

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
September 12, 2019

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Jane Christenson, Vice-Chairperson
Commissioner Neff Basore, Secretary
Commissioner Bill Benton
Commissioner Steve Edwards

MEMBER ABSENT:

Commissioner Bob Burns, Chairman
Commissioner Jeffery Teague
Commissioner John Allison

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Shawn Garner
Lt. Colonel Tim K’Nuckles	Major Charles Hubbard
Major Mike Foster	Major Lindsey Williams
Major Jeff Drew	Major Mark Hollingsworth
Captain Randall Dias	Captain David Moore
Captain Jason Aaron	Sherry Woods
Jenna Castleberry	Emma French
Lieutenant Scott Russell	Robin Gifford
Lieutenant Mike Moyer	Lieutenant Darran Austin
Lieutenant Jamie Gravier	Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads
Captain John D. Carter	Bill Sadler
Phillip Warriner	Mary Claire McLaurin
Kelli LaPorte	Donna Humphries

OTHERS PRESENT:

J. R. Hankins, DPS
Sara Farris, Attorney General’s Office

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Edwards led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on September 4, 2019.

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson stated she would like to make a comment on Commission Chairman Burns. She stated she visited with him last Friday and he is recouping at home after his rehab in Little Rock. He sounded stronger and stronger, but I know he misses all of you and appreciates your cards and calls. He is missed by the ASP and the ASP Commissioners and we hope he gets back soon.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2019 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Leslie T. Beckwith efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-two years, eleven months and thirteen days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Leslie T. Beckwith retired from this department July 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 Leslie T. Beckwith 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, September 12, 2019, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 21, Serial Number PKS031, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Leslie T. Beckwith efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-two years, eleven months and thirteen days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Leslie T. Beckwith retired from this department July 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 Leslie T. Beckwith 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, September 12, 2019 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC529275, that Corporal Leslie T. Beckwith has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Leslie T. Beckwith 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 Basore 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 there is not a lot to apprise you of, we are just watching our budget and watching things as we go along. We have started our risk assessment process, that is a process the agency is required to do every two years and we are required to identify our risks and make sure that we have internal controls in place to mitigate those as much as possible. So we have started that and it is about a 4 month process.

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson asked who the assessment get turned in to. Ms. French stated DFA has an office of about 20 people that review them for each agency and make recommendations.

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 civilian transactions include five new hires, one promotion, two transfers, six voluntary resignations, one retirement, and three extra help end assignments. The commissioned transactions include thirty-eight lateral transfers, two voluntary resignations, sixteen promotions to Corporal, and one reinstatement. We have eight military deployments currently.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, August paid claims were \$1,007,087 an increase of \$109,083 from last month and the fund balance is \$117,305 lower than last month for a total fund balance of \$6,683,311. The average discount savings for the month was 79%.

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson asked Major Hubbard, can you tell us about the next Troop School. Major Hubbard stated the 2020 Troop School Campaign is continuing as of August 23, 2019 we cut off the initial contact forms and we had received about 383 at that point. Between August 12 and September 9, we have administered 294 ARPAT Tests and between September 3 and September 9, we administered 220 written exams. The next step is the Polygraph examinations and then the background reviews. Troop School will begin on January 26, 2020.

Commissioner Basore asked how many applicants we had for the last school, how does the 383 compare to the last time. Major Hubbard stated we had about 412 for the last school, we are down a little but are still pretty excited about what we received during that time period. I think that the recruiting process went well. Commissioner Basore asked can you track where most of the applicants came through, was it online, was it social media, or was it direct contact. Major Hubbard stated I think it was a combination, you know we recruited pretty hard through social media this time and we also had some commercials that we used. Commissioner Basore stated you had open houses too, were they well attended. Major Hubbard stated they were, we had a pretty good turn out and we did receive a number of applicants through those and there were not big bulks at any given point that is why we push the entire campaign to the cutoff date.

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson asked if there are any repeats that didn't make it the last time. Major Hubbard stated we have had some applicants that did not finish the last time and they have reapplied. There is not a lot of them but there are a few.

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson turned the meeting over to Colonel Bryant. Colonel Bryant stated Madam Chairman we do have some promotions to consider today, so we need to go into Executive Session. Before we do that, one of our attorneys, Elaine Lee, she has gone to DHS and we have a new attorney at state police, her name is Kelli LaPorte. Colonel Bryant asked Kelli to please stand up. Kelli will be taking over the duties of Elaine, including conducting the appeal hearings on any personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson asked for a motion to go into 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 Edwards seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:11 a.m.

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson called the meeting back to order at 10:45 a.m. and stated we have some business to take care, first we have two appeal hearings coming up. The first one will be November 14, 2019 for Nathan Clayton and our meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. and then the hearing will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Then we have moved the David Harrell Hearing to January 9, 2020, 9:00 a.m. will be our meeting and then 10:00 a.m. will be the hearing. Those are two changes that have come up.

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson stated Colonel Bryant I believe you have some promotion recommendations to make to the Commission.

Colonel Bryant stated we have three promotions today to consider. The first one is the ASP Sergeant position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A, Lonoke County. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Charles Lewis for the position of Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Corporal Charles Lewis be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Benton seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next promotion is ASP Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H, Franklin, Logan, & Scott Counties. My recommendation to the Commission would be TFC Derek Nietert for the position of Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H. Commissioner Basore made a motion that TFC Derek Nietert be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the last promotion is ASP Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Crash Reconstruction Coordinator. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Greg Dycus for the position of Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Crash Reconstruction. Commissioner Benton made a motion that Corporal Greg Dycus be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson stated at this time I would like to congratulate all the troopers that have been promoted at this meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Vice Chairman Christenson stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

With no more business, Commission Vice Chairman Christenson asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed. Commission Vice Chairman Christenson adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary