

ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND STANDARDS BOARD
500 S. 9th Street, Springfield, IL 62701

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Westin Chicago North Shore ~ 601 N Milwaukee Ave, Wheeling, IL 60090

June 7, 2023
3:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The June 7, 2023 Finance & Legislative Committee meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Committee Chair John Idleburg.

II. ROLL CALL - ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Roll was called by Michelle Mlinar, and a quorum of voting members was established.

Members in Attendance:

John Idleburg
Tim Nugent

Members Absent:

Richard Watson

Designees in Attendance:

Anthony Escamilla for Iris Martinez
John Carroll for Kwame Raoul

Staff in Attendance:

Keith Calloway
Jeffrey Chapman
Pat Hahn
Kelton Ingram
John Keigher

Michelle Mlinar
Jan Noble
Steven Pingolt
Jennifer Wooldridge

Others in Attendance:

Heather Hotz, ILETSB-EI
Cindi Bricker, ILETSB-EI
Barb Wood, ILETSB-EI
Brenda Swires, Contractor
Doug Coppotelli, MTU 1
Jay Koeh, MTU 1
Jeff Schelling, MTU 2

Joe Schweihs, MTU 3
April Morris, MTU 3
John W. Reynolds, MTU 4
Brian Fengel, MTU 7
Robert Siron, MTU 8
Penny Abbott, MTU 9
JT Wooldridge, MTU 10

Kevin Koontz, MTU 12
Christine Stephen, MTU 13
Jason L. Root, MTU 13
Scott Williams, MTU 14
Van Muschler, MTU 14
Kevin Schmoll, MTU 14
David Rednour, MTU 15
Kim Cramer, MTU 15
Bradley Hertzmann, MTU 16
Brad Clark, MCLETC-Sangamon
Joe Gallo, PTI

Eric Danford, SWIC
Michael Schassburger, Cook Co SO
Jason LaMendola, Sauk Valley PA
Karl Pannier, St. Clair Co Sheriff's
Corrections Academy/SWIC
Steve Strubberg, St. Clair Co Sheriff's
Corrections Academy/SWIC
Tom Turek, DRE Coordinator
Mark Duignan, CPD
Thomas Barnett, CPD
Kelly Pate, Wicklander-Zulawski

III. FINANCIAL MATTERS

A. Financial Items ~ Steven Pingolt

Pingolt reported his items can be found under Tab 6; FY23 expenditures through April 30, 2023, and a cash flow analysis for ILETSB funds. No questions followed and Pingolt made a request for two motions.

Motion was made by Nugent to approve the request, seconded by Carroll, and carried by all members present to authorize funding of the MTU's, Executive Institute, specialty trainings and other direct contracts.

Motion was made by Nugent to approve the payment, seconded by Escamilla, and carried by all members present to make a 5th quarter payment the MTU's

B. Personnel Matters ~ Jennifer Wooldridge for Ellen Petty

Deputy Director Wooldridge reported for Ellen Petty that we are nearing the end of the numerous hiring sequences posted in March and April of this year. Staff has been conducting interviews every week for the past month, and have more interviews scheduled every week into July. Kent Bragg is our new Sangamon County Field Investigator, and there are currently job offers pending for two Certification Specialists, the Manager of Specialized Programs, and a Jefferson County Field Investigator. It is anticipated those job offers will all be made in the next week. Additionally, Stormie DeJaynes has been promoted to Lead Accountant, and Andrew Oldfield has been promoted to Application Solution Architect. ILETSB Receptionist Mike Haley also retired at the end of May.

The Web Developer position and Receptionist position will be posted soon to backfill, as well as a new Procurement Officer position. Work has also begun on development of several Public Service Administrator positions hopefully to be posted prior to the September Board meeting. On a positive note, it is taking about half of the time to fill jobs as it was two years ago. Partially, this is due to improvements made in the CMS hiring process using the new online portal, but also due to both CMS and ILETSB

having hired additional staff to help do the work of processing the numerous steps involved in recruiting and hiring sequences.

The contract negotiation process is still ongoing through the last day of June. There has been much progress, but there is still a lot of work to be accomplished over the next few weeks. It is the hope of all that a new contract will be ratified by July 1st.

On a much more somber note, former Administrative Assistant Laura Baker passed away in mid-May, less than a year after she fully retired from ILETSB. Her visitation was attended by most of the office staff, she will be greatly missed by all of us.

C. Legislative and Litigation Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher noted there are two cases we are involved in; the first is regarding an officer from Kane County, who was decertified, but is seeking to have the ruling overturned. The Attorney General's office is assisting with this case. Briefs have been filed, and we are awaiting a decision. The second is a case involving a former employee who has a lawsuit pending.

SB 250, now PA 103.006: The General Assembly has just finished their Spring session in Springfield. The most important bill being watched is the budget bill signed by the Governor today. This bill provides an additional \$3M for the Recruitment & Retention grant which will make it a total of \$13M for this fiscal year. The budget for FY24 is basically the same as FY23, and the operational numbers are on par with what we expected. It needs to be noted we are moving away from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) and more towards the new Law Enforcement Training Fund.

The General Assembly is again trusting us with grant programs; \$30M to the Camera Grant Fund, \$10M for Recruitment and Retention, \$4M for NIBIN, and a provision for about \$500,000 for the Highway Safety Programs. Though we were not expecting the Highway Safety program to come up, we believe the intention is to give more control to the Board for the A.R.I.D.E. and D.R.E programs.

HB 3817: This is the Budget Implementation bill. This bill gives the Board clear authority to use the Law Enforcement Training Fund for Board operations. The fund is no longer limited strictly to training. This bill also gives the Board grant making authority for the NIBIN grants.

SB 1754: This bill addresses the reciprocity process and aligns with how the Board handles reciprocity. It also allows us to make emergency rules on how we move forward. One new change is this bill allows equivalency for corrections officers, this will require coursework in Illinois laws and an exam. There is now a certification component to this bill. Once completed, the officer will receive a certificate not just a waiver, as was the case prior to the SAFE-T Act. This bill is awaiting the Governor's signature.

SB 1543: This is the Mental Health Coordinator bill. The original bill, without our amendments, is what passed. This bill creates a Mental Health Coordinator within the Board. This is a special position appointed by the Governor who would serve in a

contract employee format. The person to fill this position must be an active officer with both patrol and detective experiences in rural and urban environments. Once appointed this officer would assist with establishing mental health trainings for police officers, select medical professionals to be used for referrals, cooperate with private providers to ensure trainings are sound, establish peer support groups, set continuing education standards, report to the Board on the standards, and provide the Board with recommendations on training needs. This bill has passed, though no one knows for sure how this will work. This is not normally how employees are brought to state agencies. We have lingering concerns about this that have been brought to the Governor and Lt. Governor's attention. If the Governor signs this and moves it forward we will have to see how it could be implemented since it is so far outside the norm. Keigher noted that Chairman Smoot also has concerns about this bill and may seek to initiate some discussion in opposition to this.

Keigher mentioned a prior bill that required the Board to work with Community Colleges to establish courses and requirements that could be transferred to the state training requirement. He stated he is working with the Community College Board and intends to contact all Community Colleges with Criminal Justice and police related programs. He hopes to highlight the Intern Program to the schools as some college is required for this program. The thought at this point, is to have students complete a two-year degree, and then explore the Intern Program.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. SAFE-T Act Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher stated many of the SAFE-T Act changes are already in place, but there are a few regarding certification that still need to be worked out. Pat Hahn and Keigher have been working on the existing [*Administrative*] Rules. The Rules submitted back in September [2022], even under the emergency program, were finally approved for publication this week. This gives us tools to use to make sure certification becomes more standardized in compliance with the SAFE-T Act. There are still a few things that need to be addressed through the Administrative Rules and Keigher passed out a memo explaining these issues. The Board will need to grant approval before these proposed changes can be considered. There are things in the memo that the Board has been seeing regarding certification; officers who aren't certified but could be due to previous testing and are acting under a waiver, those who came through reciprocity in the past, those who attended similar type programs in the past and need a certification to move forward to be official – this includes our 11 legacy officers who began their career prior to 1976, which predates the certification requirements as they are now. Keigher will present the memo for approval at tomorrow's Board meeting.

Part of the memo Keigher presented discusses waivers and requests for reactivation for newly hired officers. More frequently, agencies are attempting to hire officers away from their current agencies while they are still in the academy or have just finished. It has been pointed out that there is a provision in the municipal code that allows such preference to existing officers only after they have worked for that town for two years.

We are looking to implement this provision and see if it can carry over.

Keigher stated that when an officer comes before us for a reactivation we operate the same as we have in the past; running backgrounds, making sure there are no felonies, no crimes of moral turpitude, and making sure training requirements are met. These would be the additional criteria that would be flushed out with the Administrative Rules.

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Carroll, and carried by all members present to bring the memo to the Full Board to discuss the recommendations.

B. Camera Grant Update ~ John Keigher

Keigher reported that going forward, we will not only report on the camera grant during this section of the meeting, but five total grants that we now have in the state system. The camera grant data storage this year is a separate component, next year going forward it may be combined. This year we also have the NIBIN grant, and agencies can request reimbursement for those machines. We are allowing the Recruitment & Retention grant program to move forward and proposals for this are being accepted. All those grants are extended through next year. The fifth grant is a unique Chicago grant which is a directed legislation grant.

As for the Camera Grant, 249 agencies have started the application process, with 81 being completed and moving towards payment. Payouts will continue through lapse period, though we have the remainder of the fiscal year to accept applications.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Nugent, seconded by Carroll, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

