AGENDA

ITEM

5. a.

TOWN OF CLINTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEMBERS: Jeffrey Towne, Chairman; Stephen Hatch, Randy Clark, Chester Nutting and Joe Massey

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2007

5:30 PM Board of Selectmen and Library Board of Trustees Workshop

a. Dissolution of Library Account # 02-41698614 (TD Banknorth Money Market), #799-9033556 (TD Banknorth Checking), and Certificate # 0107000403 (Skowhegan Savings Bank).
b. Process to accept funds by Board of Selectmen with noted conditions for future use.
c. Insurance Coverage.
d. The meaning of the 8/15/1900 trust gift to the library regarding the 7% for maintaining the library building and library.
e. Meaning of Town Charter, Article V, section 4.02 (4) Brown Memorial Library and the 7% per annum of the interest.
f. Review / Amendment of the Library Reserve Fund Resolution dated September 9, 2003.
g. The required use of licensed / insured contract workers for repairs to the Library building.
h. The policy of bidding / acceptance of bids and Town Charter requirement for signing of contracts by the Board of Selectmen.
i. The purchasing policy.

DATE: April 10, 2007
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Selectmen's Room, Town Office

1. CALL TO ORDER.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

3. SELECTMEN PRESENT / QUORUM.
Jeffrey Towne, Chester Nutting, Joe Massey, Randy Clark

4. COMMENTS / QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC CONCERNING MATTERS NOT RELATED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

5. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Approval of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes – March 27, 2007.

Randy motions the Board approve the minutes of the March 27, 2007 Selectmen's meeting with an amendment to section 5 d, figures recorded wrong supposed to be $12500.00 for a total of $13000.00.
Second by Chet
4-0 vote yes

b. Approval of Amended Purchasing policy see attached

Randy motions the board approve the amended Purchasing Policy with an effective date of April 17, 2007.
Second by Chet
4-0 vote yes

c. Resolution 07-02 Board of Selectmen Acceptance of the Audit Report.

Randy motions the board adopt Resolution 07-02.
Second by Chet
4-0 vote yes

d. Tax Acquired Property.

Randy motions board authorize the advertisement for bids for the following tax acquired properties: Map 003 Lot 054 and Map 003 Lot 055.
Second by Joe
4-0 vote yes

e. Appointment of Eugene Hutchins, New Portland, Maine as a Civil Constable for the Town of Clinton.

Randy motions board appoint Eugene Hutchins, New Portland, Maine as a Civil Constable for the Town of Clinton.
Second Joe
4-0 vote yes

f. Order 07-01: Submission of Agendas and Meeting Minutes of the Planning Board to the Town Office.

The Board of Selectman advised the chair, Planning Board, James Turcotte to insure that all future approved Planning Board Minutes are to be submitted to the Town Office with only the facts of the meeting and without illustrative prose witty comments or other non-professional comments or language. See Attached

Joe motions board adopt Order 07-01.
Second by Randy
In Favor- Joe Against- Randy, Chester, Jeff

g. Closing of Clerk's Counter on Tuesday, April 24 and Thursday, April 26, 2007 for Clerk's Training.

Randy moves board authorize the closing of the Clerk's Counter on April 24 th and 26 th , 2007 due to training for town clerk.
Second By Joe
4-0 vote yes

6. DISCUSSION ISSUES.

a. McCallister Road Reconstruction and Paving.

b. Pay per Bag at the Transfer Station.

c. Land Use Permit Fee Schedule.

d. Draft Town Meeting Warrant.

e. Public Hearing: April 12, 2007 Draft Town Meeting Warrant and Municipal Warrant.

7. SUPPLEMENTS AND ABATEMENTS.
None

8. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT.

a. Expense / Revenue Report.
See Attached

b. 2006 Worker's Compensation Audit.
See Attached Town has to pay an additional $2055.00 due to underestimating of payroll for last year.

c.Appointment of Full Time Police Officer.
Jeffrey R Belanger on April 17 2007

d.Proposed State Changes to URIP Funding for Municipalities.
Awaiting news from state legislature regarding this matter.

9. OLD / NEW BUSINESS.
Contract submitted by Parks and Recreation for Porti Potties, at a cost of $75.00 for the skating rink for two months and 3 at the cost of $ 225.00 per month for the ball field, Baker St and Rt. 100 for 6 months.

10. WARRANT.
Randy motions to accept Warrant number 73 in the amount of $159,401.71
Second by Chet
4-0 vote yes

11. NEXT AGENDA ITEMS.
Finalize Town Warrant
Executive Session; conference with CEO regarding legal actions.

12. ADJOURN.
Chet makes motion to adjourn
Randy Seconds
4-0 vote yes at 8:28 pm

AGENDA

ITEM

5. b.

TOWN OF CLINTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEMBERS: Jeffrey Towne, Chairman; Stephen Hatch, Randy Clark, Chester Nutting and Joe Massey

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT TOWN MEETING WARRANT FOR THE PROPOSED FY 07 / 08 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

DATE: Thursday, April 12, 2007
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Banquet Hall, Town Office

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. SELECTMEN PRESENT / QUORUM.

   Jeffrey Towne, Stephen Hatch, Randy Clark, Chester Nutting

3. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT TOWN MEETING WARRANT FOR THE PROPOSED FY 07 / 08 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

   MOTION: Move Board open the Public Hearing on the Draft Town Meeting Warrant for the proposed FY 07 / 08 Municipal Budget.

   Randy motions to open the public hearing on the draft Town Meeting Warrant for the proposed FY 07/08 Municipal Budget. Steve seconds. 4 – Yes, 0 – No.

   Jeffrey Towne, Chairman, reviewed each of the 36 Articles of the draft Town Meeting Warrant and asked for public comment after each article. Article 35 discussed separately under agenda item 5. No comments from the public except for Article 36, the pay per bag advisory article.

   Pro comments centered on getting more revenue to reduce the amount of taxation required to operate the Transfer Station and increase recycling.

