

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

January 30, 2014

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, January 30, 2014 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Christenson called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jane Christenson, Chairman
Commissioner Woody Futrell, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Frank Guinn
Commissioner John Allison
Commissioner Bob Burns
Commissioner Dr. Lewis Shepherd

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Wallace Fowler, Secretary

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Stan Witt	Lt. Colonel Tim K’Nuckles
Major Les Braunns	Major Henry La Mar
Lieutenant Barry Saffold	Lieutenant Brant Tosh
Captain Ron Stayton	Captain Steve Coppinger
Emma French	Sergeant Shannon Shepherd
Jenna Castleberry	Sergeant Ron Casey
Sergeant Stuart Woodward	Lieutenant Darran Austin
Lieutenant Scott Woodward	Lieutenant Jason Aaron
Sergeant Paulette Ward	Captain Jim Howington
Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads	Lieutenant David Lafferty
Major Mike Foster	Captain Jeff Jester
Lieutenant Bryan Davis	Sergeant Charles Hubbard
Sergeant Mike Moyer	Gary Glisson
Bridget White	Sergeant Brad Lann
Lieutenant Brady Gore	Janet Chappelle
Lieutenant Mike Kennedy	Harmony Daniels
Captain Dale Saffold	Sherry Woods
Sergeant David Cooper	Lieutenant Forrest Marks
Captain Wesley Smithee	Corporal Ryan Jacks
Sergeant Greg Smith	Lieutenant David Sims
Corporal Blake Wilson	Major J. R. Hankins
Major Shawn Garner	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Cook, ASP Foundation	Randy Lann, ASP Foundation
Michael Krenn, DF&A	Meredith Rebsamen, AG’s Office
Stephen Shirron	Sheriff Ray Vance
Damon Young, ASP Foundation	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Shepherd led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on January 3, 2014.

Commission Chairman Christenson welcomed guests Sheriff Ray Vance from Grant County, Stephen Shirron, Prosecutor, Meredith Rebsamen from the Attorney General’s Office, and Michael Krenn, DFA Budget, and from the Arkansas State Police Foundation Damon Young, Steve Cook, Randy Lann, Charisse Childers, and Joe Thielke.

MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

January 30, 2014 - Page 2

ELECTION OF ASPC OFFICERS FOR 2014:

Commissioner Guinn made a motion that Commissioner Futrell be elected as Chairman for 2014. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Burns and passed.

Commissioner Guinn made a motion that Commissioner Fowler be elected as Vice-Chairman for 2014. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and passed.

Commissioner Futrell made a motion that Commissioner Guinn be elected as Secretary for 2014. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Allison and passed.

Commissioner Christenson said before she turned the gavel over to Commissioner Futrell she would like to thank all of her fellow Commissioners, Colonel Witt, staff, and all commissioned officers for the support given to her and her husband Jeff for sticking with her this year. She stated as a former newspaper person for over 50 years, we always like to report on the yearend review of significant things that have happened the previous year. At this time I would like to name some things I thought were milestones that happened this past year, we had a graduation of 25 recruits in June 2013, salary adjustments which included COLAs for all ASP employees, certificate pay for commissioned personnel, minimum salary adjustments for sergeants and above, and salary adjustments for corporals. ECite has been deployed to State Troopers across the state giving them new and valuable tools. The ECrash testing is underway and will soon be deployed. A committee of State Troopers and Staff were appointed to work with the Arkansas State Police Foundation in the development of a State Police Driving Track. Twenty-four low profile patrol cars were deployed across the state for use by each of the 12 Highway Patrol troops. We hired 30 recruits for a 2014 Recruit School which began this month. The State Police Commission has approved the promotions of 25 State Troopers to the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Major for the calendar year of 2013. I think we had a great 2013.

PASSING OF THE GAVEL:

Commissioner Christenson continued by saying, at this time I would like to pass the gavel over to Commissioner Futrell.

Commissioner Futrell thanked Commissioner Christenson and presented on behalf of the Colonel, the Commissioners, and himself the gavel she had used as Chairman. He added it has been a pleasure serving with her as Chairman, and there's one person who's happier than anyone else in here and that's your father.

Commissioner Futrell stated he is accepting this gavel, but on behalf of the rest of the Commissioners and the Colonel I want to give you this plaque.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Guinn made a motion to approve the minutes the December 12, 2013 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioner Allison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Major Henry La Mar presented the below resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Darwin Adams efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of seventeen years, eight months, and five days;

MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

January 30, 2014 - Page 3

WHEREAS: Corporal Darwin Adams retired from this department October 31, 2013;

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Darwin Adams has made formal request that his service weapon be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, January 30, 2014, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him his Glock Model 21, Serial Number PKS346, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Shepherd seconded and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Darwin Adams efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of seventeen years, eight months and five days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Darwin Adams retired from this department October 31, 2013;

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Darwin Adams has made formal request that his shotgun be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, January 30, 2014 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D063047M, that Corporal Darwin Adams has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Darwin Adams be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Allison seconded and the motion passed.

