

# *Tri-River Police Training Region*

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

## **Tri-River Police Training Region Advisory Board Minutes of July 23, 2025 Meeting**

The July 23, 2025 Tri-River Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 8:35 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  
Chief Fred Hayes  
Chief Al Swinford  
Chief Phil Arnold  
Chief Michael Imhof  
Chief Alicia Steffes  
Chief John Arizzi  
Chief Leanne Chelepis  
Anthony Lazzaroni for Chief Scott Koerner  
Micah Nuesse for Chief Louis Alessandrini  
Ryan Dobczyk for Chief Edward Clark  
Mimi Bejda for Chief Brandt Hromadka  
Sherrie Blackburn for Chief William Evans  
Brennan Woods for Chief Mike Rompa  
Jim Sinovich for Chief Justin Meyer  
James Redlich for Chief Ryan Gulli  
Chief Robert Miller  
Rick Onsen for Sheriff Ken Briley  
Steven Formenti for Sheriff Mike Kelley  
Village of Channahon President Missey Schumacher  
Hilary Davis - ILETSB Representative

### **Members absent:**

Chief Adam Zink  
Chief Adam Bogart  
Chief Robert Dykstra

### **Others in attendance:**

Anthony Novak, Plainfield PD  
Michelle Dudek, Will County ADF  
Brandon Tilton, New Lenox PD  
Brian Poulsen, Shorewood PD  
Jason Louthan, Mokena PD  
Bradley Hertzmann, Tri-River, Executive Director  
John Perona, Tri-River, Police Training Coordinator  
Becky Burnett, Tri-River, Administrative Assistant

Mobile Training Region #16 – Funding assistance  
provided through the ASSIST Program Illinois Law  
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Chief Hayes made a motion to approve the June 25, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Chief Arnold 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:**

No Report

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **PERSONNEL:**

No Report

- **FINANCE:**

Director Hertzmann reviewed the Financial Report dated 7/23/2025, a copy was distributed. (Report will be attached to these minutes to be archived)

Highlights:

- Tri-River classes held: None
- IDOT Grant classes held: (0) \$0.00
- H.S. Grant classes held: (0) \$0.00
- ILETSB/CIT/SRO/LHI Grant classes held: (0) \$0.00
- FY25 Grant reimbursements: IDOT \$15,732.77, CIT/SRO/LHI \$45,913.27, HS \$5,000.00

- **POLICY AND BYLAWS:**

No Report

- **TRAINING:**

No Report

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## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### Website Upgrade update

- We are planning to launch the new website sometime in August. We will push out an email with details and information.

### FY26 Membership Dues

- Payments have been coming in steadily. As of yesterday, we received 63, and 10 are still outstanding. Reminders have been sent out to agencies who have not yet paid.

### Training Building Update (Shorewood)

- Discussed in NEW BUSINESS

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### FY26 ASSIST Budget and ILETSB Specialized Grant Funding

- Our FY26 budget was approved, and the State is paying a higher percentage of the budget than in previous years in order to help out the MTUs who do not have large reserves of money.
- We recently found out 2 of our specialized grants have been drastically cut. Our SRO grant total was initially around \$285,000.00 and has been cut to \$115,000.00. Our LHI grant total was initially around \$263,000.00 and has been cut to \$80,000.
  - Several million dollars have been taken from the ILETSB training funds, which subsequently has reduced our specialized grant funding by 60-70%.
  - We had already begun planning/scheduling classes that were to be funded by these grants, so we had to cut several from our FY26 calendar. If we want to continue with any of these classes, we will have to use our own reserve money.
  - We were able to absorb Crash 1 into our budget but were unable to do the same with Crash 2. Director Hertzmann requested to use \$19,000.00 of our reserve funding to hold Crash 2.
    - Chief Arnold made a motion to use reserve funding to hold Crash 2, seconded by Chief Hayes and carried by all members present. Motion passed.
- We have not yet received word on the status of our CIT grant total.
- We receive around \$240,000.00 a year in membership dues, which leaves us a good cushion in reserve.
- Director Hertzmann will email a list of courses we had planned on putting on but had to cut.