   Con comments centered on concern that trash would be dumped along the town roads to avoid paying a pay per bag fee.

   See Attached.

4. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE DRAFT TOWN MEETING WARRANT FOR THE PROPOSED FY 07 / 08 MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

MOTION: Move Board close the Public Hearing on the Draft Town Meeting Warrant for the proposed FY 07 / 08 Municipal budget.

Randy motions to close the public hearing. Steve seconds. 4-Yes, 0-No.

5. OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT RELATING TO NEW FEE SCHEDULE FOR BUILDING PERMITS, LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION AND SITE PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION.

MOTION: Move Board open the Public Hearing on the proposed ordinance Amendment relating to new fee schedule for building permits, land use permit application and site plan review application.

Randy motions to open the public hearing on the proposed ordinance amendment relating to new fee schedule for building permits, land use permit application and site plan review application. Steve seconds. 4-Yes, 0-No.

Jeffrey Towne, Chairman, reviewed the proposed ordinance amendment and asked for public comment.

Comments centered on increasing revenues to reduce taxation to fund the Code Enforcement Officer position. Residents using the service would pay for the service. The current $5.00 building permit fee funded only $780 (8.39%) of the Code Enforcement Officer Budget in FY 06/07. The projected increase in revenue from the proposed new fee schedule would fund 75% to 100% of the Code Enforcement Officer budget. See Attached.

6. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING RELATING TO PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT.

MOTION: Move Board close the Public Hearing relating to proposed ordinance amendment.

Randy motions to close the public hearing. Chester seconds. 4-Yes, 0-No.

7. ADJOURN.

Randy motions to adjourn. Steve seconds. 4-Yes, 0-No at 7:42 PM.

AGENDA

ITEM

5. c.

Founded In 1888

Clinton Baptist Church

10 SPRING STREET • CLINTON, MAINE 04927 • (207) 426-2211

April 18, 2007

Board of Selectmen and Town Manager
Town of Clinton
Clinton, ME 04927

Dear Sirs,

Please consider these funds of one thousand dollars ($1,000) as a unanimous donation from Clinton Baptist Church for the sole purpose of purchasing portable radios with a rack style charging system for the Clinton Police Department. We are delighted to contribute to the efforts of Chief Wing and his department.

Sincerely,

Pastor Philbrick

Pastor Bob Philbrick

AGENDA

ITEM

5. d.

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: JIM RHODES, TOWN MANAGER

FROM: CHIEF R. WING

SUBJECT: TASER IMPLEMENTATION

DATE: 04/19/07

Per our conversation, I am requesting that you include the police department's use of Tasers on the next Selectmen's meeting agenda. As you are aware, the police department already has one Taser, which has been on board for approximately one year now for use when we encounter dangerous dogs.

As with all other neighboring agencies, (Somerset and Kennebec Sheriff Departments, Fairfield, Waterville, and Winslow Police Departments) I wish to incorporate the Taser into full patrol usage. There are numerous documented cases where the Taser has been used to de-escalate very dangerous situations safely and effectively. Throughout the United States, use of the Taser has given officers another option before the use of deadly force. Needless to say, this has saved hundreds of lives. The Taser also has significantly reduced the number of officer related injuries sustained during arrest of combative individuals. The simple presence of the Taser has also been known to cause potentially violent subjects to voluntarily submit to arrest, as they know the effects of the instrument.

The Taser is simply an electronic stun device that delivers 50,000 volts of electricity at relatively low amperage, which makes it non-lethal. As the weapon is deployed and taken off safety, a laser light is emitted from the weapon and placed upon the target. Two probes are discharged from the unit with small barbed ends attached to 25' wires. The probes affix themselves to the subject and a five-second charge is deployed. Once the subject is secured, the probes are removed and they recover quickly.

I have written a policy on the proper use of the Taser and all employees will be fully trained on that policy as well as on the use of the Taser before it will be used in the field.

I have attached several studies and articles on the Taser for your review. Please see me if you have any questions or would like to see a demonstration of the Taser usage.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy L. Wing

Information Regarding OCSO Study

Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Use of Force Study presented at SWAT Roundup Nov 29-Dec 1 in Orlando (Fl). Presentation (*TASER® Deployments and Injuries: Analysis of Current and Emerging Trends*) was three hours long and offered three different times during the conference. The research project was based upon a review of all use of force reports (n=1400) from 2001 – 2003. A sample of 400 cases was selected to perform advanced statistical analysis.

FGCU and OCSO collaborated together to accomplish this unfunded research project. Research in these areas in the past has been difficult, as there often exists a degree of mistrust of researchers outside of the law enforcement agency. However, this current project between FGCU and OCSO illustrates what can be accomplished. Orange County Sheriff's Office's commitment to research reflects their professionalism and commitment to excellence. We are encouraged that with their continued support, we will come to a better understanding of TASER and the impact that it has had on current law enforcement practices.

While less lethal weapons are not perfect and can upon occasion create death or injury, they attempt to provide an officer with the ability to regain control of a bad situation. Police officers do not get up in the morning and secretly hope that they will get the opportunity to injure or kill a member of their community. When given additional options to resolve these situations, law enforcement would most certainly prefer to not take a life. Officers are thrust into these fast moving, quickly evolving scenarios and are required to make a decision in seconds that may take appellate courts years to decide.

