

Minutes of the emergency meeting of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Board of Trustees held at the Central Maine Commerce Center, Fallen Hero's Conference Room on Thursday, March 19, 2020.

**Board Members Attending in Person:**

Special Agent Brian Pellerin – Chair  
Commissioner Michael Sauschuck  
Commissioner Randall Liberty  
Colonel John Cote  
Colonel Dan Scott

**Board Members Excused:**

Dep. Chief Bushey

**Board Members Attending via Phone:**

Det. Sgt. Lincoln Ryder – Vice Chair  
Chief Charles Rumsey IV  
Sheriff Scott Nichols  
Ms. Marie Hansen  
District Attorney Kathryn Slattery  
Detective Seth Blodgett  
Mr. Tom Peters II, Esq.  
Mr. Richard Davis  
Ms. Kimberly Gore  
Ms. Elizabeth Ward Saxl  
Mr. Levon Travis

**Participants:**

Asst. Director Rick Desjardins  
Attorney Andrew Black  
Karen Green, Board Secretary

**Guests:** None

**I. Item One on the Agenda: Call to Order**

Chair Pellerin called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and explained the criteria of having this emergency meeting, how roll call would be taken, how voting would be done and how questions regarding motions, if any, would be handled. He told the participants on the phone that the meeting was being held in the Fallen Hero's Conference Room at The Central Maine Commerce Center, 45 Commerce Dr., Augusta and told them who was present in person.

**II. Item Two on the Agenda: Roll Call and Introduction of Board Members**

Chair Pellerin conducted a roll call asking all persons present to state their name and say "present" when their name was called. He then declared that there was a quorum.

Chair Pellerin asked Assistant Director Rick Desjardins to explain the emergency waivers that would be presented at today's meeting.

**III. Item Three on the Agenda: Law Enforcement Training Waivers**

Assistant Director Desjardins thanked everyone for attending this emergency meeting. He explained that due to this national pandemic, the Commissioner decided to suspend the BLETP and all 59 cadets were sent home to

their agencies. Those 59 cadets were divided up into two groups. Group 1 would be those officers needing waivers and the second group would be those officers needing extensions.

Group 1: 23 Cadets who did not hold a certificate of eligibility to be part-time law enforcement officers prior to entry into the 38<sup>th</sup> BLETP but have successfully completed the first 11 weeks of the 38<sup>th</sup> BLETP.

Because one of the 23 Cadets is from Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Chair Pellerin asked for two votes.

**MOTION:** To waive the MCJA Law Enforcement Training Program and issue a Reserve Officer Certificate pending successful completion of the Reserve Officer's Certification exam, provide to the Academy evidence of safe and proficient competency in the handling of a firearm and must qualify with an agency approved service weapon on a course of fire approved by the Academy. Documentation of the completion qualifications shall be attested by a certified MCJA Firearms Instructor.

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Officer Travis.

**Motion Passed with 14 for, 0 opposed and Chair Pellerin and Sheriff Nichols abstaining for the vote.**

**MOTION:** In regards to Cadet Alec Frost of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, to waive the MCJA Law Enforcement Pre-Service Training Program and issue a Reserve Officer Certificate pending successful completion of the Reserve Officer's Certification exam, provide to the Academy evidence of safe and proficient competency in the handling of a firearm and must qualify with an agency approved service weapon on a course of fire approved by the Academy. Documentation of the completion qualifications shall be attested by a certified MCJA Firearms Instructor.

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Mr. Davis

**Motion Passed with 14 for, 0 opposed, Sheriff Nichols Recusing himself from the vote and Chair Pellerin abstaining for the vote.**

Mr. Desjardins then explained about the second group that would need extensions. These 8 cadets hold certificates of eligibility to be part-time law enforcement officers and were employed as full-time officers with their respective law enforcement agency prior to entering the 38<sup>th</sup> BLETP. Upon entering the BLETP each of their 12-month periods of employment as full-time officers has not yet expired. With the suspension of the 38<sup>th</sup> BLETP it is anticipated that each of their 12-month periods will expire prior to the resumption of the 38<sup>th</sup> BLETP. In addition, the completion of the 11 weeks of BLETP training has provided each of the officers with greater training than the typical part-time officer.

