be dealt with at the new proposed facility. It was also emphasized that with the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, the Board needs to make a decision as to whether or not it wishes to pursue the acceptance of this gift from the Foundation.

Chairman Schlaf shared that a mock budget proposal had been developed that compared the existing PTI budget to a budget operated by another entity providing the same services. While the bottom line figures are rough, they were able to give a sense of comfort to the committee regarding sustainability without negatively affecting the Board's budget or funding for the other existing academies.

The committee members agreed that it would be a mistake not to accept this gift of \$12M or more in terms of the cost for the build out, and that it is the right step to accept the terms of what is being offered.

When Chairman Schlaff asked if there was any input from those in attendance, Tom Fleming spoke up, stating that while he supports PTI and this project, he expressed concern over how the funding of this facility may financially affect the other academies around the state that teach the same basic training curriculum. He has identified a disparity in the amount each academy receives in tuition reimbursements, he asks that the Board give special consideration to the level of funding to the other academies, especially in light of the unknowns with this project. He wants to see the other academies supported equally to PTI, and not seen as simply vendors when they're all doing the same work. Director Fischer and John Keigher both indicated that limiting the number of classes was decided with the other academies in mind, so that they would not be harmed or diminished in any way. There will be some changes in tuition amounts with the onset of the 560 hour BLE curriculum, but the state still doesn't have a budget, and without an appropriation, it's hard to come up with exact dollar amount. Director Fischer is glad that he's been meeting with the Academy Directors to work on these matters and will continue doing so.

IV. REVISED PROPOSAL FROM HOWARD G. BUFFETT FOUNDATION

Chairman Schlaf moved, "The PTI Project Committee recommends that the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board direct the Board's Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Howard G. Buffett Foundation to fund, construct, and then deed to the Board, a multi-purpose law enforcement training center, in Macon County Illinois, to accommodate specialized, executive level and basic law enforcement and criminal justice courses." The motion was seconded by Prussing. Points of discussion were restated and summarized. The motion was carried by all members to make this recommendation to the full board.

V. ADJOURN

Motion was made by Noble, seconded by Prussing, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 2:58 p.m.