This research attempts to break down violent law enforcement/citizen confrontations into a series of events, which will allow us to determine the effect of specific less lethal weapons in the final outcomes. We were also able to test the validity of some commonly held assumptions in law enforcement use of force and provide quantitative findings that law enforcement agencies can use to base policy decisions upon. Findings specific to this study are highlighted

Prior research: Use of force by police in 17% of all arrests (Garner & Maxwell, 2002)
Our study: Use of force by police 2% of all arrests

LESS LETHAL WEAPONS INFORMATION

Less Lethal Munitions

80% injury rate
Majority of injuries bruises / abrasions
Injury caused by impact of projectile
2% mortality rate (8 deaths per 373 deployments)

TASER

Effective 77-95%; High level of de-escalation (90%)
OCSO Study: Ineffective 23% (most were misses)
Very low injury rate
Majority of injuries are bruises / abrasion
Injuries caused by falling
.1% mortality rate (1 death per 870 deployments; 74 deaths since 2001

K9 Teams

Effective almost 100%; High level of de-escalation
30% injury rate
Majority of injuries are punctures / lacerations
Injury caused by dog bite
Very low mortality rate (3 deaths in 100 years of use)

Impact Weapons

Effective about 50%
OCSO Study: Ineffective 11%
High level of escalation
High potential for injuries
Majority of injuries are bruises and blunt trauma

Chemical Agents

Effective 20- 80%
OCSO Study: Ineffective 12%
Very low injury rate
Low mortality rate (63 deaths in 20 years of use)

Defensive Tactics

OCSO Study: Ineffective 29%
Largest number of suspect and officer injuries

Significant Findings

1. 50% reduction in workman's comp reports due to arrest injuries
2. In one year alone, eighteen (18) suspects were subdued with a TASER where the use of deadly force would have been justified.
3. Cost of deadly force litigation is identified at $100,000. This does not include damages. Based on the OCSO study for a single year, TASER as an intervention in deadly force encounters reduced legal costs by $1.8 million.
4. 75% reduction in the use of chemical agents. 50% reduction in physical "hands-on" force by officers.
5. Less lethal weapons (as a group) were ineffective 20% of the time.
6. TASER ineffectiveness was generally due to misses.
7. Ineffectiveness rates for TASER varied greatly by division; specialized units (11%) had better success rates than patrol (22%). This is most likely due to the type of assignments specialized units (narcotics) were involved with and an expectation of suspect resistance. TASER was deployed much earlier in the event; reducing the likelihood that suspect would outdistance the 21' range of the weapon.
8. Civilian perceptions of force (UCF Study of 1200 students) indicate that TASER and pepper spray are more acceptable methods.
9. Substantial deterrent effect identified. Nine out of ten suspects surrender when faced with the TASER. Street saying "Two guns-don't run"
10. If the weapon chosen was not effective in neutralizing suspect resistance, the suspect was likely to use a greater amount of force against the officer. TASER had the lowest escalation rate of all less lethals. Baton use had the highest rate 50%.
11. Once suspect force escalated, it rarely de-escalated without force on the part of the officer. Consequently, proactive measures could reduce violence before it begins.
12. Most common suspect resistance types

Flight	32%
Verbal threat or aggressive posture	21%
Wrestle	27%
Strikes	13%

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

HUMAN EFFECTS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Report on

HUMAN EFFECTIVENESS AND RISK CHARACTERIZATION OF ELECTROMUSCULAR INCAPACITATION DEVICES

October 18, 2004

HUMAN EFFECTIVENESS AND RISK CHARACTERIZATION OF ELECTROMUSCULAR INCAPACITATION DEVICES

Report Summary

The Human Effects Center of Excellence (HECOE), established by the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Joint Non-Lethal Weapons Program (JNLWP), conducted a Human Effectiveness and Risk Characterization (HERC) for Electromuscular Incapacitation (EMI) devices.[1] Evaluated devices included the TASER® M26 (primarily) and X26 (to a lesser extent), in which electrical current is carried to the subject via two tethered darts.[2] Such devices are designed to induce involuntary muscle contractions causing the subject to be temporarily incapacitated. The restricted release report[3] of the HERC provides safety and efficacy information, as well as identifies data gaps, on TASER M26 and X26 effects to support the JNLWP and Services in their decision-making processes regarding the employment and further development of EMI devices.

The HERC process is consistent with the National Academy of Sciences and the Society for Risk Analysis recommendations and standards. Three workshops were conducted as part of the HERC process. The first, a data-sharing workshop, identified possible sources of relevant data and determined any insufficiencies in effectively evaluating EMI devices. The second, a peer consultation workshop, outlined potential data gaps, identified additional sources of data, and provided feedback on preliminary strategies for completing dose-response and exposure assessments. At the third workshop, an Independent External Review Panel (IERP) submitted comments and recommendations that were incorporated into the formal HERC document. A final proposed draft was then reviewed by the JNLWD, the sponsoring program manager, HECOE and the IERP. The product of these three workshops, resultant taskings, and final draft feedback is the HERC.

The HERC process presents a characterization of the likelihood of intended and unintended effects from the use of the TASER M26 and X26. Overall, the results indicate that the use of the TASER M26 and X26, as intended, will generally be effective in inducing the desired temporarily incapacitating effect without presenting a significant risk of unintended severe effects. Although likely to be uncommon, some severe unintended effects might occur. In some cases, key data gaps and uncertainties preclude the development of effectiveness and risk probabilities. These overall conclusions regarding effectiveness and risk are consistent with current experienced use of the TASER M26 and X26 in the field, limited empirical data, as well as human effects or safety assessments developed by others. Furthermore, an additional aspect of the analysis is consideration of the comparative risk. Analyses provided by law

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[1] Electromuscular incapacitation (EMI) is the generic term used to describe the intended physiological effect from use of these devices. Similarly, an EMI device is generically used to describe devices that produce EMI. Electromuscular disruption (EMD) is the TASER International coined term for the effect and is used to refer specifically to TASER International data and products.

[2] TASER is a registered trademark, and M26 and X26 are trademarks, of TASER International, Inc.

[3] This report summary is releasable to the public. The full HERC report and its appendices, upon which this summary is based, are releasable to U. S. Government agencies and their contractors only. An expanded summary of the report will be published in the near future in the open literature.

enforcement agencies indicate that increased use of the TASER M26 or the TASER X26 has decreased the overall injury rate of both police officers and suspects in conflict situations when compared to alternatives along the use-of-force continuum.