Major Mike Foster presented the below resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Darryl Hall, Sr efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-five years, eleven months, and eight days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Darryl Hall, Sr retired from this department October 31, 2013;

MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

January 30, 2014 - Page 4

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Darryl Hall, Sr has made formal request that his service weapon be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, January 30, 2014, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him his Glock Model 21, Serial Number PKS052, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Allison made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Christenson seconded and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Darryl Hall, Sr efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-five years, eleven months and eight days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Darryl Hall, Sr retired from this department October 31, 2013;

WHEREAS: His departure creates a vacancy that will be most difficult to fill, which is recognized by each and every member of the Arkansas State Police Commission;

WHEREAS: Corporal Darryl Hall, Sr has made formal request that his shotgun be retired with him and remain in his possession;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Arkansas State Police Commission, in its regular meeting at Arkansas State Police Headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas on Thursday, January 30, 2014 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC622705, that Corporal Darryl Hall, Sr has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Darryl Hall, Sr be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the above weapon resolution presented to the Commission. Commissioner Allison seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Witt recognized three troopers from our agency who completed the School of Law Enforcement Supervision from the Criminal Justice Institute. This is a four week supervisor's development course that's scheduled one week per month and includes many different topics. Normally CJI has a banquet for these students on completion of this course, however this year the banquet was not held due to the ice storm. He then presented certificates to Sergeant Paulette Ward, Sergeant Jim Moore, and Lieutenant Darran Austin.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS

Captain Dale Saffold told of the events for which Corporal Blake Wilson and TFC Chase Melder were nominated for an Official Commendation. He said that in July of last year Oklahoma authorities made Yell County authorities and Troop J aware of a suspect who was in the area and wanted for two counts of rape in Oklahoma. Yell County authorities made one of the troopers, Chase Melder, aware that this subject could possibly be in the area. Rather than just file that away and maybe somebody would come across it, Trooper Melder actually pursued this subject making phone calls, making inquiries, going to

MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

January 30, 2014 - Page 5

different addresses, trying to locate this subject that was wanted on two counts of rape. He finally identified a residence in Russellville where the subject was possibly supposed to be and narrowly missed catching him the first time. He built a rapport with a person in that area who called three days later to let Trooper Melder know that this subject was now at that residence. He and Corporal Chris Goodman went to the residence. The subject refused to come out and said that the only way he would come out, they would have to kill him. The subject later brandished a weapon at these two troopers. At that point they moved to a position of safety, set up perimeters and called for additional backup. The backup arrived, and one of the troopers that arrived was Sr. Corporal Blake Wilson. Sr. Corporal Wilson is also the commander of our Crisis Negotiation Team. Corporal Wilson talked to this subject and after about a half hour convinced him to come out and not only did he convince him to come out, but he, as part of the negotiations, had agreed that he would drive this subject to the hospital to get treatment for a knife wound that he had received while in there by himself, a self-inflicted knife wound. So he did that, and because of his skills and not having to be told, he simply did what troopers do and that is he reacted to the situation, used the skills that he had in negotiating with the subject and brought this to an end. That's why I put Corporal Blake Wilson in for the Official Commendation. I put Trooper Chase Melder in for the Official Commendation because, as I said earlier, he actually did leg work, he actually went after this subject. He did good police work and located where this subject was, and the bad guy was taken into custody. Captain Saffold stated there's one other thing that he wants the Commission and our senior leadership to know about Chase Melder. Chase Melder is our newest canine officer in the department, and when Chase was trying to decide what to name his dog, I got an email from him, and he said I finally decided what I'm going to name the new canine. I'm going to name him Pavatt, which was the name of the first trooper who was killed in the Arkansas State Police in 1948. To honor the first trooper who was killed in the line of duty, Chase Melder thought about that and named his dog, so his memory would live on. I would like for you to recognize these two individuals at this time.

Colonel Stan Witt presented official commendations to Corporal Blake Wilson and TFC Chase Melder.

Sergeant Mark Hollingsworth gave an overview of the events for which Special Agent Jeff Stone was nominated for this Official Commendation for the first quarter of 2013. Special Agent Jeff Stone is assigned to four counties on the north region of Company E. Most of this area consists of primarily rural counties serviced by small police and sheriff's departments. In reviewing his activity during the first four months of 2013, it was noted he executed 7 search warrants that led him to opening 16 narcotics related cases with the arrest of 14 suspects on a total of 58 felony narcotics and weapons related charges.

