

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

July 10, 2020

I. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The July 10, 2020 special meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Chairman Gleason at the Board's Springfield office. Roll was called by Ellen Petty, and a quorum of voting members was established. *(Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-07, all Executive Board Members and most staff participated via telephone.)*

Members in Attendance:

Tim Gleason (via telephone)
John Schlaf (via telephone)
Mitchell Davis III (via telephone joined the call at 12:19)
Brendan Kelly (via telephone joined the call at 12:11)
Richard Watson (via telephone)

Members Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Brent Fischer (via telephone)
John Keigher
Kelly Griffith (via telephone)
Eric Pingolt
Keith Calloway (via telephone)
Jen Wooldridge (via telephone)
Pat Hahn
Denise Matthew (via telephone)
Ellen Petty

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gleason called for a motion to approve the minutes which were sent out to all members via email in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made by Watson, seconded by Schlaf, and approved by all via roll call vote to approve the Executive Committee minutes from March 11th, April 1st, and April 8th, 2020.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Gleason advised that he called this special meeting as he believes the Executive Committee needs to meet monthly to get regular updates on the Board's financial situation, COVID-19 matters, Police Reform, and other matters during these unusual times.

A. Financial Update

Director Fischer advised we've been working with GOMB to get the \$3M transferred over to the TACCSF so that we can get payments out to the academies. Denise Matthew submitted a form, per GOMB's request to justify the transfer of the funds, justifying our need. She included everything we owe, which comes to a total of over \$6M. Ms. Matthew has the vouchers prepared and ready to go so that those payments can go out just as soon as the money hits our account.

Denise gave a brief update on deposits received since the June Board meeting. Fischer explained that the final half of the FY20 3rd quarter payments to the MTUs and payment of outstanding Executive Institute invoices had been made after we received our last regular deposit for FY20, and that the \$3M transfer would go toward the \$6M-\$7M we owe the academies & department reimbursements for basic tuition.

Gleason asked if anyone had any comments. Schlaf asked why our last FY20 deposits were so large as compared to previous deposits. Denise advised that this was due to the fact that we did not receive any deposits during the COVID-19 shut down and the final deposit covered everything from April through June.

B. Legislative Update

Fischer asked John Keigher to give a brief update on any legislative matters or concerns. Keigher stated that a couple of bills have been filed by members of the House. HB5807 proposes a prohibition of no knock warrants. HB5803 proposes significant changes to use of force statute requiring warnings before using deadly force. HB5802 sets up a method or procedure for towns that want to consider defunding their police, to include public hearings, filing notice, public comment, etc. HB5805 would make substantive changes to the Police Training Act requiring another week of academy training, moving current 3-year in-service training mandates to 2-year mandates. He will stay in touch with the legislative staff on this bill, as it would require considerable changes for both basic and in-service training.

Keigher went on to say that he expects more bills to be filed as the veto session approaches and if anything comes up that requires support, we will certainly be reaching out with notices asking for support.

Watson commented that when the legislators are passing this legislation, it's putting financial burdens on counties and municipalities, and they should work with the Illinois Municipal League before they start moving on that, because they could amount to a significant financial hit if additional weeks of academy training and additional in-service training are mandated.

Davis commented that there will be a hodge podge of bills as there are every year, and he doesn't believe there are a lot of people buying into the "let's defund the police" conversation, as it does not seem to be gaining much traction. Rather, they are focusing on adequately funding education and social services and mental health care. He said that he will do what he can to keep the information flowing to the Executive Committee, but that it is all very fluid at the moment.

C. Police Reform Update

Gleason stated that he believed most everyone in this meeting was on the original call with Kwame Raoul a few weeks ago and the follow up the week after, as well as an ILETSB staff call with the AG's office the previous day. He asked Fischer to give an update on those meetings.