The occurrence of in-custody deaths has been reported in conjunction with use of TASER devices. However, there are several arguments against any predominant role of EMI in arrest-related deaths. In previous epidemiological reports, deaths were often attributed to illicit drug intoxication in suspects. Although these reports address incidents involving EMI waveforms different from those of the M26 and X26, drug intoxication has been associated with in-custody deaths under a number of circumstances, regardless of how the subjects were subdued. Contemporary medical opinion supports the view that the drug intoxication itself causes or predisposes one to underlying vulnerability. Based on the documentation and research reviewed, this report concludes that EMI is likely not the primary causative factor in reported fatalities. It does recommend further research on EMI exposure in sensitive populations and EMI-drug interactions.

Information developed in the dose-response and exposure assessment was integrated to provide quantitative or qualitative estimates of effect and risk probabilities. The likelihood of various effects when used as intended can be summarized as follows:

- Complete EMD – 80% to 56% (decreasing with distance)
- Partial EMD – 6% to 4% (decreasing with distance)
- Eye strikes – 0.01% to 0.04% (possibly increasing with distance)
- Fall injuries – 0.15% to 0.10% (decreasing with distance)
- Seizure – 0.7% is the upper theoretical bound estimate based on head strike probabilities and a worst-case assumption that all head strikes in the region of the brain result in an electrical exposure that exceeds the seizure threshold. No seizure incidents have been reported.
- Ventricular Fibrillation (VF) is not expected to occur in otherwise healthy adult populations, although data are too limited to evaluate probabilities for potentially sensitive populations or for alternative patterns of exposure. No cases of VF have been reported in training or field exposure conditions.
- TASER exposures induce other effects of minimal severity (e.g., dart-localized burns or lacerations) when successfully employed. These effects are of minimal severity and not further analyzed.
- Some effects of potential concern are too uncertain or lacked sufficient data to develop probability estimates.

The IERP concluded that despite the dramatic nature of the neuromuscular response, application of this conducted energy weapon for temporary incapacitation does not appear to pose significant risk to the recipients. The Panel added that future research will be useful in increasing confidence in extrapolating the risk assessment findings to a more heterogeneous population with uniquely sensitive members.

OFFICER.com

The Truth About TASERs

Don't believe everything you read

June 8th, 2006 05:13 AM PDT

STEVE ASHLEY - Technology Contributor Officer.com

I never cease to be amazed at the capacity of the media to oversimplify, then exaggerate, information. The truth is that, for all of our reported skepticism, many people still believe most of what they read, or see on television "news" programs. Couple this with our primal fear of the unknown, our tendency to fear what we don't understand, our never-ending search for someone -- anyone but ourselves -- to blame when things go wrong, and our penchant for assuming the worst, and it's no surprise that the TASER™ takes the heat that it does.

Depending on who you listen to, there have either been over a hundred "TASER-related" deaths, or none at all. Who to believe? Before TASERs, the culprit was pepper spray, and before that it was neck restraints. There's always "something" that we use that kills people!

Citizens and the media have long been quick to draw a cause and effect connection between arrest procedures and deaths in custody; if you arrested someone, and he died while you were transporting him, you MUST have done something to cause it. People don't just die, do they?

Yes, they do. In-custody death is not a new phenomenon. In fact, although it's only been well documented in this country during the last 150 years or so, people have always died in custody. It must be so, since people are people, and suffer from the human condition. People get sick, have undiscovered physical problems, and are prone to accidents.

Listen -- logic tells us that for anything that happens frequently, there will be a certain number of catastrophic outcomes. If there are enough thunderstorms, there will eventually be a tornado. If enough miles are driven, a certain number of accidents can be expected to occur. This illustrates the concept of probability, what risk managers refer to as the relationship between frequency and severity. Simply put, some things happen all the time -- every once in a while, one of those things will have a serious outcome.

So, if you make enough arrests, eventually someone will resist. If enough people resist, eventually one will really fight. If enough of them fight, eventually a fight will result in injuries, and if enough fight related injuries occur, eventually someone will die.

You can do things to manage the probability of the occasional catastrophic outcome, but you can never eliminate it totally.

So we deal with resistant people all the time. When one wants to fight, we have to decide on the safest way to control them. We have many tools for control, but until recently they were all based on pain compliance. We're taking it on faith that, if you hurt someone enough, they'll comply. You learned this as a small child, wrestling on the playground. It was called, "...making someone cry Uncle!"

But some people don't respond to pain, and in the past that often led to use of force that resulted in death. A commanding officer said it best, with extreme irony, after a particular battle during the Viet Nam war, "We had to destroy the village in order to save it."

The TASER provides an option for control that doesn't rely upon pain compliance. However, remembering that probability thing, some people have died during the time after they were "tased." Opponents of the TASER frequently refer to these as "TASER-related deaths," but the relationship between the tasing and the death is only temporal, the correlation remote. Why then the rush to blame the TASER?

Since you were little, you've been taught to fear that which you don't understand. You've also been taught to fear electricity. "Stay off the phone during a thunderstorm," and "Don't take a bath during a storm" are two rules I remember from growing up. Never approach live wires or downed wires, avoid frayed electrical cords, and don't have appliances, like radios or fans near the bathtub. On and on. These are all good rules, but they have nothing to do with TASERs.

In the interest of furthering our understanding of a few simple truths about TASERs, here are a couple of things that are frequently misunderstood.

50,000 Volts!!

Yes, it's true that TASERs have "50,000 volts," but media statements that TASERs shoot that voltage into your body are just not true. Voltage is just the force that moves the electrons along the TASER wires. When you shoot someone with your TASER, the wires reach out and the probes hit the target. Electricity flows down the wires and into the body. But, often there is no actual contact between the probes and the skin; maybe clothing got in the way, or maybe the suspect is wearing a heavy coat. The electrons have to "jump" that gap, and the higher the voltage, the farther they can jump. 50,000 volts gets you about two inches. If the probe is four inches away, the electrons won't make the leap.

A good analogy is a common garden hose. Turn on the faucet, and water flows out the end of the hose. Stretch a piece of plastic wrap over the end of the hose, and the water builds up pressure, and when the pressure gets high enough, the water bursts through, and the pressure inside the hose immediately drops.

