

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING  
April 09, 2020

The Arkansas State Police Commission met via conference call on Thursday, April 09, 2020 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

MEMBERS ON CONFERENCE CALL:

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

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Tim K’Nuckles
Major Charles Hubbard	Major Lindsey Williams
Major Jeff Drew	Emma French
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

J. R. Hankins, DPS

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on March 31, 2020.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated the minutes from the March 12, 2020 meeting have been distributed. Commissioner Hinkle made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2020 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Chairperson Christenson asked if they will be receiving the division reports in the mail. Donna Humphries stated she would mail those to the commissioners.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – Emma French

Ms. French gave an overview of the reports. Ms. French stated the big thing to report is that the Governor cut the budget for FY20 and our cut was \$5 Million. We took that by reducing some M & O expenses, we also reduced some fringe, in how fringe is calculated we have some savings there that we could take. We cut out all travel, there will be no more travel for the rest of this year. Then we had some revenue that we brought in from the auto operator license and all of those things together made up our budget cut. There has also been an announcement that for FY21 there is going to be a cut and I think, we don’t have an exact number yet, but I think our amount is going to be a little bit less than what this cut was.

Commissioner Edwards asked if we have saved a bunch of money on fuel with these low prices. Ms. French stated we did have some fuel savings and we had to use it to pay some other bills.

Administrative Services – Major Charles Hubbard

Major Hubbard presented an oral summary of the written report. He began by reporting the Personnel transactions for the month. The uniformed noncommissioned transactions include five new hires, two promotions, and one termination. The commissioned transactions include two terminations and two promotions. We currently have seven military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, March paid claims were \$810,422 a decrease of \$85,673 from last month and the fund balance is \$700,165 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$7,218,687. Discount savings for January were 66% and discount savings for February were 68%.

Regarding the 2020A Troop School, we have 34 recruits and they are currently in week 11.

Due to the unprecedented threat of COVID-19 and in compliance with current restrictions and guidelines, on Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup>, Colonel Bryant authorized the Troop School 2020-A Recruits to enter into a self-paced study program beginning Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>. This program was designed to allow recruits to continue training from a remote location such as their residence. The initial phase of the program will last 3 weeks or approximately 120 hours. The revised curriculum includes training classes that were already part of the original schedule and meet CLEST requirements. The initial phase of the program includes 80 hours of training and 40 hours of comp time. Recruits have been divided into 9 groups. Each group is monitored and mentored by an assigned ASP training staff member. The program is designed to encourage good work ethic and accountability while providing mandatory training.

A second phase of the self-paced study program will begin the week of April 20<sup>th</sup> and run through June 13<sup>th</sup>. This phase will include internet-based correspondence between ASP instructors and all of the recruits. The interaction will take place using a program called Zoom. Several prerequisite classes will be administered using the Zoom Program. In addition to the Zoom training courses, Recruits will begin a Field Training Program with Troopers in the field. On May 10<sup>th</sup> the recruits will return to the academy and remain onsite until the conclusion of troop school on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to keep the 2020-A recruit training moving forward using creative measures that instill the core values and excellence of the Arkansas State Police.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated some were confused when they actually went home the first time and Colonel Bryant explained that this is the best way to go about it and the Troop School is still in operation.

Commissioner Teague asked have you had any further reductions in the school. Colonel Bryant stated we had one that left, we were at 35 and he left and it was right after the Hot Springs officer was killed. I think that person decided that maybe law enforcement was not for them.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairperson Christenson asked Colonel Bryant if there was any new business. Colonel Bryant stated no new business but we do need to go into Executive Session.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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 Allison seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:14 a.m.

Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting back to order at 10:37 a.m. and asked Colonel Bryant if he had a promotion recommendation for the commission.

Colonel Bryant stated yes ma'am, Madam Chairperson, we have one position to consider today. Colonel Bryant stated the position for your consideration today is Highway Patrol Division Sergeant, Troop A, Pulaski County. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Nicolas Brown. Commissioners Basore /Allison made a motion that Corporal Nicholas Brown be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A, Pulaski County. Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on May 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. and it will be conducted as a conference call meeting again.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated the appeal hearing for John Talley is postponed until the coronavirus pandemic is over.

With no more business, Commissioner Teague made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairperson Christenson adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

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Commission Chairperson

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Commission Secretary