



**DAVE YOST**  
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Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission  
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**Submitted signed minutes on June 26, 2020**

**Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission  
Meeting Thursday, January 9, 2020, 10:00 a.m.  
held at the  
Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, 1650 State Route 56 SW  
London, Ohio 43140**

**Minutes – January 9, 2020**

**A. Opening**

**Call to Order**

Vice-Chair Harris called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.  
Sheriff Stanforth led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Ms. Donna Long called the Roll Call.

**Commission members present**

Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, Chair  
Chief Clayton Harris, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Leah Amstutz  
Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith  
Colonel Richard Fambro  
Lieutenant James Fitsko  
Sheriff Michael Heldman

**Attorney General's Office Staff**

Mr. Jeffrey Boucher-Associate Assistant Attorney/AGO  
Ms. Brittany Brashears-OPOTC Staff  
Ms. Jill Cury-OPOTC Staff  
Ms. Courtney DeLong-OPOTC Staff  
Ms. Arienne Fauber-OPOTC Staff  
Mr. Michael Golec-OPOTA Staff  
Ms. Kim Hahn-OPOTC Staff  
Mr. Richard Hardy-Director of Professional Standards and Education  
Mr. Dwight Holcomb-Executive Director-OPOTC/A  
Ms. Donna Long-OPOTC Secretary-OPOTC Staff  
Ms. Cynthia Peterson-Senior Assistant Attorney General

## **Guests**

Captain Geoffrey Barnard-Cleveland Heights Police Department  
Mr. Chuck Crosby-Sinclair Community College  
Lt. Jim Dawson-Barberton Police Department  
Lt. Matthew Dickey-Dayton Police Department  
Mr. Bill Holland-Summit County Sheriff's Office  
Major Chuck Jones-Ohio State Highway Patrol  
Mr. Nicholas Karafa-Assistant Director, Delaware County Sheriff's Office  
Ms. Elizabeth Kreger-Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction  
Mr. Mark Lang-Columbus Division of Police  
Mr. Greg Lattanzi-Dublin Police Department  
Mr. Robert Meader-Columbus Division of Police  
Ms. Sharon Montgomery-OSU Risk Institute Distracted Driving Initiative  
Chief Ron Morenz-Lakeland Community College  
Mr. Ernie Oergel-Polaris Career Center  
Mr. Dennis Pellegrino-Stark State Community College  
Mr. Ed Reardon-Columbus Division of Police  
Mr. Kevin Reardon-Central Ohio Technical College  
Lt. Joe Richardson-Cincinnati Division of Police  
Ms. Amber Rose-Columbus Division of Police  
Mr. Eric Schaefer-OPOTC Staff  
Ms. Laura Suber-Columbus Division of Police  
Lt. Wesley Wagner-Licking County Sheriff's Office  
Mr. Michael Walton, Asst. Attorney General-Constitutional Office/AGO  
Mr. Ellis "Pete" Willis-Sinclair Community College

## **B. House Committee Report**

### **Colonel Richard Fambro, Committee Chair**

Colonel Fambro and the house committee met this morning at 9:00 a.m. With no old business, the committee moved to new business. Three new business items were discussed. Discussed were the nomination of a 2020 Chair, Vice-Chair and for 2020 meeting dates. This committee agreed to the consideration of the full Commission the recommendation to nominate Sheriff Vernon Stanforth to the Chair position, the nomination of Chief Clayton Harris to the Vice-Chair position and the recommended meeting dates of the second Thursday of every other month beginning with this meeting, all meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.

### **MOTION:**

**Sheriff Heldman made the recommendation of Sheriff Vernon Stanforth as the 2020 Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Colonel Fambro. A vote was taken and passed. Yes-6, No-0, Absent-2. Sheriff Stanforth abstained from the vote.**

**MOTION:**

**Colonel Fambro made the recommendation of Chief Clayton Harris as the 2020 Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Heldman. A vote was taken and passed. Yes-6, No-0, Absent-2. Chief Harris abstained from the vote.**

**MOTION:**

**Colonel Fambro recommended the 2020 Calendar as purposed above. The motion was seconded by Ms. Carter-Smith. With no discussion a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**

Committee Chair Fambro stated there was nothing further to report, concluding the House Committee report.

