



RICHARD CORDRAY
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010

HELD AT THE

OHIO PEACE OFFICER TRAINING ACADEMY

IN

LONDON, OHIO

MINUTES



I. OPENING

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Vernon Stanforth called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
SAC Keith Bennett led the pledge of allegiance.
Ms. Gaye Gossard called the Roll.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Vernon P. Stanforth
Mr. Jeffrey Patzer
Chief Paul Denton
Mr. John Lenhart
SAC Bennett

Major Christopher Minter represented the Ohio State Highway Patrol.
Captain Charlie Hardman represented the Wayne County Sheriff's Office

B. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND STAFF

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Attorney General Richard Cordray
Mr. Jeffery Clark
Mr. Scott Weimer
Ms. Gaye Gossard

Attorney General's Office
OPOTA Business Manager
OPOTC Secretary

Concerning the two representatives for Colonel Dicken and Sheriff Maurer, Chairperson Stanforth explained they were not voting members and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission (OPOTC) did not have proxy votes in a member's absence. At that time, Chairperson Stanforth considered a motion to go into executive session to consider the appointment of an executive director.

II. MOTION TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Jeff Patzer motioned the OPOTC move into executive session to consider the appointment of an executive director for the OPOTC. Mr. Keith Bennett seconded the motion.

As a point of order, Mr. John Lenhart asked if the OPOTC should have Mr. Ferrell's resignation before going into executive session. Attorney General Cordray stated Mr. Ferrell had rendered a resignation letter via email and his intent was to resign effective April 22, 2010. Chief Denton inquired if an email could be accepted as a resignation. Mr. Jeff Clark stated the only thing the OPOTC could do in executive session was discuss and deliberate and this concerned any decision and voting on the appointment of the executive director therefore, it shouldn't be a problem to go into executive session. In terms of appointment, the OPOTC can only do that to the extent of its authority and can make conditional decisions; however, it was prudent and important to sort out as much of the current status of the office as possible before going into executive session.

After the conclusion of the discussion, a roll call vote was taken which resulted in the following: Stanforth - yes, Patzer - yes, Bennett - yes, Lenhart - yes, Denton - yes. The motion passed to go into executive session to consider the appointment of an executive director for the OPOTC. At that time, Chairperson Stanforth asked Ms. Gossard and all other guests to exit before executive session began. Attorney General Cordray and the two representatives from OSP and Wayne County Sheriff's Office remained at the invitation of the Commissioners. Mr. Patzer inquired since the OPOTC was covered by privilege in executive session was they limited to the executives in the executive session. Mr. Jeff Clark advised privilege was down the list of considerations. The purpose of having an executive session was to create private space that does not entitle the public to hear or observe the proceedings. There is an ethical statute in Ohio Revised Code 1.02 that obliged the members of the OPOTC to maintain those matters which are made confidential as part of the body's proceedings (to include executive session), and the statute bound only the OPOTC. It was a matter of trust of those the OPOTC invited to stay during an executive session. Mr. Patzer did not question the trustworthiness of the guests asked to stay, he only wanted to insure having their presence in the executive session would withstand legal scrutiny. Mr. Lenhart suggested Major Minter and Captain Hardman remain in the executive session. Mr. Bennett agreed. At that point, Chairperson Stanforth invited Major Minter and Captain Hardman to remain in the executive session.

III. MOTION TO RETURN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 9:45 a.m.

Chief Paul Denton motioned the OPOTC meeting return out of executive session to regular session. SAC Keith Bennett seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed favorably.

Chairperson Stanforth entertained a motion to accept the resignation of Executive Director Ron Ferrell and the appointment of Mr. Robert Fiatal as the new Executive Director of the OPOTC.

MOTION

Mr. Jeff Patzer moved to accept the resignation of Executive Director Ron Ferrell effective April 22, 2010, and move the appointment of Mr. Robert Fiatal to the Executive Director's position effective close of business on April 22, 2010. SAC Keith Bennett seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken which resulted in the following: Stanforth - yes, Patzer - yes, Bennett - yes, Lenhart - yes, Denton - yes. The motion passed favorably.

MOTION

Mr. John Lenhart motioned the OPOTC thank and congratulate Executive Director Ron Ferrell for a job well done and for his service as a Commissioner and Executive Director. Mr. Patzer stated the proposal would be unanimous and requested Attorney General Cordray reduce Mr. Lenhart's recommendation to writing on behalf of the Commission. Attorney General Cordray agreed.

IV. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Chief Paul Denton motioned to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.
Time: 9:50 a.m.

Chairperson

These transcripts are not verbatim. Audio recordings are available upon request.