During this period, he purchased or seized approximately 21 ounces of processed marijuana/hashish, 130 dose units of methadone and Ecstasy, approximately 17 grams of cocaine and 3.2 pounds of methamphetamine. These seized narcotics had a street value of over \$180,000. He also seized over \$10,000 in US Currency during the same period. It is noted that he utilized ASP Confidential Buy funds for some of the narcotics, but in looking at the money he expended for the purchase of the narcotics seized and the payment to confidential informants, he showed a very good return on his money.

What makes these numbers significant is that these cases were initiated by Special Agent Stone conducting over 60 hours of surveillance, meeting with informants and cultivating sources close to the suspects in order to make an initial purchase and try to move up the network. Some of the cases came about because of the close working relationship Special Agent Stone has built with the Highway Patrol Troopers in his assigned area who routinely call on him or provide information to him that they have developed by looking behind just getting a contact.

MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
January 30, 2014 - Page 6

Special Agent Stone is a great example of working smarter not harder in order to be a successful narcotics investigator in a rural area. However, he is also routinely called upon to assist other agents in the field as needed and always has the same reply whenever I call him, and that is "give me a minute and I will head that way".

Based on his exemplary performance during the referenced reporting period, I believe that Special Agent Stone should be recognized for his actions that were performed beyond the call of duty and under unusual circumstances and conditions. For this reason he deserves an Official Commendation.

Colonel Stan Witt presented an official commendation to Special Agent Jeff Stone.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Report – Emma French

Ms. French reviewed the reports which have been distributed to the Commission. She stated this information is a little old now, but at the time it was done we were about halfway through the year, and we are doing fine and are where we should be. We are watching things and beginning to develop our year-end plan and how we want to wrap up this year.

Administrative Services – Major Les Braunn

Major Braunn presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. She began by reporting the Human Resources/Personnel transactions for the month of December; we had six civilian new hires, one civilian volunteer resignation, one promotion, one extra help, two retirements and one lateral transfer. The Commission transactions included two lateral transfers, one disciplinary, and three retirements. Currently we have six military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, the December claims are higher from last month by \$297,907 and the Fund Balance is lower by \$21,147. To give you an annual comparison, at this time last year, the total fixed costs are higher by approximately \$1.1 million, however, the fund balance is also higher by \$177,692. As you know January 1, was the first day for QualChoice as the new TPA. There were no disruptions in service, and everything seems to be going well at this time.

The 2014 Troop School began Sunday, January 19th with 35 recruits plus 3 alternates on standby. All the recruits have been called in, and today we stand at 29 recruits. If it is the pleasure of the Commission, next month we can have the recruits here to introduce themselves.

Commissioner Bob Burns reported on an incident which occurred in Magnolia in the last day or two. A High School math teacher was the victim of a carjacking incident, potentially a very dangerous situation. ASP responded extremely quickly and using the high tech tools of today located the vehicle and stopped it and made the arrest. The troopers did an extraordinarily good job, they stayed with the victim the entire time until the family got there, and all is well that ends well. The troopers showed their professionalism while handling this incident.

Commissioner Shepherd asked to comment on recent information received on fatalities on the State Highways for 2013. The final number was 474 or somewhere in that neighborhood, that number has been recorded as the lowest in several decades. The State Highway Department is attributing much of that to the new chain link fences on the interstate as a part of that. I would also like to commend the men and women of Highway Patrol doing an extraordinary job in enforcement to bring this number down.

MINUTES OF THE ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
January 30, 2014 - Page 7

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Futrell asked for a motion to approve the stipend of \$60.00 per meeting along with mileage reimbursement. Commissioner Shepherd made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Christenson. The motion passed.

Commissioners Allison, Futrell and Christenson were appointed for the Health Insurance Committee for 2014.

Commission Chairman Futrell announced the Arkansas State Police Foundation would be meeting when the Commission adjourned their meeting.

Commission Chairman Futrell advised the ASP meetings and Executives Sessions are always about the ASP personnel where we are working to do things for the agency.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:40 and returned at 11:33.

Commission Chairman Futrell asked Colonel Witt if he had any recommendations for the Commission, and Colonel Witt recommended they reinstate Samuel Cole Rice. Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to reinstate him and this was seconded by Commissioner Burns. The motion passed.

Commissioner Guinn made a motion that Andy Miller be voted a member of the Arkansas State Police Foundation. This was seconded by Commissioner Burns and the motion passed.

It was decided the Appeal Hearing for Thomas Weindruch would be scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2014.

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting will be Friday, February 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

With no new business to come before the Commission Commissioner Christenson made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Commissioner Guinn and the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary