

**ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD
4500 South 6th Street Road, Room 173, Springfield, IL 62703-6617**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT FINANCE &
LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 201 Broadway Avenue, Normal, IL
December 11, 2019**

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The December 11, 2019 meeting of the Joint Finance and Legislative and Executive Committee was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Chairman John Schlaf. Roll was called by Ellen Petty, and a quorum of voting members was established.

Members in attendance:

Tim Gleason
John Schlaf
Timothy Becker
Marlon Harvey for Dorothy Brown
Pat Hartshorn
Cameron Eugenis for Kwame Raoul

Members absent:

Tim Nugent
Valerie Salmons
Richard Watson

Staff in attendance:

Andrew Oldfield
Glen Bell
Keith Calloway
Patrick Connolly
Keith Wallace
Lee Ryker
Lya Ramos
Eric Pingolt
Laura Baker
Jan Allen
Kelly Griffith
Jan Noble
Scott Schaefer
Denise Matthew
Jill Wieland
Brenda Squires
Fred Kientzle
Pat Hahn

Others in attendance:

Brad Oyer, MTU 13

Ernie Ashby, IROCC
Doug Fargher, MTU 1
Brian Fengel, MTU 7
Tad Williams, MCLETC Academy
John Bennett, MTU 15
Robert Siron, MTU 8
Ron Skrip, Wicklander-Zulawski
Richard Fonck, MTU 16
Marie Rangel, Cook County Sheriff's Academy
Tom Reasoner, MTU 3
Paul Williams, Bloomington P.D.
John Reynolds, MTU 4
Amber Shaffer, MTU 4
Len Mendoza, MTU 4
Mark Edwards, MTU 12
Jeffrey Chapman, Chicago P.D.
Heather Hotz, Executive Institute
Susan Nichols, Executive Institute
Tod Dowdy, MTU 9
Bob Crouch, MTU 10
Chuck Doan, MTU 15
John Schlaf, Galesburg P.D. (retired)
Josh Ward, ISP Academy
Joe Gallo, PTI Academy
Van Muschler, SWIC Academy
Rob Copley, Quincy P.D.
Greg Elliott, MTU 5
Beth Pinter, MTU 5
Deborah Alms, MTU 2
Penny Abbott, MTU 9
David Hayes, MTU 14
Scott Williams, MTU 14
Joshua Dingler, Downs P.D.
Allyson Clark Henson, Chicago P.D.

II. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. Financial Items

1. Fiscal Information
(Through November 25, 2019)
 - a. TACCSF Receipts
 - b. TACCSF Balance

Denise Matthew went over the fiscal information contained in Tab F of the Board books. Deposits for the first five months of FY20 were listed, totaling \$6.3M, compared to \$7.1M at the same time in FY19, a significant drop in deposits from last year.

Eugenis asked if the drop was due to the new law in how fees and fines are collected. Matthew indicated that it is not clear at this point, as the Treasurer's office does not

provide a great deal of information on the deposits that come in. She receives a report that gives amounts, but no breakdown of those amounts. He asks if we've ever fallen this short with collections before, and she said she didn't believe so – at least not since she has worked for the Board.

FY20 camera grant fund deposits have also dropped nearly \$120,000 from this time in FY19. Receipts for both funds have been up and down during the first five months, but October and November have gotten markedly worse.

Motion was made by Hartshorn, seconded by Becker, and carried by all members present to approve the report on the account receipts and balances.

c. Projected Academy Enrollments & Tuitions

Projected academy enrollments are based upon actual enrollments thus far for the year and projected claims for cost at current tuition rates. Projected combined BLE and BCO tuition reimbursements for FY20 is \$10.15M.

Motion was made by Becker, seconded by Hartshorn, and carried by all members present to approve the report on the projected academy enrollments.

2. FY19 Public Accountability Report & Reimbursements
3. FY21 Fiscal Information

Due to the extension of the lapse period, the deadline for the Public Accountability Report was also extended, so it is not yet available at this time, but will be provided at the next meeting.

GOMB requested that 2 separate budgets be submitted for FY21, one the same as FY20 with only increases to personnel line items to cover insurance, retirement, step raises, COLA, etc. Those figures were actually provided for us by GOMB. We were also allowed to include the cost to provide any additional mandated training. With those figures, we had a slight increase. \$24.7M was our total budget for FY20, and this added \$2.8M to that amount for a total of \$27.5M for FY21 for that scenario. For the second scenario, we were asked to decrease our budget across the board by 6.5%. We were still allowed the increases provided to us in the personnel line items and mandated training, but the overall amount must show a 6.5% decrease from FY20's budget. That scenario resulted in a decrease of \$1.6M, or \$23.1M for FY21. She did receive word just a week prior that we were being instructed to submit the budget for scenario 1, which showed the overall increase.