Fire your TASER, and the energy flows. When it reaches the ends of the probes, it stops. Pressure builds behind it, until the voltage reaches 50,000 volts. The electrons then make the two inch leap, and the voltage (pressure) drops.
Here's something you probably didn't know: When that voltage hits your body, it's dropped to about 5,000 volts (for the M26 TASER), or 1,200 volts (for the X26). Then as the energy enters your body, it drops even lower, to an almost negligible level.
In fact 50,000 volts means nothing in respect to the incapacitating power of the TASER.

"It's not the voltage that gets you, it's the amps!"

One more quick one. The above statement is true, but actually illustrates the safety of the TASER technology. The amperage delivered in a hit from an X26 TASER is about 2.1 milliamps. That's 0.0021 amps. A bulb on a string of Christmas tree lights uses about 1 amp.
We could go on, but we're out of space and time. The fact is that nothing in life is risk free, including TASERs. Everything in life is a balancing act, a cost-benefit analysis.
The data, from many sources, clearly shows that, while not risk free, the TASER is one of the safest (for both the officer and the suspect), most reliable, and cost effective options when it's time to forcibly control someone. Do your research, rely on legitimate sources of information, and make up your own mind
In the meantime be careful out there, and wear your vest!

Times Community Newspapers

By BILL DUFFIELD
Times staff writer
Kettering Oakwood Times
bduffield@tcnewsnet.com

Kettering, OH -- March 19, 2003. A nonlethal weapon designed to save lives and protect police officers, the M-26 TASER performed its duty again for the Kettering Police Department early in the morning of Tuesday, Mar. 11.

The TASER, which fires two electric probes that are attached by wires to batteries, delivers a 50,000-volt shock for five seconds. The jolt usually leaves the most non-complying individual incapacitated without injury long enough for the officer to gain control by handcuffing the subject or by other means.

On Tuesday, the TASER helped save the life of a Kettering woman. Officer Gary Schomburg was sent to a Kettering residence on a report of a distraught, suicidal woman. On arrival, he was confronted with a very difficult situation -- the woman was sitting in a chair and had several cut marks to her wrists. Armed with a knife, the bleeding woman told Officer Schomburg she was going to kill herself.

The officer warned the woman that if she did not put the knife down, he would use the M-26 TASER. She then brought the knife down onto her left wrist, forcing Schomburg to discharge the TASER. The weapon delivered its electro-muscular disruption which causes an override of the central nervous system. The woman was unable to continue cutting herself and she dropped the knife.

After securing the knife, Schomburg performed first aid on the woman's wrists until paramedics arrived.

Kettering's police department was one of the first in Ohio to use the M-26 TASER. The TASER units have been in use for about two years.

In 2002, Kettering officers used force 30 times, each incident deemed reasonable. Of those 30 incidents, 17 involved the use of the TASER (56%). There were no reported injuries by the officers or the suspects and the incidents ended in a peaceful resolution. So far in 2003, the officers have had nine reports of force used, five resulting in the use of the TASER (55%). As in 2002, no injuries have been reported so far this year.

The department has trained officers in the proper use of the TASER, allowing the gun-like devices to be carried on duty. The department ordered enough of the TASERs to allow every trained officer on a given shift to carry one.

According to sources, the M-26 TASER costs approximately $500. The cartridges used in the weapon cost $18 for three.

Larger departments around the country are now being trained in using the TASER unit. Denver (Colo.) Police Chief Gerry Whitman announced his department will initially give 80 M-26 TASERs to officers with 100 more to follow, citing numbers from the Seattle Police Department that showed an 80-percent reduction of officer injuries since that department started using TASERs.

RockyMountainNews.com
LOCAL

Less-lethal weapons: Laser sight's dot can end standoff

By John C. Ensslin, Rocky Mountain News
July 9, 2003

Sometimes all it takes to subdue a suspect is one red dot.

Since the Denver Police Department introduced less-lethal weapons into its arsenal in March, officers have made seven arrests where they might have otherwise used deadly force.

In a few cases, police said suspects surrendered as soon as they saw the red dot from a laser sight focused on them.

"That really is impressive," said Cpl. Stan Palka, who oversees training for Denver's less-lethal weapons. "We run around and point guns at people and they say, 'What are you going to do? Shoot me?' and they run off."

"But that laser shows up and they don't know what it is."

The laser is attached to the Taser, a device that fires two electric contacts up to 21 feet. The jolt from the electricity incapacitates a suspect for about five seconds, long enough to handcuff him.

Denver has 80 Tasers, and officers have used them 93 times. That includes seven times in which the suspect wielded a knife.

Officers had two Tasers at the scene of a shooting Saturday in which a patrolman shot and killed a 15-year-old boy who was brandishing a knife, but they were not used.

In past instances where Tasers were used, there were nine misfires, meaning the contacts failed to hit their target, Palka said.

There were also nine cases in which officers used the weapon in close contact as a stun gun.

The department has also equipped the Metro SWAT team with rifles that fire beanbags. Those weapons get used once or twice a year, often in barricade situations, Palka said.

At almost every large public event since March 2002, Denver police have also had a weapon that fires pepper-spray balls. So far, they have not had occasion to use it.

Palka said the new weapons are simply another tool.

He does not see them prompting any changes in the rules regarding the proper use of deadly force.

But they have made a difference for both suspects and officers in terms of injuries sustained during an unruly arrest, he said.

During a Monday evening news conference, Police Chief Gerry Whitman said that officers armed with Tasers and certified in crisis intervention have helped defuse dangerous confrontations daily.

The chief said that each situation is different and officers who confront armed attackers must take into consideration whether they have the time and distance to safely control a dangerous situation or use deadly force.

"When you get into a tactical situation, you need time to implement these things," Whitman said. "You need the distance and time to actually talk to somebody before you do something."

However, officers can't afford to sit back if they see an imminent threat to them or other citizens, he said.

"My assessment of it is, if an officer is put in a situation where he or she is going to have to save their lives or somebody else's life, they have to go to a level of force where it's going to stop that threat."

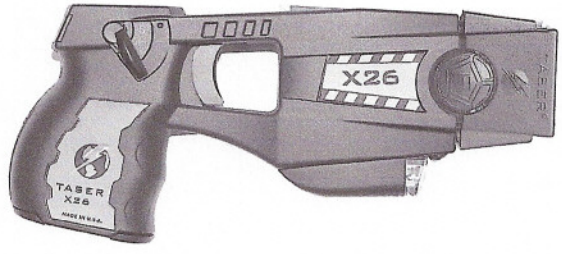
ensslinj@RockyMountainNews .com or (303) 892-5291. Listen to John C. Ensslin on "The State of Colorado" at 8 a.m. Friday on KNRC-AM 1150. News staff writer Hector Gutierrez contributed to this report.

SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

TASER USE & DEPLOYMENT FACT SHEET

What is the taser?

The taser used by Seattle Police Department is a patented device that looks much like an officer's service weapon. It is laser-sighted and uses cartridges attached to the end of the unit. The cartridges project a pair of prongs or darts on steel wires up to 21 feet. The device sends 50kv of electricity over the thin steel wires, with the effect of overriding a subject's motor and sensory nervous systems. Without the cartridge, the taser can function as a touch stun device. In either mode, the taser delivers its electrical charge in a pre-set, five-second cycle. Once the cycle ends or is broken, the effects on the subject disappear.



The Seattle Police use both the X26 (shown here) and M26 taser models.

What is the purpose of the taser?

The taser is intended to provide officers with a less lethal force option to help them overcome a subject's combative intent, physical resistance and/or assaultive behavior; subdue persons bent on harming themselves or others; and to provide self-defense. As with all applications of force, officers using less lethal options are expected to use necessary and reasonable force to effect a lawful purpose. "Necessary and reasonable" uses are defined by the totality of the circumstances that confront officers and the exercise of their professional judgment.

Whose idea was it for the police to use the taser?

In September 2000, both a community workgroup and an internal study group recommended deployment of the taser by Seattle Police Department officers. After training was held, the first 66 tasers were deployed in December 2000 and January 2001. Currently, the Department has deployed 220 tasers, with 90% of these assigned to first-responding officers.

How often are the tasers used?

Since the first tasers were deployed in late 2000 through August 2004, tasers have been used in 570 incidents. This averages to about 13 taser incidents per month.

Do all officers have tasers?

No. The Seattle Police Department's Less Lethal Options Program combines the use of the taser, the less lethal shotgun with beanbag rounds, and an expansion of the number of Crisis Intervention Trained officers. The Department has tried to ensure that tasers are assigned in such a way that they are available in all precincts and on all watches.

While not all officers have tasers, the Department's taser assignment appears to be successful. In 58% of taser incidents, the taser officer has been among the first responding officers to the scene; and in 37% of the incidents, taser officers were in a backup unit. A new pattern that emerged in 2003 and has continued in 2004 is the presence of more than one taser officer at an incident. West Precinct has the largest number of deployed tasers, followed by the North, South, East, and Southwest precincts. The West Precinct has also had the largest number of taser deployments.

SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
TASER USE AND DEPLOYMENT FACT SHEET

In what kinds of situations and with what kinds of subjects have the tasers been used?
The Department carefully tracks taser use. A summary of the situations and subjects in taser incidents is provided below:

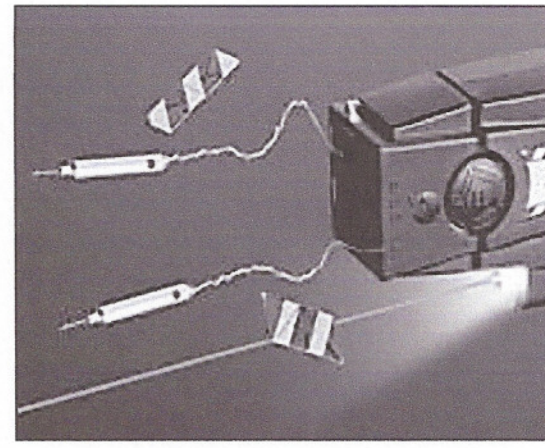
- Tasers have been used in a wide variety of incidents. Violent crimes and drug/alcohol incidents together comprise 36% of the situations in which tasers have been used, followed most closely by fights and disturbances (17%) and mental/suicide calls (15%).

- Taser subjects are most often males (93%) and fall across a wide age spectrum. About the same number of taser subjects are under 20 years as over 40 years of age; and there are about equal numbers of taser subjects in each of the remaining age bands. The racial breakdown of taser subjects is 44% African American and 43% Caucasian.

- Over two-thirds of taser subjects (71%) confronting officers have been impaired, often severely, by alcohol, drugs, or a mental illness or delusion. (This has climbed gradually from 60% in 2001.)

- Nearly a quarter of taser subjects (23%) have been armed. A knife is the most frequent weapon of choice. *(Among armed subjects, 42% have had knives, 17% have had guns, and 41% have had other weapons, including scissors, hatchets, broken bottles, lead pipes, shovels, stakes, and hypodermic needles.)*

- Of great concern is the fact that most of the armed subjects (75%) were also impaired, usually by mental illness (44% of those impaired and armed), alcohol (28%), or drugs (20%). The proportion of armed and impaired subjects has been growing steadily over the three+-year period, with 62% armed and impaired in 2001, 70% in 2002, and 74% by the end of 2003.



Blast doors fall away when prongs are released.

How effective is the taser? In tracking the safety and effectiveness of tasers, the Department has found the following:

- Verified taser contact has been obtained in 82% of the incidents. *Where there was verified contact,* the taser has delivered a disabling or partially disabling effect 94% of the time.

- In 81% of all incidents and in 88% of the incidents where contact was verified, the taser was credited with controlling the subject or bringing the situation to a resolution.