### This leads us back to the OLD BUSINESS topic of the Training Building Update (Shorewood)

- Director Hertzmann received an estimate to gut and redo the first floor of the building in Shorewood, which came back at \$1.7 million.
- There is currently no money available from ILETSB for a building this FY. Given the state funding issues, we may possibly look back into this topic next year.

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## Potential membership of Correctional Officers

- Director Hertzmann passed out a document which spells out the statute detailing what MTUs are designed to do.
- During last month's meeting, it was pointed out that other MTUs provide training for Corrections. However, the reason being, some of their sworn deputies work double duty, both on the road as law enforcement officers and in Corrections, so they are still being trained as law enforcement officers. Some MTUs have allowed Corrections to be members.
- If we brought on Correctional Officers as members, we would need to earmark money for Corrections-related courses. With our current funding issues, we do not have any extra money to do so.
- Correctional Officers have no ILETSB required training after attending a Correctional Officer Academy.
- We allow Correctional Officers to attend our training classes if there is room after all sworn officers have been added from the waitlist, and we will continue this practice.
- Will County Sheriff's Office holds in-house training for their Correctional Officers. We've asked them to coordinate with Grundy County Sheriff's Office to hopefully provide assistance or at least share information on training Correctional Officers.

## Upcoming Training Schedule

- John Perona passed out a list of courses with low enrollment and the flyer for a new course, "Interviewing Children" which qualifies for LHI continuing hours.
- We had to cancel the SRO class because we couldn't meet the minimum requirement of 10 enrolled. We plan on trying again with another class in April.
- In prior years, ILETSB was flexible if we had 1 or 2 less than the minimum requirement, but we were told this year they are being very strict.
- Anything your agency can do to help us to meet the minimum requirements in our classes would be appreciated.
- You can always check other MTUs for classes you need.

## **JULY 2025 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS FOR REVIEW:**

A motion was made by Chief Miller, seconded by Anthony Lazzaroni, and carried by all members present by roll call vote to approve July's bills. Motion passed.

- Total payments \$28,868.79

## **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

- Chief Arnold introduced Brian Poulsen, Commander of the Office of Professional Standards. Deputy Chief Eric Allen will be leaving Shorewood PD after 8/15 and taking on the role of Chief of Braidwood PD.

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- Hilary Davis made a few announcements:
  - Military Reciprocity was approved at the June 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Agencies may now consider hiring Military Police without having them attend a Police Academy, similar to lateral hires. There are certain conditions that she will send out to everyone, but this is a great opportunity for any potential hire who meets these qualifications. There would be some required training involved, but you would not need to send them to an academy.
  - Reminder that rosters are due. You will see a red banner with a notice to approve.
  - Prior to 7/1, if you logged in to LEDI, you would see a specific mandate colored in yellow for anyone about to expire. Now that 7/1 has passed, you will now see either green or red. RED DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE PERSON IS EXPIRED. Because the De-Escalation and High-Risk Traffic Stop mandates are both on a 36-month rolling basis, if an officer is showing red, the date shown is the date that officer has to make up the amount of hours that have fallen off. ILETSB is working with IT to make it less confusing or alarming. She suggested running the mandate report in LEDI, which shows the true picture of who is actually expiring within the number of days you enter.
  - Although it would be easier to track these mandates if they weren't on a rolling basis, she explained the legislation is worded as "36 months" as opposed to 3 years.

## NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE:



The next meeting date is set for August 27, 2025, at our office location at the Plainfield Police Department Community Room, 14300 Coil Plus Drive, Plainfield, IL 60544.

## ADJOURNMENT:

Commander Novak made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chief Chelepis, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Submitted by:

Transcribed by:

	
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Chief Alicia Steffes, Secretary, Advisory Board

Becky Burnett, Administrative Assistant, Tri-River