

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

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Bloomington, IL – WebEx Video Conferencing due to COVID-19**

**November 16, 2020
11:00 a.m.**

I. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The November 16, 2020 meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairman Timothy Gleason. Roll was called by John Keigher, and a quorum of voting members was established.

Members in Attendance:

Timothy Gleason (via WebEx)
J.W. Price (via WebEx)
Richard Watson (via WebEx)
Brendan Kelly (via WebEx – joined at 11:07)
Mitchell R. Davis III (via WebEx – joined at 11:08)

Members Absent:

Staff in Attendance:

Brent Fischer (via WebEx)
Andrew Oldfield (via WebEx)
Keith Calloway (via WebEx)
John Keigher (via WebEx)
Denise Matthew (via WebEx)
Pat Hahn (via WebEx)
Kelly Griffith (via WebEx)
Jennifer Wooldridge (via WebEx)

Guests in Attendance:

Heather Hotz, Executive Institute
Amy Overton, City of Bloomington
Due to WebEx format, there is no available listing of all guests listening in on the meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Chairman Gleason called for approval of the October 23, 2020 minutes.

Motion was made by Price, seconded by Gleason, and carried by all members present via roll call vote to approve the minutes from October 23, 2020.

B. Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Price, and carried by all members present via roll call vote to table the review of the closed meeting minutes until the next Executive Committee meeting.

Director Kelly and Chief Davis joined the meeting at this time.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Financial Update

Denise Matthew gave a brief update on surcharge fund deposits totaling \$3.8M so far in FY21, down \$1.8M down from FY20 at the same time, current balance just over \$802K. Camera grant fund deposits total \$366K, down \$296K from the same date in FY20. The current balance in that fund is \$886K.

We will be getting a deposit of COVID funds per GOMB, of just over \$9,000 for COVID related costs we have incurred. They denied any such funds for the MTUs additional costs.

We were required to submit a 5% decrease in our FY21 budget, and we took the entire amount out of our personal services line item due to the current hiring freeze. This amounted to a total reduction of our budget of \$240K. At this point, it is only proposed, and it has not yet been deducted from our budget.

For FY22, we're being asked to keep our budget request at the same level as this year – just over \$24M + \$3M from GRF to cover training if needed. We have requested \$9M from GRF based on the surcharge fund shortfall we are experiencing so far during FY21. Additionally, we were asked to submit an FY22 budget reflecting a 10% reduction from FY21's budget. For that, we took most of the funds from the camera grant line, and the intern program for this alternative budget.

For clarification, the GRF funds are not an addition to our budget, but simply to make up for revenues not collected in the surcharge fund to help us meet our training obligations. This money can only be spent with the Governor's approval if we do not collect enough in the surcharge fund to meet these obligations. In FY20, we brought in \$12M, and in FY21, we are anticipating bringing in a total of \$10M from the surcharge fund, which doesn't come close to covering our \$24M budget.

B. Personnel Update

Director Fischer reported briefly that Lya Ramos left on October 23rd, she was our HR and FOIA Officer, so we are trying to get that position filled. Additionally, we are working on hiring a Confidential Assistant in the Chicago area. We've been given some direction from the Lt. Governor's office to work with CMS to do some updates to the 104's, which we are getting finalized with CMS now. We hope to get this finished up soon so we can get that HR position

filled right away. The Confidential Assistant position will also be key with the anticipated police reform we see coming our way.

C. Police Reform Update

Board staff has been participating in a workgroup the Attorney General has been hosting, having attended about 9 meetings so far. Additionally, we have been meeting with Chiefs, Sheriffs, State's Attorneys and other law enforcement officials, and have testified in a couple of joint committee hearings. There have been additional side conversations with the Governor's and Lt. Governor's staff, and individual legislators, as well. Our next anticipated activity would be during the lame duck session, since the veto session has been canceled due to COVID. ILETSB will play a big part in implementing a lot of the changes being discussed, and our decertification process will be greatly expanded to include discretionary decertification or revocation and investigation of complaints against officers with a review panel and related appeal process. We have been able to educate others on what we do, and also what we don't do or have any authority over at this time, which has been helpful. Transparency of our records has also been discussed, such as public facing web queries on officer histories. We have not seen any draft language on the bill yet, though.

Director Kelly asked if any legislators have been in contact to offer any suggestions on how to address our perpetual funding problem. Fischer said no one has contacted us to make any such offers, but we have reached out to lawmakers with some suggestions of our own. He has been asked what we do with our training and what other funding to we provide to locals, in addition to basic and in-service training, so there is interest and the knowledge that our funding is an issue that needs to be addressed, but no one has given any positive feedback on the suggestions that we've given thus far.

Chief Davis thanked the staff for all of their hard work and wants to reiterate that our funding challenges need to be kept at the forefront of all of our conversations with the Attorney General and lawmakers, and that without proper funding, the Board cannot function at an optimum level with its current responsibilities and programs, notwithstanding the increased responsibilities being discussed due to police reform, and that with sufficient funding, this can be remedied. Fischer agreed that we are optimistic about the changes, improvements, and reforms and believes they are all doable, but that funding is the key to making them happen. Huge improvements have been implemented since 2015, including the misconduct database, updates to the basic law enforcement curriculum, and much more closely monitoring the waiver process. Additionally, we have tried in the past to get the list of decertification offenses updated to include additional offenses, but have not been able to get legislative support to make it happen. Therefore, we are happy to see that the lawmakers now have an appetite to provide us with more tools to address problems that we have been procedurally and financially unable to address in the past.

