

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE PTI PROJECT
President Abraham Lincoln Springfield Hotel, Springfield, IL 62701
September 21, 2016**

I. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The September 21, 2016 meeting of the Special Committee on the PTI Project was held in Springfield, Illinois, and was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Chairman John Schlaf. Roll was taken by Ellen Petty, and a quorum was established.

Members in attendance:

John Schlaf
Pat Hartshorn
Tim Gleason
Valerie Salmons

Members absent:

Laurel Lunt Prussing
Jan Noble

Staff in attendance:

Brent Fischer, Executive Director
John Keigher, Legal Counsel
Kelly Griffith, General Counsel
Cora Beem, Manager of Mandated Training
Ellen Petty, Personal Assistant to Executive Director

Others in attendance:

Mike Schlosser, Police Training Institute
Chris Campbell, Illinois State Police
Van Muschler, Southwestern Illinois College

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Gleason, seconded by Schlaf, and carried by all members present to approve the minutes of June 1, 2016 as presented.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Agreement

John Schlaf reported that he had sent out an email to committee members entitled “Update #3” dated September 15, 2016, giving an overview of the activity since the June 1st meeting.

At that meeting, there was a motion for the Director to enter into an agreement with the Buffett foundation. John Keigher reported on the formation of that document, signed at the end of August by both parties. Key components with Buffett were to ensure the Board was able to accept the property and be able to use it exclusively for law enforcement and not subject to takeover by the state. Gift was structured into two segments. The land is to be deeded to the Board first, so that construction can begin and deed can be recorded. Then, the building will be constructed and granted to the Board separately. This will meet the overall goal of being able to accept the gifts of both the land and the building. Both State of Illinois attorneys and Buffett Foundation attorneys agreed that this was a workable solution, noting that it had never been done before and set a new precedent to take advantage of this unique donation clause that was written many years ago. Representatives from the Governor’s office were also satisfied with the agreement.

Valerie Salmons inquired as to the possibility of the State selling the property before the building is completed to help offset their bottom line. Keigher explained that the land is not being deeded to the State, but to the Board, so that the land could not be sold without Board approval, and the government or state itself cannot overstep the authority of the Board with regard to the property, as the official owner.

Keigher went on to explain the steps which have been taken to settle upon designs and plans for the facility, and that we are currently at the point where Buffett is trying to get all of the features we need at the bottom line price that he wants. The ball is in his court at this point.

Salmons inquired as to what Buffett’s bottom line is. Keigher stated that many figures have been talked about, but he wasn’t aware of what the exact figure was. Schlaf indicated, based upon discussions over the course of the project, that the figure was in the 12M to 15M ballpark.

Keigher went on to report that caveats Buffett required in the agreement are that it be used for law enforcement/criminal justice only, that it not sit empty for more than a four-month period, and that he retain naming rights.

Salmons asked when groundbreaking is anticipated. Fischer reported that according to Buffett, he would like to break ground in the very near future, possibly within 30 days, as he would like to get concrete work done before the ground freezes. Salmons asked about any plans for a groundbreaking ceremony. Schlaf agreed that this would be desirable. Salmons indicated that she believes a press release in advance of the groundbreaking would be a good idea, so that we can release the information we want in the way we want it before it gets out in other ways. Fischer said he would reach out to the Foundation to discuss the matter and see what he could come up with. Schlaf stated that we want to ensure that we do it together in such a way that no one is offended.

Schlaf commended Keigher and Fischer and Board staff on their work to make a project of this magnitude go through as smoothly and positively as possible. Salmons followed up by praising Schlaf on his dedicated approach to this project since the early stages.

B. Construction

Schlaf reported that there have been changes that have taken place in the project over time. The best way to explain the changes is through a 3-slide presentation given by Cora Beem, showing the drawings of the property, building site, parking lot, track, and building floor plans.

There were several questions and answers about the construction. Romano is the developer, and the site work was done by Chastain. There are 50 student beds in double rooms on the first floor and an executive floor upstairs with more spacious, private rooms to accommodate 30 additional students. Meals will be catered in and there will be a commissary with vending machines, microwaves, and refrigerators available for students to use. Buffett was adamant about not putting a kitchen in the facility, due to considerable government regulations. However, there will be no students in the housing over the weekends, so catering in meals should not be problematic. There is another training site owned by Mr. Buffett, within a five-minute drive, The Farm, which offers a sim house, outdoor range, indoor range, K9 training facility, 360-degree firearm simulator, as well as an additional classroom.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Schlaf reported that the training type and delivery are basic law enforcement, specialized and advanced training programs. The Board has already been approached by persons interested in the availability of the campus for training. He does not believe we have any reason to think the facility will ever be sitting empty.

Director Fischer reported that current plans are to host two basic training academies and a pre-service program, as well as CIT training, which is expanding considerably. Also being planned are executive level training programs through the Executive Institute, tactical and firearms training, IROCC qualification shoots, and many other areas of necessary training.

Schlaf stated that conversations still continue with U of I and potentially others. Fischer expanded that some legislators have been involved in the discussions with U of I, which have all been positive. This first year will be a process of transition to the new facility. The University still wants to have a research role, commissioned by the Board, to be conducted at the Champaign-Urbana campus. This does not pose a problem to Mr. Buffett, as his money would not be used to fund the research, nor would it be done at the Macon County facility.

Salmons asked if these matters would be discussed in the other meetings scheduled that day. Fischer stated that there will be a less detailed update given at the Joint Committee meeting and the full Board at its meeting the following day. Schlaf stated that he did not believe there are any additional recommendations for action to be taken by the Board at this time, and those in attendance agreed.

Salmons asked when and how will the Board make the decision with Western on how their pre-service program would be implemented at the new academy. Fischer advised that he has a meeting scheduled with the WIU Vice-President and others in the administration in the coming weeks to discuss this matter in more detail. Pat Hartshorn suggested that the Police Corps model worked very well and might be looked at with regard to this process.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Hartshorn, seconded by Gleason, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 2:44 p.m.