The Auditor General's office concluded their audit for FY17 & FY18, and final responses to findings were submitted to them on Monday. We will provide the final report as soon as it becomes available to us.

Director Fischer added, to clarify on the question about the TACCSF deposits, we knew that the fee bill had changed the formula as of July 1st, so we have been tracking deposits

on a daily and weekly basis to see how they were coming in. At first, we were still holding our own, but then the first of October hit and the deposits took a dive. Deposits have been lower than they have ever been in the past, and have been coming in sporadically, as well. We have been calling everyone we can to try and get this resolved. After some calls to several county clerks around the state, they are seeing this same thing on the local level, but also indicated that they were still collecting on old cases under the old formula, so it could be that the early months were not as bad due to deposits from the old formula being included in those figures. For some clerks, however, their local collections appear to be better than they were before July of this year, which goes against what we have been seeing with our deposits. Denise has been reaching out to GOMB and the Treasurer's office and is waiting for return calls to figure out if it is simply a temporary issue with confusion about the new schedule. The initial sponsors of the fee bill which put the new schedule in place are no longer in office. The person who took it over after they left is now a judge in Chicago. So, we have no one out there to reach out to in order to help us resolve this problem. We are reaching out to our legislative contacts to see if we can get someone interested in picking up this bill and addressing these issues. The new schedule sunsets at the end of 2020, after 18 months, and when it ends, it does not automatically revert back to the old formula, but goes away altogether. The fee bill also allowed judges to waive 100% of fees for those going through the criminal justice system who are below the poverty threshold as it stands in Chicago (which is much higher than in downstate), and the clerks report seeing a lot of waivers being allowed, which will also effectively cut down on deposits in the fund. The new bond bill eliminates cash bonds, and if there is no bond to be forfeited to pay fees and fines, they may not ever get collected. We are in a bit of a panic at this point, because we owe the academies and the Executive Institute and the MTUs, but there is no money in the fund to cover those expenses. It has been very difficult to get a call back when reaching out to the current administration, but efforts are being made on a daily basis to try to rectify the situation.

B. Personnel Updates

Director Fischer reported that he would give his full update on personnel at the full Board meeting the following morning, with the permission of the committee, as there are some people he will be recognizing. The committee agreed.

C. Legislative and Litigation Update

Kelly Griffith reported that the General Assembly returned for veto session last month, but addressed very few bills, none of which were directly related to the functions of the Board. At this time, there is no filed legislation for next session that is of interest, but we will continue to monitor bills and legislative actions for any changes to the Police Training Act or our funding sources.

Regarding Board funding, staff continues to watch the revenues coming into the TACCSF after the collection structure was changed last year. As Denise and the Director mentioned, revenue deposits have been declining since the change went into effect in July, especially when compared to previous averages. At this time, staff is researching options that would adjust the collection rates or generate additional revenue in an effort

to return the fund income to where it had been in the past. We will hopefully have more of an update on this at the March meeting.

Additionally, the Board is not currently involved in any litigation.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Body Camera Grant Update

Kelly Griffith stated that at the close of October, the Board wrapped up its FY19 Camera Grant program by issuing final payments to several towns and counties.

While the Board initially approved the \$3 million appropriated for the 99 applicant agencies, ultimately, only \$2.45 million was reimbursed to 73 agencies, as many encountered grant eligibility obstacles or withdrew. This total expenditure reflects a 2.5% reduction from last year, but remains proportional to the number of agencies awarded. It's important to note that in this round, applying agencies must have been fully compliant with the in-service training mandates to be eligible for a financial award, effectively setting the bar higher than in years past.

Ultimately, these funds went toward the purchase of 552 in-car cameras and 281 officer-worn cameras. This represents a slight shift in preference for in-car cameras over what we have seen in years past.

We continue to look for ways to improve the program by suggesting legislative revisions and assisting in the GATA process to the extent that we can. Additionally, we intend to bring an experienced grant coordinator aboard to act as a single point of contact and consolidate the roles now played by several staff members, as soon as funding allows.

In the end, while slightly fewer towns and counties applied for these funds the average amount requested has increased. This reflects the applications from Schaumburg, Rockford, Quincy, and several other larger departments that the Board was able to accommodate.

Staff anticipates that the FY20 application period will begin just after the new year and will remain open until June 2020.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Becker, seconded by Hartshorn, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

