

Tri-River Police Training Region

14300 Coil Plus Dr.
Plainfield, Illinois 60544
Telephone (815) 630-5212 training@tri-river.org

Tri-River Police Training Region Advisory Board Minutes of March 25, 2026 Meeting

The March 25, 2026 Tri-River Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chairman Brian Benton in the Community Room at the Plainfield Police Department, and a quorum of members and proxies was established.

Members in attendance:

Chief Brian Benton
Matt Brooks for Chief Adam Bogart
Chief Leanne Chelepis
Chief Alicia Steffes
Chief Al Swinford
Mimi Bejda for Chief Brandt Hromadka
Chief John Arizzi
Chief Michael Imhof
Brandon Tilton for Chief Micah Nuesse
Chief Mike Rompa
Ryan Dobczyk for Chief Edward Clark
Anthony Lazzaroni for Chief Scott Koerner
Sherrie Blackburn for Chief William Evans
Rob Baikie for Chief Robert Dykstra
Chief Marc Reid
Chief Robert Miller
Chief Adam Zink
Rick Onsen for Sheriff Ken Briley
Hilary Davis, ILETSB Representative

Members absent:

Chief Phil Arnold
Chief Justin Meyer
Chief Ryan Gulli
Sheriff Mike Kelley
Mark Revis, Will County Board
Village of Channahon President Missey Schumacher

Others in attendance:

Anthony Novak, Plainfield PD
Luke Ostreko, Plainfield PD
Phil Tyree, Braidwood PD
Jason Louthan, Mokena PD
Nick Keedy, Bolingbrook PD
David Wall, Joliet PD

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Bradley Hertzmann, Tri-River, Executive Director
John Perona, Tri-River, Police Training Coordinator
Becky Novak, Tri-River, Administrative Assistant

Anthony Novak made a motion to approve the January 28, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Anthony Lazzaroni and carried by all members present. Motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Chairman Benton went around the room for introductions and welcomed all to the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Congratulations to newly appointed Elwood Police Chief, Marc Reid! Although we will miss seeing Fred Hayes at our meetings, we look forward to coordinating with Chief Reid moving forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **PERSONNEL:**

No Report

- **FINANCE:**

Director Hertzmann reviewed the Financial Reports dated 2/25/2026 and 3/25/2026, a copy of each was distributed. (Reports will be attached to these minutes to be archived)

February Highlights:

- Tri-River classes held: 40 Hour FTO Certification \$8,100.00, Background Investigations \$13,350.00
- IDOT Grant classes held: (5) \$43,277.64
- H.S. Grant classes held: (1) \$3,347.46
- ILETSB/CIT/SRO/LHI Grant classes held: (1) \$18,860.62
- FY26 Grant reimbursements: IDOT \$5,851.44, CIT/SRO/LHI \$27,250.00, HS \$0.00
- Paid Secretary of State \$10.00 fee and Annual report for Not for Profit Status

March Highlights:

- Tri-River classes held: Supervising the FTO Process \$6,500.00, ILETSB Firearms Waiver \$400.00
- IDOT Grant classes held: (1) \$1,929.31

Mobile Training Region #16 – Funding assistance
provided through the ASSIST Program Illinois Law
Enforcement Training and Standards Board

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- H.S. Grant classes held: (0) \$0.00
- ILETSB/CIT/SRO/LHI Grant classes held: (5) \$37,547.15
- FY26 Grant reimbursements: IDOT \$14,841.91, CIT/SRO/LHI \$8,550.00, HS \$9,347.46
- Received FY26 3rd QT ASSIST Grant Payment: \$100,000.00, CPD In-Service Training Fund \$152,845.31
- Paid the Cincinnati Insurance Company Annual Insurance Policies: Commercial Insurance Policy \$3,554.00, Non-Profit Org. policy \$3,151.00, General & Excess Liability Policies \$5,096.00 and Paid the Hartford Insurance Company \$1,149.00 for Worker's Compensation Insurance Policy
- Took delivery of 2026 Ford Explorer SUV on 3/20/2026 and paid Currie Motors \$44,973.00