At this time, Chairperson Stanforth took over the meeting. Chair Stanforth stated he has enjoyed his 20 years on the Commission, and in his 15 years as Chair, the Commission has seen a lot of changes at the academy. He recalled prior to the renovations, meeting across the hall. The Commission has accomplished many things, including the reviewing and updating of the curriculum. We have a whole future ahead of us. He is excited about this body the Attorney General and the Governor have comprised. There's a good solid core of Commissioners allowing them to approach a lot of the issues and ideas law enforcement faces. He believes Ohio is one of the leading States in law enforcement training; we can always do better. We have a tenured executive director who has been here since October 23, 2019 and today is his first Commission meeting, the entire staff is coming together and we are glad you are on board.

**C. Chair Report**

**Sheriff Vernon Stanforth, Chair**

The first order of business was the approval of the July 11, 2019 minutes, which each Commissioner received electronically.

**MOTION:**

**Chief Harris moved to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2019, meeting. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Heldman. No discussion was forthcoming; a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-5, No-0, Absent-2. Abstained from vote were new Commissioners Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith and Ms. Leah Amstutz.**

Chair Stanforth asked for a motion for the approval of the September 12, 2019 special meeting minutes, which each Commissioner received electronically.

**MOTION:**

**Sheriff Heldman moved to approve the special meeting minutes of the September 12, 2019, meeting. The motion was seconded by Chief Harris. No discussion was forthcoming; a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-5, No-0, Absent-2. Abstained from the vote were new Commissioners Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith and Ms. Leah Amstutz.**

Chair Stanforth asked for a motion for the approval of the October 23, 2019 special meeting minutes, which each Commissioner received electronically.

**MOTION:**

**Chief Harris moved to approve the special meeting minutes of the October 23, 2019, meeting. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Heldman. No discussion was forthcoming; a vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-5, No-0, Absent-2. Abstained from the vote were new Commissioners Wynette Carter-Smith and Ms. Leah Amstutz.**

Chair Stanforth made the introduction of two new appointments to the Commission, Ms. Wynette Carter-Smith representing the Member of the Public, a position that is valued as a voice for the public. And from the Ohio Department of Education, Ms. Leah Amstutz. The Department of Education plays a vital role with the Commission as well. The Chair asked if she was from the adult section, what was her role? Ms. Amstutz responded, she is the Director of the Office of Career Technical Education, primarily focusing on the secondary education which would be the 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade programs for career technical education in the State of Ohio. Chair Stanforth stated the Department of Education has been valuable partner with OPOTA over the years, we've modified some of our training techniques based on the input of the Board of Education.

The Chair confirmed Chief Kral and himself were both reappointed to a 3-year term. With nothing further, that concluded the Chair Report.

**D. Curriculum Committee Report**

**Sheriff Michael Heldman, Committee Chair**

Sheriff Heldman stated they met this morning at 9:00 a.m. Director Hardy proposed a prerequisite to the academic hours, looking to make changes in First Aid, CPR, AED 8 hours, Incident Command System (ICS) 4 hours and National Incident Management System (NIMS), 4 hours. Possibly reducing those hours from the peace officer training only.

There was further discussion on the Corrections Basic Training and Jailer Basic Training. One of the recommendations was the jailer basic be included in the 140-hour Corrections Basic Training. Open enrollment was also discussed with the committee recommending that they move forward with that as a possibility down the road.

Chair Stanforth asked if there were any action items needed at this point? Sheriff Heldman, stated not at this time. That concluded the curriculum report.

**E. Legislative Committee Report**

**Lt. James Fitsko, Committee Chair**

Lt. Fitsko stated there was nothing to report to this committee. He has been involved in some Senate Bill 3 talks, which is reducing drug sentences for offenders. It will definitely affect the officers. They are also working on enhancing distracted driving law. They met on January 3, 2020 to try to increase it and tentatively on April 1<sup>st</sup> he will be attending a lobbying day at the State House. If anyone has anything they would like him to bring forward at that time, he will hopefully speak to every representative present; he will make sure things are addressed. That concluded the Legislative Committee Report.