Because one of the 8 Cadets (Marc D'Elia) is from the Maine Warden Service, Chair Pellerin asked for two votes.

**MOTION:** To grant 7 cadets of the 38<sup>th</sup> BLETP, who already hold certificates of eligibility to be part-time law Enforcement officers, 180-day extensions to complete the BLETP.

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Colonel Dan Scott.

**Motion Passed with 15 for, 0 opposed and Chair Pellerin abstaining.**

**MOTION: In regard to Marc D'Elia of the Maine Warden Service, to grant him a 180-day extension to compete the 38<sup>th</sup> BLETP as he already holds certificates of eligibility to be a part-time law Enforcement officer.**

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Commissioner Liberty.

**Motion Passed with 14 for, 0 opposed, Colonel Scott of the Warden Service recusing himself and Chair Pellerin abstaining from the vote.**

Chair Pellerin then requested that Assistant Director Desjardins explain the request for a vote for waiving fees of the Pre-Service Course for the 28 BLETP Cadets in the first and second motion.

Mr. Desjardins explained that a waiver fee, adopted by the Board, would typically be billed to the agencies, but under these circumstances he would request that that fee be waived.

**MOTION: To waive the Pre-Service Waiver fee for the BLETP Cadets referenced in Motion 1 and Motion 2.**

Moved by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Commissioner Liberty.

**Motion passed with 15 for and with Chair Pellerin abstaining from the vote.**

**Chair Pellerin then asked for any additions to Committee Reports**

**IV. Item Four on the Agenda: Committee Reports**

- A. Complaint Committee: Mr. Tom Peters**  
Nothing to report at this time.
- B. Administrative Rules Committee: Mr. Richard Davis**  
Nothing to report at this time.
- C. Law Enforcement Training Committee: Det. Sgt. Lincoln Ryder**  
Nothing to report at this time.
- D. Corrections Training Committee: Mr. Levon Travis**  
Nothing to report at this time.
- E. Policy Standards Committee: Chief Charles Rumsey**  
Nothing to report at this time.

**V. Item Five on the Agenda: Report from the Board Chair: Special Agent Brian Pellerin**

Chair Pellerin stated he had no report from the Board Chair at this time.

**VI. Item Six of the Agenda: Report from Assistant Director Rick Desjardins**

Assistant Director Desjardins recognized that these were very unusual times and that he wanted to praise the Academy Staff for stepping up to make things happen on a very short period of time. He went on to say that there were other programs that were impacted by this suspension of classes. A 39 student Correction Program was due to start at the Academy this morning. We are actively looking at options of keeping groups under 10, by reaching out to the affected agencies and looking at alternative ways to get the program up and running. He explained that an active Academy Facebook page had been set up yesterday and that all updates in scheduling would be posted on the site.

**VII: Item Seven on the Agenda: Old Business**

None at this time.

**VIII: Item Eight on the Agenda: New Business**

Commissioner Sauschuck explained that he and Assistant Desjardins had been in constant communication with each other and that Desjardins had reached out to academies in other states around the country to see how they were conducting their programs during this pandemic. As a result of all the info collected it was clear that we had no option than to suspend the BLETP. He then wanted to thank the academy staff for coming up with innovative ideas to keep things running and getting information out to agencies. He stated that he was working on getting the academy staff laptops so they could, if need be, work from home and communicate telephonically. He also thanked all the members of the Board for their attendance today.

**Chair Pellerin ask for a motion to adjourn.**

**MOTION: To adjourn this emergency meeting of the MCJA Board of Trustees.**

Motion by Commissioner Sauschuck and seconded by Colonel Scott.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Pellerin adjourned the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard P. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard P. Davis