

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
February 13, 2020

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Vice Chairman Basore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Neff Basore, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Bill Benton Secretary
Commissioner Steve Edwards
Commissioner Jeffery Teague
Commissioner Jim Hinkle

MEMBER ABSENT:

Commissioner Jane Christenson, Chairperson
Commissioner John Allison

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Shawn Garner
Lt. Colonel Tim K’Nuckles	Major Charles Hubbard
Major Forrest Marks	Major Jason Aaron
Major Jeffrey Drew	Major Mark Hollingsworth
Major Lindsey Williams	Jenna Castleberry
Emma French	Cole Sanders
Loretta Williams	Alexis Winters
Dan Mack	Captain Randall Dias
Captain Scott Woodward	Sergeant Greg Alexander
Lieutenant Michael Exum	Captain David Moore
Lieutenant David L. Williams	Sergeant Tiffany Dycus
Robin Gifford	Captain Todd Shaw
Captain Paulette Ward	Captain Brady Gore
Bridget White	Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sara Farris, Attorney General’s Office	J. R. Hankins, DPS
Jami Cook, DPS	Jackie Baker, DPS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Edwards led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on February 03, 2020.

Commission Vice-Chairman Basore stated I have a couple of introductions today. We have a new commission member present today, Jim Hinkle. We want to welcome him to the ASP Commission. Next, Secretary Jami Cook is here, I believe, welcome.

MINUTES:

Commission Vice-Chairman Basore stated the minutes from the January 9, 2020 meeting have been distributed.

Commissioner Benton made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Major Forrest Marks presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Captain Keith Eremea efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of forty-three years, five months and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Captain Keith Eremea retired from this department December 31, 2019;

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: Captain Keith Eremea 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, February 13, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA221, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Captain Keith Eremea efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of forty-three years, five months and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Captain Keith Eremea retired from this department December 31, 2019;

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: Captain Keith Eremea 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, February 13, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC536093, that Captain Keith Eremea has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Captain Keith Eremea be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Wendy Ryals efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-one years, nine months and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Wendy Ryals retired from this department December 31, 2019;

WHEREAS: Her 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 Wendy Ryals has made formal request that her service weapon be retired with her and remain in her 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, February 13, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards her, her Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA394, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Wendy Ryals efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-one years, nine months and thirty days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Wendy Ryals retired from this department December 31, 2019;

WHEREAS: Her 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 Wendy Ryals has made formal request that her shotgun be retired with her and remain in her 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, February 13, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D605860M, that Corporal Wendy Ryals has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Wendy Ryals be permitted to purchase the shotgun for her personal use.

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

Major Mark Hollingsworth presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal David Rider efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-one years, four months and eight days;

WHEREAS: Corporal David Rider retired from this department December 31, 2019;

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 David Rider 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, February 13, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 21, Serial Number PKS185, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal David Rider efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-one years, four months and eight days;

WHEREAS: Corporal David Rider retired from this department December 31, 2019;

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 David Rider 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, February 13, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D588419M, that Corporal David Rider has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal David Rider be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – Emma French

Ms. French gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission. Ms. French stated we are at 58%, and we are doing okay. We are watching our revenue come in and we are watching our expenses. We are starting to get our year end plan in place and we are doing alright.

Administrative Services – Major Charles Hubbard

Major Hubbard presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. He began by reporting the Human Resources/Personnel transactions for the month. The uniformed noncommissioned transactions include one new hire, one demotion, and two retirements. The commissioned transactions include fifty-three new hires, three lateral transfers, twelve terminations, and two promotions. We currently have seven military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, January paid claims were \$1,058,023 an increase of \$3,094 from last month and the fund balance is \$25,996 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$6,301,367.

Regarding the 2020A Troop School, we currently have thirty-five recruits. They are in week 3. This week they will be studying sexual assault reporting, CACD mandatory reporting, encountering dementia and Alzheimer's awareness and sovereign citizens and extremists.

Commissioner Teague asked how many did we start with in Troop School. Major Hubbard stated the total was 54. On day one we had 50 show up and we had 4 alternates. Within a couple of days we lost several. Commissioner Teague asked if that was normal. Major Hubbard explained it was a little higher than the last school, but it is not unusual for us to lose quite a few the first week. Commissioner Teague stated that it seems pretty high this go around to me.

Colonel Bryant stated we have looked at it and checked with other states. Right now for example Missouri, they have lost 19 in the first couple of weeks. It is just kind of a different generation, but we as the management team and Command Staff, we looked at it and we have confidence in our training staff and every person who leaves we interview them and we get the reasons why they left. I think we haven't changed our training very much it is just that we have to look at the new generation coming up, but we firmly believe in our training staff and what they have accomplished. We definitely took a deep dive and as we go forward we have to maybe kind of look at the type of applicant during the recruiting process and maybe tighten it up a little bit. Major Hubbard stated also, this is the third largest school that we have had in three years, so perhaps the pool of applicants has changed a little bit, however our standards haven't changed. Commissioner Teague stated I just know, I am not advocating for lower standards. But I know in Troop A and across the state we need officers badly. I hate to see us loose that many when I know the Captains out in the field here and beyond are needing troopers. I was just curious.

Major Hubbard stated with the large school one of our goals is to fill critical vacancies across the state the best we can. We meet with the Highway Patrol try and look at those critical vacancies with those Captains and try to fill Troop School with as many possible applicants as we can including those alternates. We anticipate that we are going to lose some of the applicants before we even begin Troop School. We are hoping in the end we can still fill a majority of those critical vacancies.

Commissioner Teague asked if we are still having two troop schools a year or one. Major Hubbard stated just one. Commissioner Teague asked didn't we talk about having an extra one or getting budgeted for an extra one. Colonel Bryant stated the Governor gave us money for troop school, it's the first time in our history we have ever had a line item in our budget for Troop School. Before it was split between Fiscal years and as we go forward we are looking at maybe a certified school to go along with a regular troop school. A school with all certified applicants would be a shorter time frame. But if you look nationwide, the number one problem in law enforcement is recruiting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Vice Chairman Basore asked if there was any new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Vice-Chairman Basore stated we have some personnel matters to discuss in executive session and we need a motion. Commissioner Benton made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of employees, Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 9:10 a.m.

Commission Vice-Chairman Basore called the meeting back to order at 9:49 a.m. and turned it over to Colonel Bryant.

Colonel Bryant stated the first position to consider today is ASP Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H. My recommendation to the Commission would be Lieutenant Chris Goodman. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Lieutenant Chris Goodman be promoted to Captain in the Highway Patrol, Troop H. Commissioner Hinkle seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next position is ASP Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop J. Colonel Bryant stated Mr. Vice-Chairman and Commissioners, I will use the Director's discretion and make a lateral transfer of Lieutenant Darran Austin to the Lieutenant position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop J.

The next matter of business is the reinstatement request of Ryan Gault. Trooper Gault worked for the State Police from May 15, 2016 to October 25, 2019. He has requested reinstatement to Troop L only. Colonel Bryant asked what is the wish of the ASP Commission. Vice-Chairman Basore stated we have a request. Vice-Chairman Basore stated hearing no motion, it died for a lack of a motion.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Vice-Chairman Basore stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

With no more business, Commission Vice-Chairman Basore adjourn the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Commission Chairperson

Commission Secretary