- Injuries to subjects and officers are low in taser deployments when compared with other use of force situations. Subjects sustained no injuries or only dart/stun abrasions in 65% of the taser incidents. There have been no injuries to officers in 84% of the taser incidents. National studies have indicated that in police encounters with violent, combative, and mentally ill subjects, as many as 40% of the officers and the subjects may sustain injuries.

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University Study Confirms TASER® Technology Reduces Injuries and Litigation Costs

TASER devices caused fewer injuries compared to other uses of force

SCOTTSDALE, AZ, December 10, 2004 - TASER® International, Inc. (NASDAQ: TASR), a market leader in advanced non-lethal devices, announced today that an independent report issued by Florida Gulf Coast University titled, "TASER Deployments and Injuries: Analysis of Current and Emerging Trends," confirmed that TASER technology reduced deadly force litigation at the Orange County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) in Florida and caused fewer injuries versus traditional use of force tools.

The independent report was written by Dr. Charlie Mesloh, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Technological Innovation and Research at Florida Gulf Coast University and co-authored by OCSO Captain Steve Hougland, Ph.D. The co-authors reviewed every incident in OCSO from 2000-2003 involving TASER devices. The study confirmed that suspect lives were actually saved.

In one year, 18 suspects were subdued with a TASER device where the use of deadly force would have been justified. "Without the TASER those 18 suspects would have had deadly force used against them," said Mesloh. The report states that the "cost of deadly force litigation is identified at $100,000. This does not include damages. Based on the OCSO study for a single year, TASER as an intervention in deadly force encounters reduced legal costs by $1.8 million."

Mesloh's study also compared TASER technology to the use of defensive tactics, batons, canine, impact weapons, chemical agents and pepper sprays and found that there were fewer injuries related to TASER technology.

According to Mesloh's research, suspects surrendered 9 out of 10 times when a deputy drew the TASER device. "Within a short period of time what happened was when an officer drew the TASER, 90 percent of the time the suspects surrendered at that point," said Mesloh. Subsequently, fewer fights occurred between suspects and deputies resulting in fewer injuries to both parties. As a result, workman's compensation claims involving arrests dropped by 50 percent.

Mesloh's report further stated, "If the weapon chosen was not effective in neutralizing suspect resistance, the suspect was likely to use a greater amount of force against the officer. TASER had the lowest escalation rate of all less lethals. Baton use had the highest rate 50%."

"The Mesloh report is highly encouraging and supports the growing body of independent and scientific evidence confirming TASER technology safety and effectiveness," said Rick Smith, CEO of TASER International. "This report further confirms the experiences shared by thousands of law enforcement agencies, that deploying TASER technology reduces injuries, litigation costs and save lives every day."

The above referenced study is available at www.TASER.com/SavingLives.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

There appears to be striking similarities between in-custody deaths from TASER, pepper spray, positional restraint (hog-tie) and lateral vascular neck restraint (choke holds). Bizarre, excited behavior, high body temperature, history of chronic drug use, and an extreme physical exertion appear in the majority of these cases. However, the question regarding the relationship between these tools and the cause of death is best left to the medical experts.

The fact remains that without these less lethal weapons, a substantially larger number of law enforcement officer deaths and injuries would have most certainly occurred, creating additional need to use force against criminal suspects. Suspects receive the greatest benefit of less lethal weapons; frequently they are allowed to keep their lives despite their threat or use of deadly force against police officers.

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By the Numbers

It's time for better risk management and analysis of police weapons and tactics.

Kimberly M. Thompson

The police in my area made national news when a local dog owner and repeat offender of the leash law tricked them into issuing a citation for a $50 fine to his dog. The dog owner made a mockery of the situation by requesting a hearing on behalf of the dog, and reporters found that very amusing.

As a researcher who studies risk management and public health, I know that little stories like these chip away at the hard-earned public trust and the positive images of police. That erosion of the public image bothers me a lot.

We should be looking at the cost-effectiveness of Taser weapons in the same way that we evaluate new pharmaceutical and consumer products.

I'm not a cop, but I can tell from the numbers that it's not easy keeping the peace in this country. Police make more than 10 million arrests each year in the United States, nearly 2 million for serious crimes. With the U.S. population at more than 290 million that means that on average approximately one in 29 Americans is arrested each year.

More than 150 American law enforcement officers die in the line of duty each year. Assuming approximately 1 million officers on duty in this country, this puts the risk of death for an average officer at approximately one in 10,000.

Each officer must manage his or her own injury risks and must also recognize his or her role in contributing to the public's perceptions of police—both positive and negative. Using force and making arrests clearly involves tough choices and trade-offs.

Currently, the Taser represents the most controversial tool in the use-of-force continuum. I've heard officers say that Taser devices provide agencies with their most important harm reduction tools in decades, perhaps since bullet-resistant vests. But news reports suggest that Tasers might be responsible for a growing number of in-custody deaths. And groups that track the cumulative number of deaths associated with Taser weapons now emphasize that the number exceeds 100 in the United States since January 2001.

Unfortunately, these groups fail to report on critical context, like the sad reality that nearly 1,000 people die each year while in custody or shortly after being arrested—mainly because of drugs and other substances. We must ask whether 100 deaths out of the approximately 4,000 in-custody deaths in the last five years really indicate that Tasers are unsafe, or if Tasers simply make some of the deaths more newsworthy because Tasers are new. Shouldn't we care about all of the in-custody deaths and the true underlying causes?

It's time to look at Tasers from a public health perspective. We need to ask about how many lives the Taser might be saving overall. If Taser weapons provide officers with a better option than using lethal force or provide the opportunity to defuse a situation before it reaches lethal force, then this translates into lives saved and injuries avoided—real benefits that must be counted.

We should be looking at the cost-effectiveness of Taser weapons in the same way that we evaluate new pharmaceutical and consumer products and characterizing their net benefits to society. This means, however, that law enforcement leaders will need to work with leading public health analysts to evaluate the case.

