

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

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE PTI PROJECT
The Westin Michigan Avenue, 909 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
December 7, 2016

I. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

The December 7, 2016 meeting of the Special Committee on the PTI Project was held in Chicago, Illinois, and was called to order by Chairman Schlaf at 2:16 p.m. after waiting for additional committee members to arrive. Roll was called by Ellen Petty and a quorum of Committee members was established.

Members in attendance:

John Schlaf
Tim Gleason
Jan Noble
Laurel Lunt Prussing (arrived at 2:22)

Members absent:

Pat Hartshorn

Staff in attendance:

Brent Fischer, Executive Director
Eric Pingolt, Deputy Director
John Keigher, Chief Counsel
Kelly Griffith, General Counsel
Ellen Petty, Personal Assistant to Executive Director
John Krein, Fiscal Officer
Lee Ryker, Field Representative
Scott Schaefer, Field Representative
Jennifer Wooldridge, Manager of Operations & Special Projects
Cora Beem, Manager of Mandated Training
Dan Sluga, Information Technology Manager

Others in attendance:

Zachary Sanger, Illinois Department of Corrections
David Camden, Illinois Department of Corrections
Robert Brown, Illinois Department of Corrections
Dan Artl, Illinois Department of Corrections
Cory Orphan, DuPage County Sheriff
Paul Williams, Bloomington Police Department & ILETSB Board Member
Thomas Fleming, Cook County Sheriff's Department
Michael Schlosser, Police Training Institute
Meg Hedrick, Police Training Institute
Chaley Hausle, Police Training Institute
Christopher Campbell for Leo Schmitz
Len Mendoza, MTU 4
Vicki Munson, MTU 4

Mary Pocius, MTU 3
Joanne Kurt-Hilditch, ILETSB Executive Institute
Tom Reasoner, MTU 3
Mike Norrington, MTU 15
Jeffrey Fritz, ILETSB Executive Institute
Susan Nichols, ILETSB Executive Institute
Bob Crouch, MTU 10
Van Muschler, Southwestern Illinois College Police Academy

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Noble, seconded by Gleason, and carried by all members present to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2016 meeting.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Schlaf gave an update on the status of ground breaking for the new Decatur facility in October. He passed around photos he had taken of the considerable work that has been done at the site so far. Fischer expanded on the update with specifics on projects completed and remaining per his discussions with the architect, Romano. He stated that he is very pleased with the progress so far.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Schlaf asked Keigher to give an update on the status of the training portion of the project, more specifically, PTI and its relationship with University of Illinois. Schlaf began the update by reporting that he, Keigher, and Fischer had attended a meeting at U of I on November 18th with Vice Chancellor Katherine Galvin, Director Schlosser, and representatives from the Chancellor's office, as well as Senators Rose and Bennett. Some of what Keigher will share came from that meeting.

Keigher went on to say that the big picture of PTI and its future were discussed at that meeting and it was clear that the University intends to operate PTI as is until the statute that establishes its existence is changed. Given the changes on the horizon, U of I intends to keep PTI at the 4th Street location for now. He is currently working with both the staff of U of I and Western Illinois University to get the statutory change put together in a way that would be agreeable to all parties. This would move PTI in its current form to Western, and then in its place, put a research institute in some form at U of I, as research is a component they wish to maintain. The short term plan at PTI is to keep operating as is, likely through this summer. Senator Rose is adamant about the value that PTI adds to the community in Champaign and we promised to make sure that the research arm of PTI was maintained through this process of changes.

Schlaf added that the Director had pointed out that the statute that PTI is operating under currently, Section 370 of the Higher Education Act, does not mandate that U of I conduct basic training, only that it conduct training – not necessarily basic. U of I does not necessarily agree with this interpretation since basic training was the training which had previously been established.

Schlaf welcomed committee member Laurel Prussing, noting her arrival at this point in the meeting for the record.

Schlaf asked for any questions from the committee members about the site development or about new business.

Prussing apologized for being late, as she was looking for the meeting room. She indicated that she is concerned that the law clearly states that PTI is supposed to be at the U of I Champaign. She thinks this Board is offended because in the past, a committee at the University had recommended closing PTI, but the people who got punished were the people who sent their officers to PTI for basic training. She thinks there is a real need to keep PTI, and while she knows that our benefactor did not want to work with U of I, she thinks that, by law, it must be in Champaign. She thinks the best answer is to have another academy in Decatur, but she doesn't want to lose the one they have, which has been going on for many decades. She believes we need to look at the enrollments for these institutions as there is a proven need around the state for PTI and if we are going to offer more training, then we should have both sites at Champaign and Decatur. When she supported this, she supported the connection to the U of I at the first meeting. She also believes that if this Board owns the property, that is a conflict of interest for the academy.

Schlaf commented that she had made several interesting points, but he's not sure about the accuracy of each of them. He stated that from his perspective, the Board will not own the academy, it will only own the building in which an academy is operated. To the point of law, he thinks that goes directly to Mr. Keigher's statement of addressing the law, which he felt was encouraged by the University.

