

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
March 12, 2020

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBER ABSENT:

Commissioner John Allison

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Tim K’Nuckles
Major Charles Hubbard	Major Jason Aaron
Major Lindsey Williams	Major Jeff Drew
Jenna Castleberry	Emma French
Loretta Williams	Dan Mack
Captain Randall Dias	Captain Scott Woodward
Lieutenant Michael Exum	Captain David Moore
Lieutenant David L. Williams	Sergeant Tiffany Dycus
Robin Gifford	Captain Todd Shaw
Captain Paulette Ward	Lieutenant Alex Krneta
Corporal Pete Penney	Captain John Carter
Caitlin Teague	Lieutenant Matt Miller
Lieutenant Jamie Gravier	Sherry Woods
Lieutenant Ronnie Qualls	Lieutenant Charles Watson
Lieutenant Michael Exum	Lieutenant Brad Lann
Sergeant Greg Dycus	Captain Chris Goodman
Corporal Steven Roberts	Captain Mike Hagar
Trooper Nathan Williams	Trooper Alex Bray
Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads	Bridget White
Sergeant Lowry Astin	TFC Kyle Sheldon
TFC Levi Fleming	Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sara Farris, Attorney General’s Office	J. R. Hankins, DPS
Jackie Baker, DPS	Woody Futrell
Takisha Sanders	Ted Drysdale, Safariland

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Benton led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on March 10, 2020.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated the minutes from the February 13, 2020 meeting have been distributed. Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2020 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Benton 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 67%. Ms. French stated we did have our budget hearing yesterday in

preparation for the Fiscal Session and we did not get very many questions, so I think it went pretty well.

Administrative Services – Major Charles Hubbard

Major Hubbard presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. He began by reporting the Personnel transactions for the month. The uniformed noncommissioned transactions include one new hire, one demotion, and two terminations. The commissioned transactions include one lateral transfer, seven terminations and one promotion. We currently have seven military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, February paid claims were \$896,095 a decrease of \$161,928 from last month and the fund balance is \$217,155 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$6,518,522.

Regarding the 2020A Troop School, we are in week seven and have thirty-five recruits remaining. All of them have been given their initial assignments and this week they are studying criminal investigations and domestic violence. They have some upcoming training for firearms, crash investigations and then they will start their EVOC training.

Commission Chairperson Christenson asked if we have lost any since the last Commission Meeting. Major Hubbard stated we have not, we have remained steady since that first couple of weeks. Commission Chairperson Christenson asked Major Hubbard to tell us again the date of Troop School Graduation. Major Hubbard stated it will be June 18 and at the same location as last year, Maumelle High School Auditorium.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairperson Christenson asked Colonel Bryant if there was any new business. Colonel Bryant stated just a couple of points. First I want to make the Commissioners aware that our Interstate Criminal Patrol Team last week attended the Gulf Coast HIDTA Meeting and they were presented with the Interdiction Team Award. It would be for, the States involved would be Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Memphis, Tennessee Area, and Pensacola, Florida. They were picked as the best interdiction team in the Gulf Coast HIDTA Area, which is quite the achievement. Lt. Dennis Overton supervises that unit. One of the team members received the largest heroin seizure award for that multi state area so we are very proud of the accomplishments of our interdiction team.

Colonel Bryant stated we also have today a presentation by Ted Drysdale of Safariland. So I would invite the representative from Safariland to come up for a presentation to TFC Kyle Sheldon. Ted Drysdale said good morning Chairman and Commissioners and thank you for allowing me a little time to do the very very best part of my job and that is to recognize and induct another law enforcement officer into the Safariland SAVES Club. Safariland has been producing equipment that protects officers for well over 50 years with holsters and over 40 years with the body armor. It is a very serious part of our business, it drives our business. Our motto at the company is “Together We Save Lives.” Whether it’s our armor, whether it’s our duty gear, whether it’s our baton, whatever product it is that Safariland produces, it’s designed by engineers to be the best there can be on the street to help protect lives. In light of losing an officer this week, here in Arkansas it is more important than ever that we produce the kind of products that can best protect your officers in the field. Safariland SAVES Club has, as of today, 2070 members. We will be inducting TFC Kyle Sheldon in as 2068. It is a rather exclusive club, it is great to be in it and no one wants to go through the initiation, I can assure you. We at Safariland take the SAVES presentation and the SAVES Club serious enough that all 42 of our manufacturing facilities both in North America and in Europe, we all shut down at the same time and gather together as a company at each location to recognize a save. So in 41 different locations this very SAVES presentation is being recognized by all of our employees. So if I could get TFC Sheldon to come up, we would like to induct you into the Safariland SAVES Club. Mr. Drysdale stated congratulations on behalf of Safariland we want to induct you as save number 2068 into the Safariland SAVES Club. We thank you for your service, we thank you for the opportunity to be here to present this to you and along with this, your entire law enforcement career Safariland will provide at no charge your body armor to protect you. You will never have to pay for another vest and a lots of different perks, we have several things over here that have got your name on them. Thank you for your service and congratulations and welcome to the Safariland SAVES Club.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated that was great and congratulations again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Chairperson Christenson asked Colonel Bryant if he had any business for executive session. Colonel Bryant stated yes ma'am we need to go into Executive Session to consider some promotions. Commissioner Basore made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of employees, Commissioner Hinkle/Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:11 a.m.

Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting back to order at 11:05 a.m. and turned it over to Colonel Bryant.

Colonel Bryant stated Thank you Madam Chairperson, if it is okay with the Commission can we start with the reinstatement first. Colonel Bryant stated we have a request for reinstatement from Bryant L. Cooper. He is requesting to come back to work for the Arkansas State Police. Colonel Bryant asked what is the will of the ASP Commission. With no motion being made Chairperson Christenson stated hearing no motion, it has died for a lack of a motion.

Colonel Bryant stated the first position for consideration today is Highway Patrol Division, Troop A Lieutenant here in Little Rock. My recommendation to the Commission would be Sergeant Bobby Brown. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Sergeant Bobby Brown be promoted to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A. Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated Madam Chairperson, I think it is very important that we bring this up with both of these promotions. It is getting more difficult for our agency because we have very qualified people and any of these candidates could do the job so we are very blessed to have qualified people for these positions. I think, I want to make the Commission aware of that, we are very fortunate. It is great for the agency, but it is hard for us. We appreciate your discussion and thoughtfulness when we consider these promotions.

Colonel Bryant stated the next position is ASP Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D Cross, Lee and St. Francis Counties. My recommendation to the Commission would be TFC Levi Fleming. Commissioner Benton made a motion that TFC Levi Fleming be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D Cross, Lee and St. Francis Counties. Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated she would like to congratulate all of you who were just recently promoted.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m.

With no more business, Commissioner Basore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Benton seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairperson Christenson adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Commission Chairperson

Commission Secretary