- **POLICY AND BYLAWS:**

No Report

- **TRAINING:**

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Training Coordinators' Meeting Friday, 3/27/2026

- Will take place at the Will County Sheriff's Office from 10am-12pm. Please send your Training Coordinator(s) or anyone involved in training. We will go over course certification, instructor certification, and be available to answer any questions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointing new member to Personnel Committee

- The retirement of Chief Hayes left a vacancy on our Personnel Committee. Director Hertzmann reached out to Chief Reid, who said he would be interested in filling this role.
- Chairman Benton inquired if anyone wanted to make a motion to nominate anyone else. No motion was made.
- A motion was made by Sherrie Blackburn, seconded by Mimi Bejda, and carried by all members present to appoint Marc Reid to the Personnel Committee.

ASSIST Budget for FY27 (approval needed)

- Director Hertzmann passed out the tentative budget request to be submitted to ILETSB. Employee raises have not yet been factored in. They will be appropriated by the State and added in later. If the Board feels the raises should be higher than what the State is allowing, the use of our own funds is a discussion that can be had.

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- A motion was made by Chief Arizzi, seconded by Matt Brooks, and carried by all members present to approve the FY27 Budget total amount of \$612,418.41. Motion passed.

Request by Braidwood Police Department to become a member of the Advisory Board

- Being a member of the Bylaws Committee, Vice-Chairman Novak was approached by Chief Allen inquiring on his agency becoming a member of the Advisory Board. Their agency is fully within Tri-River's jurisdiction, and they have asserted they intend to have the Chief or a representative attend our meetings regularly.
- A motion was made by Anthony Novak, seconded by Marc Reid, and carried by all members present by roll call vote to approve the addition of Braidwood PD to the Advisory Board. Motion passed.

Upcoming Training Schedule

- John Perona passed out a list of courses with low enrollment
 - The classes listed are grant-funded and will be cancelled if we do not reach minimum enrollment.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS FOR REVIEW:

A motion was made by Mimi Bejda, seconded by Chief Reid, and carried by all members present by roll call vote to approve February and March's bills. Motion passed.

- Total payments (February) \$116,811.85
- Total payments (March) \$134,428.68

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Hilary Davis mentioned a few things

- ILETSB has been made aware that the wellness class in OLN is not populating in LEDI. This will hopefully be repaired in the next couple of days.
- If anyone is interested in the new Therapy Canine Certification classes (to be held in Northern IL and Southern IL), email Jennifer Wooldridge and she can give further info.
- During the LETM upgrade, there were some migration issues between LETM, LEDI, and PTB. These are being actively addressed.
- Many in-service courses have been de-certified/removed. ILETSB is looking to have a more standardized approach. If you had an in-house course certified a few years back, check with Director Hertzmann to make sure it still meets the current requirements and is available for credit.
- VR-based scenario training is available and approved through ILETSB for certain models.
- Director Hertzmann can view all certified courses, so if you're interested in creating an in-house course, see if one already exists for that topic instead of reinventing the wheel.
- ILETSB is looking to have a table at every conference/event that Chiefs or Training Coordinators would likely be attending. If you know of any, and would like an ILETSB rep there, let Hilary know.

Chairman Benton encouraged Chiefs to attend ILACP's Annual Lobby Day. This is an opportunity to speak your mind and discuss pending bills that could have direct impact on law enforcement.

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When you receive emails asking for opposition or support, push them out to your staff. Getting to know and establish relationships with your local representatives can be very beneficial.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date is set for April 22, 2026, at our office location at the Plainfield Police Department Community Room, 14300 Coil Plus Drive, Plainfield, IL 60544.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chief Chelepis made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chief Miller, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Submitted by:

Transcribed by:



Chief Alicia Steffes, Secretary, Advisory Board

Becky Novak, Administrative Assistant, Tri-River