D. Trainings During COVID-19 Update

Keigher reported that the COVID training guidelines were approved for Phase IV, but many areas of the state are going through mitigation stages with more strict rules, so we found that we needed to review and revise our previously approved guidelines to allow the academies to continue to function as safely as possible, while still meeting the needs of the agencies. These revisions are still being finalized and we hope to have them ready to be approved by the full Board at its December meeting in two weeks.

Calloway reported that the academies have been working diligently to get through their training classes as safely as possible, not being immune to the difficulties COVID has created. Currently, when academies experience an outbreak, they revert to remote learning for those subjects where that is possible, adjusting schedules to allow for this. It's been tough, but the academies have been proactive with safety measures and are getting through it the best they can, using this hybrid process of online and in-person learning. Griffith added that thus far, we are not seeing a decline in test scores due to remote learning, we believe this is due to the academies making the adjustment by doing remedial and review sessions via Zoom.

Hahn reported that the MTUs are following the IDPH recommendations and offering online training with smaller in person classes when they can, and as funding allows.

Hotz reported that the Part-Time academy classes have been using the online training platform as has long been the practice, but that the Full-Time academy classes have also been using the platform due to COVID. Requests for access for the academy classes are always expedited and seem to be running very smoothly with only very minimal issues. OLN has experienced quite a surge, with a 64% increase in its usage since March 16th. 25,000 students completed OLN training in 2019, as compared to 41,000 students in 2020, during the same period. They have received a great deal of positive feedback during this time. Executive and mid-level management training has also been offered remotely, and they have had huge interest in this virtual training. Their virtual Executive Summit was also a huge success with over 220 participating, with another being planned for January. The 32-hour New Chiefs' Orientation training was also offered virtually this year, with 58 Chiefs participating and very positive feedback.

Fischer thanked everyone for their hard work and efforts to keep training moving forward in a positive direction, even during difficult times.

E. Special Executive Nomination Committee Update

Director Kelly reported that the committee has met several times, but one member had to withdraw so they started over with a new member, being the Attorney General's representative. They have had 3 individuals submit applications, with interviews to take place soon, and the recommendations for appointments should be forthcoming at the December 3rd meeting, based upon the process that has been put in place and recommendations from the Governor's office.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. DOJ Certification/Credentialing for Safe Policing & Use of Force

Fischer reported that an email was sent out on October 28th with a packet of information on a Presidential Executive Order on accreditation of law enforcement agencies for discretionary federal funding. Agencies must apply for accreditation on their use of force and other safe policing matters to the credentialing agencies for that state. We, along with the ILACP are listed as the credentialing agencies for Illinois. The next day, Director Ed Wojcicki from ILACP contacted him to advise they've been working on this for some time over the summer and asked if we would be referring agencies to them for accreditation. After he had reviewed the materials more thoroughly, he called Wojcicki back to tell him that he understood that they had been working on this project and were ready to go, but since ILETSB is listed as a credentialing agency, he felt like we should be doing something to be prepared to process those inquiries as needed. While we don't want to be in competition, since we were listed as a credentialing entity, he felt we should make an effort to accommodate any requests that come our way. As all are aware, Chief Davis sent an email out to all the Board members about this topic and we were asked to place this on the agenda for today's meeting. Fischer stated that he is happy to accommodate the Board's wishes for how we are to move forward with this matter.

Chief Davis stated that he felt that the Board would have a lot of new stuff put on its plate and to be concerned about in the near future and we are already busy enough with our current situation and funding issues and he believes we need to focus on the task at hand and not take on any additional obligations at this time. He believes that this accreditation process is a big deal and he thinks the Board members should have been notified about it. The way he understood the DOJ directives, the state's POST would be secondary to any accrediting agency, and since the ILACP is listed as the main accrediting agency, ILETSB would be secondary to them in this duty. He believes that ILETSB getting involved would only muddy the waters.

Price commented that he received information from ILEAS that the ILACP is the only agency allowed to accredit agencies under this program. He's not sure where ILEAS is getting their information, but he would like to see where it is stated that ILETSB should not be processing these requests for accreditation, as he has not seen anything that says this. Since the ILACP is charging \$150 to process these requests and ILETSB cannot charge any such fee, he feels it would be a benefit to smaller agencies to have the free option available to them if allowable. He just wants to be assured that we aren't going to be getting into hot water down the road if we choose to not get involved now. He's okay with ILETSB staying out of it, as he agrees that we have a lot on our plate, but just wants to be sure that this is the right thing to do.

Watson commented that the Board is responsible for setting standards and believes the Board should be offering this accreditation since we have all of the information on the agencies and if there is an issue with use of force, we will know about it before anyone else does.

Chief Davis said that this standard was set by the federal government, not the ILACP.

Gleason indicated that he received a similar email from the City Managers' Association to the one Price received from ILEAS indicating that they should work with the ILACP for this certification.

Fischer stated that he would follow the Board's wishes on this, but he has staff working on a portal for processing these requests, and if the Board doesn't want to be involved, he will stop work on the project. If we should be funneling everyone to the ILACP, that's what we'll do, but if not, he would like to know so that we can be prepared and up and running by the deadline.

After some discussion, the committee was torn on how to proceed at this time. Gleason asked Fischer to reach out to his peers in other states who are listed with an asterisk as well, to see how they're handling it.

B. Director's 2020 Evaluation

Chairman Gleason suggested tabling this item in the interest of time, to be discussed either later this week or earlier next week in a sole agenda item meeting, or to also include additional discussion on the DOJ matter. He said he would send out some possible dates to meet on this later in the day.

Motion was made by Davis, seconded by Kelly, and approved by all members present via a roll call vote to table the Director's 2020 evaluation until the next Executive Committee meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Watson, seconded by Price, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