**F. Continuing Professional Training Committee Report**

**Sheriff Michael Heldman, Committee Chair**

Sheriff Heldman stated there was nothing to report, that concluded the Continuing Professional Training Committee report.

**Staff Reports**

**G. Commission and Academy Updates**

**Dwight Holcomb, Executive Director**

Director Holcomb introduced new staff members, Cynthia Peterson, Senior Assistant Attorney General; Savannah Brock, Administrative Assistant 2 (AA to Richard Hardy's section); Derrick Foote, LETO Evidence Courses; Mary Wayt, Clerk 2 (second shift receptionist); and Lisa Brown, Clerk 1 (intermittent).

Executive Director Holcomb gave an update on where we are with the Pearson Vue Testing which was approved by the Commission at the July 11, 2019 meeting. Our goals are to move away from the paper sheet bubble testing which has been in use forever. The contract has been in a hold pattern due to the change of executive directors. Executive Director Holcomb is 100% on board with the Pearson Vue Testing and the contract is going through review now. Hopefully the testing will be up by middle of this year, if not sooner.

Chair Stanforth asked for a review of Pearson Vue Testing. Director Holcomb stated going back into the history of testing, we are still using the bubble scantron testing sheets, filled in with a number 2 pencil. Currently the academies are brought either to OPOTA or to OPOTA Richfield for their testing.

Pearson Vue will bring us into the next level of testing. It is a computerized system, with locations around the state. Basic academies will be able to schedule their own appointments either as an academy or as individual, the testing is in a computer environment. It is much

more efficient not only from the standpoint of resources, but also for time management.

The cost of \$95 will be charged per student with \$45 going to OPOTA to counter the cost of additional staffing and expenses and \$50 going to Pearson Vue. When ready, it will be implemented through a phase in process. Academies currently in session will have the option to use it at that point or go with the paper testing. But, their next academy will have to use the Pearson Vue Testing. We are looking for the governmental agencies who run on a yearly budget, mostly liking cause them to budget for it the next calendar year. It will take just over a year to implement it.

Chair Stanforth asked how many testing locations there were? Executive Director Holcomb responded about 30 around the state. There are sufficient numbers, far more than the two OPOTA sites offered now. Larger academies choosing to test together may have to split up scheduling with half the academy going in the morning and remaining in the afternoon. This should have been done a long time ago.

Lt. Fitsko asked if there was anything in place to keep the price from increasing yearly? Direct Holcomb stated he doesn't foresee it being an issue; we will monitor the cost through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Pearson Vue.

Chair Stanforth asked if the student or the academy would be responsible for the cost? Executive Director Holcomb stated from the academy standpoint it may be picked up by a municipality. If it's private academies or open enrollment it will probably be tacked on as a fee. We are giving everyone plenty of opportunity to adjust their fee structures and how they need to do this. This isn't something we're going to say you have to do this now, it will be phased in so everyone is ready for it.

Chair Stanforth asked if both options would ever be available to the academies. Executive Director Holcomb stated only during the very first round. Basically, once we get going it will be all through Pearson Vue and we will get out of the bubble testing.

There was some discussion regarding testing at Pearson Vue Testing Center locations, if an academy is running at a campus location. Chair Stanforth stated Pearson Vue is a private entity and we are in an agreement, (MOU) with the entity; how does a college academy having to go to another testing center benefit the academy? Executive Director Holcomb stated they still should be able to find a testing center closer than coming to London or Richfield, which will be cost effective.

Director Hardy stated Pearson Vue Testing Centers help with special accommodation testing; they have the statistical balance that benefits in the reduction of time, and processing for the student.

Chair Stanforth clarified it is still our questions, we generate the test; Pearson Vue administers our test. Executive Director Holcomb at the beginning, during the transition, Ms. Buehler will be going to testing sites to assure they are running the way we want them to run.

Mr. Kevin Reardon, Central Ohio Technical College stated, currently, in this year's budget new student fees can't be added. The two-year programs will have to eat that cost. Executive Director Holcomb stated there's going to be a lot of those types of things prior to transitioning over; in the long run this is truly going to be a much better process.