Prussing said that she would need to see what changes Mr. Keigher is proposing, as her legislators are wanting to keep PTI at U of I. She thinks it's important to have training around the state. She's disturbed that this is coming up again. She didn't think this Board had the power to close down the classes at PTI last time because the law said it's the Vice Chancellor at the University of Illinois that decides if the courses are meeting standards. She understands that the Board was upset, but believes we need to have objective standards for decertifying courses instead of when we're mad at somebody.

Schlaf replied to Prussing that he thinks her term "closed down" is mixed up with the term "decertification". Prussing said that she just thought it was done illegally and that's in the past and she just doesn't want to repeat it. Schlaf indicated that he doesn't think we need to worry about repeating it, but he certainly heard both her comments in the local newspaper as well as her comments here. He said he was pleased that she could be at the meeting to share her thoughts so that we could have this dialogue rather than have it in the newspaper. Schlaf asked Keigher if he had any additional comments about the legislation which might ease the Mayor's concerns. Keigher said that in addition to the legislative changes, they are also working out the nuts and bolts of how an agreement would work among the Universities to transfer property and the status of the employees of the organization. Everyone recognizes that these are matters which need to be worked out as we move forward. After the November 18th meeting with U of I, he was able to put some things together in writing with regard to changes in the

legislation that have not been shared with anyone yet. As soon as he's had a chance to share it with all of the parties involved, he will bring it before the Board.

Prussing said that she thinks it is important to realize that this matter is not just about the Board and the U of I, but we need to keep in mind what's in the best interest of the State of Illinois and she thinks that we need to have a public discussion. She knows that we were asked not to talk to the press, but she's an elected official and has a need to talk about public issues and it should be discussed publicly. She believes this should all be done publicly and she would like to see the draft. Keigher stated that he wanted a chance to make sure the University has a chance to review it and weigh in on it before he lets anyone else see it. It was clear from the November 18th meeting that the discussed changes to the legislation would be absolutely agreed to by the University. Prussing said she thought there should be a public discussion about the best way to locate academies. Schlaf said he doesn't know if there are any established ground rules for the best way to establish an academy. He said that with regard to her comment about wanting to provide training to Illinois law enforcement and correctional officers around the state, he couldn't agree with her more, which is exactly the reason the Board has five other academies in addition to PTI, and they are located all around the state. That, in conjunction with 14 Mobile Training Units that we can't discount because they offer training of a caliber that nationally, is unmet. An effort in great part by this Board that he thinks we should all share a certain amount of pride in. He believes this goes toward her concern about offering this service statewide. He thinks sometimes she looks at it as if PTI were the only academy in the state, and that is just not the case. She stated that this was not her belief, only that PTI has served the state well and we should keep it. She indicated that she is not saying we shouldn't have an academy in Decatur, but she still wants to have PTI. Schlaf said that ultimately, when the legislative drafts are completed, the University of Illinois will have an opportunity to discuss the drafts. Then it will be in great part their decision whether or not to sign off on making that move. We will see how that progresses in the days ahead.

Schlaf asked if there were any other committee members who had a comment. Noble spoke up saying Central Illinois is prone to a lot of storms and he was just curious if the new structure included any sub-surface area for the officers to retreat to. Schlaf indicated that the designated storm shelter is the indoor range. Keigher added that the architect was very dedicated to keeping up to code by maintaining a certain area as a safe zone. Noble said he was satisfied with that.

Schlaf said that one of the things the committee and the board has tried to do is to welcome public input and conversations about this project from the beginning, and he regrets that Prussing does not feel that this has been the case. At the conclusion of all of the committee meetings, requests for comments from the floor have always been made. He feels that at least as far as this committee goes, all of the conversations have always been fair and above-board, as should always be the case. In all fairness about the comment about the press release, he believes that Prussing probably operates under the same standardized rules that all communities do - that a PIO, a Public Information Officer, be used for contact with the press. He believes that the comment that she saw as an attempt to diminish conversation was simply a very practical means to use a single point of contact. That was his interpretation.

Schlaf made an announcement, and while he did not believe that this has any specific bearing on this matter, it is certainly attached. The Board has received information from PTI Director Mike Schlosser, just prior to this meeting, that he will leave his position as PTI Director and assume other roles within the University of Illinois. Dependent upon what may ultimately happen, we will not be under the Director's involvement with PTI. On a personal note, Schlaf indicated that the Director has done a great job and has been a friend both personally and on the Board level. The committee sees this as a great opportunity for Mike and is excited with him and for him for what may be some of the greatest days ahead. We are very happy for his decision, but very sad to see him go. Fischer added that Mike will remain in his current duties as Director until we get through the transitional process, and that he is very happy for him and wishes him well and also thanks him for his service to the Board and to law enforcement. The Board is fortunate that we will have a link there at the University of Illinois who is a friend of law enforcement and of the Board.

Schlaf asked again for any questions or concerns from those in attendance. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Noble, seconded by Gleason, and carried by all members present to adjourn the meeting at 2:39 p.m.