Fischer advised that staff has had two separate communications outside of the big law enforcement calls with the AG's office, trying to work through what possible changes in police reform could look like and what we could work with and how certification will be handled. He believes ILETSB would be the best conduit to work these changes through, but we've also stressed that it would necessitate expansion of staff and would require a substantial increase in funding to make it happen. Discussed have been expanding the automatic decertification list as well as adding a discretionary decertification option; setting a standard background check

required for all new hires; and establishing requirements to maintain certification.

Fischer commented that both the local and state level of oversight and discretionary suspensions and reporting are among the topics being discussed.

D. Update on Trainings During COVID-19

Gleason asked Fischer to give an update on effect on training during COVID-19. Fischer reported that after the academies were originally shut down, we were eventually able to get the senior classes finished up and graduated. The junior classes are currently back in the academy now and finishing up.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ongoing Special Executive Committee Meetings

Gleason stated that it is important to stay on top of important matters and for the committee members to offer their assistance to Fischer in addressing topics of importance. All committee members were comfortable with regular executive meetings. He suggested the second Friday of every month at noon might be penciled in for these meetings in the future.

B. Committee Consideration of Personnel Issues

Gleason stated that he believes that the Executive Committee has the ability to provide Fischer some coverage, and the current administration a sense of satisfaction that staff hiring and appointments are being thoroughly vetted by the Board. He proposes that personnel issues be added to the finance and legislative committee for oversight and vetting in the future.

Schlaf commented that the concept was initially discussed between he and Fischer, pre-COVID, the idea of a personnel committee. Such a committee could provide a buffer and some protection for the Director from the administration with regard to issues surrounding transparency in hiring. Schlaf asked Fischer to share his thoughts on the subject.

Fischer related that we have been in conversation with the State's Procurement division and others within CMS to ensure that the appropriate vetting is done for contracts. He clarified that he wants to be transparent and to get the right person who can assist with our various projects and get the job done. He said he is always willing to share any information about personnel matters, and tries to share information with the Board at every quarterly meeting. His concern is that if the vetting, oversight and final decision is left with the Board, it will delay action and we may miss opportunities and make it more difficult to get things done. We have been working closely with CMS and Procurement to ensure hiring and contracts are being handled in the proper manner and with the proper reporting. However, he would still like to be the one responsible for making those decisions and working toward the best interest of the Board in the most productive way possible.

Schlaf said that we could create a personnel sub-committee with which the Director would share the desire to add personnel or contractors – or we could just add a personnel line item to all future monthly Executive Committee meeting agendas so that the Director can use those opportunities to update the committee on future plans with regard to changes in personnel.

Gleason asked the committee for their thoughts. Watson said he had no issue with the Director reporting to the Executive Committee on a monthly basis. Kelly stated that there were rules with regard to how and when positions must be posted and how interviews are conducted and hiring decisions made. Fischer interjected that he does still have a number of positions, such as his assistants, legal staff, and deputy directors that can be hired without going through the steps of posting and interviewing. However, even his picks must follow the CMS Personnel Rules and guidelines and go through the CMS steps for hiring. Kelly stated that if we could just

ensure most new hires go through that process rather than be hired on contractually, that would solve some of the problems. He thought a quarterly or monthly update regarding decisions he's made in hiring to the Executive Committee would be appropriate. Davis agreed, stating the committee shouldn't tie the Director's hands by intervening and making decisions, but be made aware and notified of the hiring and the decisions that are taking place. Gleason said he would like to table this discussion and bring it up again at next month's Executive Committee meeting, but asked Fischer to notify this committee of any new hires going forward, pending a more formalized process. He wants the Board to be effective and does not want to tie the Director's hands but believes there is value in the Board providing a layer of protection with the administration.

Fischer stated that he will do everything in his power to make good decisions for the Board and move in a positive direction going forward. He shared that one thing that makes the Board a little unique from other state agencies is that we have a number of specialized projects where we might not need a full time or long term person to accomplish the goal, so for those projects, contractual hires come in very handy. He assured the committee that he will keep moving in the right direction and keep them informed.

C. Other New Business

There was no other new business to discuss.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Watson, seconded by Schlaf, and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