Some concerns with Lakeland are they can't test their students at the Pearson Vue Center located on their campus, but would have to take them to another location. Director Hardy stated it to remove that challenge of integrity issue by not allowing people to test on their home campus. Again, this is just being revitalized through our business counsel and we are looking at the terms of the MOU and working out the logistics.

Ms. Amstutz asked what the current cost was for students to come to OPOTA? The response was nothing. But, Chair Stanforth stated there's a cost to everything. Executive Director Holcomb stated the cost to take the test is nothing, but there is cost in traveling, staffing, for the agencies. Ms. Amstutz responded the expense on the academies is the human relations issues, getting the students here, and those types of things.

Chair Stanforth stated the value of the discussion is so that academies have time to plan. It's a complete change in doing business. Executive Director Holcomb said there will be growing pains, we try to get through them. Some thing may not work exactly like we intended, but you get through it and make the adjustments. Once up and running, the commander would work with Pearson Vue to setup the academy testing.

Executive Director Holcomb stated the MOU will be revisited before anything is executed, all these things will be taken into consideration. Currently, the cost has been regarding basic academies, nothing has been broken down for the other programs. The OPOTC testing should be available at all Pearson Vue Center sites throughout Ohio.

Chief Harris questioned if the administrative fee was locked in? Was there anything that could make this more pliable for all the agencies? He feels most agencies would understand the \$45 cost for Pearson, its that additional cost that will send people into a frenzy. He's heard the arguments as to why we are doing it, but going from zero to that is hard to swallow for most agencies.

Executive Director Holcomb will go back and look at some of the minutes prior to today when this was discussed by this Commission the first time, because he is unfamiliar with how that was set. His understanding was this Commission had a good discussion on this matter in 2019, he will take a look at that.

Chair Stanforth stated we are looking at:

1. Is this the right path for future testing?
2. Is cost something that is reasonable?

He believes the cost is what is going to cause the most concern. Executive Director Holcomb stated they have planned for this appropriately, allowing agencies time to prepare for it and allowing time for the implementation.

Chair Stanforth stated the cost associated with the academy of having somebody to proxy the test, score it, and the administrative cost. What is that costing us? It relieves our staff from effectively taking the time of their day to accurately monitor a test, and scoring the test. Executive Director Holcomb responded when a test is given here, there's maintenance cost to setup and take down all the tables and chairs, monitors in the testing area getting everything setup and watching class as they test; so yes, there's a cost that will be eliminated from us.

Executive Director Holcomb reminded the Commission members to file their financial disclosure forms with the Ethics Commission. Forms are online, and the deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

That concluded the Commission and Academy Report.

## **H. Old Business**

### **Chair Vernon Stanforth**

Hearing no old business, that concluded the old business report.

## **I. New Business**

### **Chair Vernon Stanforth**

Hearing no new business, that concluded the new business report.

## **J. Guest Forum**

### **Chair Vernon Stanforth**

Mr. Schaefer recognized two additional CBT/JBT panel members who were now present, Lt. Jim Dawson, Barberton Police Department and Ms. Elizabeth Kreger, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Mr. Schaefer thanked them for all their work.

Bob Meador, Columbus Division of Police, stated there were people here who weren't at the curriculum committee meeting and he has asked the curriculum committee to review the Radar/Lidar prerequisite to be an instructor.

Chair Stanforth welcomed the new Commission Members and the new employees.

Seeing no other business for the Commission, Chair Stanforth entertained a motion to adjourn.

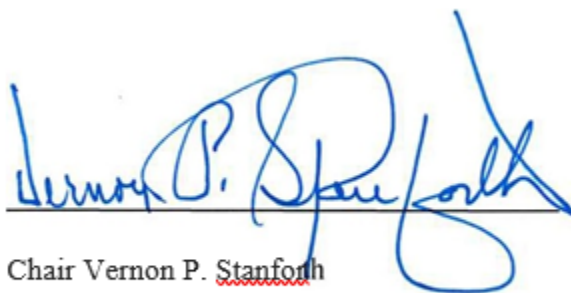


**MOTION:**

**Chief Harris moved to adjourn the meeting. Colonel Fambro seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. Yes-7, No-0, Absent-2.**

Time:10:55 a.m.

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Chair Vernon P. Stanforth

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