Risk analysis clearly should play a much larger role in law enforcement, with potentially large benefits both to public health and law enforcement agencies. This leads me to suggest that it's time for law enforcement leaders to adopt and use the analytical tools needed to improve the information available to policymakers and to improve overall risk management performance.

I can't promise that using risk analysis will prevent officers from issuing tickets to dogs or keep police from ever receiving undeserved bad press. However, I suspect that greater use of risk management tools would lead to communication strategies that should help improve decisions and reduce the amount of bad press directed at police.

Dr. Kimberly M. Thompson is author of "Risk in Perspective: Insight and Humor in the Age of Risk Management" and an associate professor of risk analysis and decision science at the Harvard School of Public Health.

ILEETA
International Law Enforcement
Educators and Trainers Association

The Use of Force Journal

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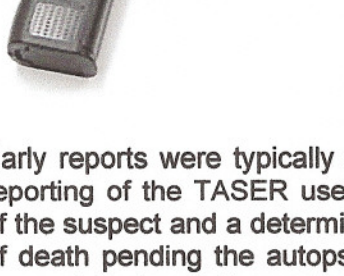
Howard Rahtz, Editor
Ed Nowicki, Executive Director

From the Editor

The TASER Debate

The growing public debate over TASER®s presents both some problems and some opportunities for those of us in the police training business. As police departments around the country deploy the TASER, the ACLU and Amnesty International are pushing for a national moratorium on use of the TASERs pending an independent inquiry into the weapon's health effects. The media have begun tracking every police intervention death where a TASER was used and over the past few months, the language and tenor utilized in many of the news reports on these incidents has changed.



Early reports were typically characterized by a reporting of the TASER use followed by death of the suspect and a determination of the cause of death pending the autopsy. Recent reports have abandoned the pretense of waiting for autopsy results in favor of the assumption that the death was the direct result of the TASER use. Each "TASER" death is now national news that fuels the anti-TASER outcry.

By any standard, this campaign is succeeding. Several jurisdictions have shelved plans to deploy TASERs. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has announced an inquiry into TASER deaths. At least two states are considering legislation that would ban TASER deployment by police departments. And in the last few weeks, Lucas County (Toledo, OH) has taken TASERs out of service and the Chicago Police Department temporarily halted plans for widespread deployment of the TASER.

Like most public debate on police use of force issues, anti-police bigotry, racial tension, and a huge dose of misinformation all contribute to the underlying context. If we as trainers are to lead a reasonable debate on TASER use, understanding the dynamics driving the debate is essential. Here are just a few of the issues that need to be addressed.

Safety of the TASER – There have been numerous studies which provide information on the relative risks of TASER use. In addition, many police departments have accumulated significant data on TASER use. In Cincinnati, we are approaching 2000 human trials – about 900 officers have been tased as part of training and several hundred suspects have been tased with the most serious injury to date a broken bone from a fall. Critics point to the fact that some of the research was either funded or directly done by TASER International implying

any conclusions are automatically suspect. Perhaps the best summary of the state of research knowledge comes from an independent study done by the Air Force Research Laboratory.

> *Overall, the results support the conclusion that the M26 and X26 TASERs are generally effective for their intended use. However, they may cause several unintended effects, albeit with estimated low probabilities of occurrence.*

This statement, eloquent in its simplicity, is unlikely to pacify critics who cling to the fantasy of risk free force. Any force alternative, short of the Star Trek Phaser (set to stun), will be viewed as "unsafe." Can some of these concerns on TASER risk be addressed? Some departments are putting AEDs in patrol cars or requiring immediate medical response on TASER incidents as a way to allay community concerns on TASER safety. Community education on the TASER and its effects would seem to be sorely lacking.

Putting the Risks in Context – The unfortunate fact is that some of the people who involve themselves in force confrontations with the police have taken illegal drugs, may have underlying health conditions, and the stress of the physical struggle may contribute to what are typically described as sudden in-custody deaths. In November of 2003, the Cincinnati Police confronted a 350 pound individual, high on PCP and cocaine, with an underlying heart condition. After violently assaulting an officer, the suspect was repeatedly struck with PR-24s, sprayed with chemical irritant, and finally physically subdued by multiple officers. He died at the scene and the subsequent cause of death was described as "cardiac dysrhythmia due to physiologic stress reaction with hypoxia due to a violent struggle with restraint." This type of "in-custody" deaths is an unfortunate part of the policing business. When describing the risks of TASERs, the context question is "Compared to what?" The correct question is not "Is the TASER risk free?" But "How do the risks to suspects and officers compare to other force alternatives?" The findings from departments across the country who have deployed TASERs are consistent – dramatic reductions in injuries to both officers and suspects.

Potential for Abuse – A concern often expressed is that the TASER may become an instrument for excessive use of force. These concerns are typically raised by people who believe police excessive use of force and brutality are widespread and the TASER is simply a good tool to abuse people. This bigotry against the police is rarely challenged. Are there bad cops out there who will utilize the TASER in an inappropriate fashion? I think we'd all agree there are a small number of officers who are prone to using excessive use of force. However, the fact is that the technical safeguards built into the TASER make it less likely to be an instrument of excessive force. The answers to controlling excessive use of force includes good

The assumption that police are prone to brutality and will abuse any tool provided should never go unchallenged.

recruiting/selection, training, supervision, and administrative policy on force reporting and investigation. The assumption that police are prone to brutality and will abuse any tool provided should never go unchallenged.

The Racial Divide – The gulf between minority citizens, especially African-Americans, and the police remains substantial. The TASER debate is occurring in the context of this uneasy relationship. Police leaders who've established strong relationships with minority communities are less likely to have TASER incidents interpreted as examples of biased policing. Public education on TASERs, particularly in minority communities, should be an essential element of the deployment process.

Police Trainers are in a unique position to play an important role in the ongoing TASER debate. A reasoned and professional approach to the debate will be a welcome change from the hysteria and misinformation that characterizes much of the current public discussion.