

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
December 10, 2015

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, December 10, 2015 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Vice Chairman Guinn called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Frank Guinn, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Dr. Lewis Shepherd, Secretary
Commissioner Jane Christenson
Commissioner John Allison
Commissioner Bob Burns
Commissioner Neff Basore
Commissioner Bill Benton

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Donna Humphries
Lieutenant Colonel Tim K’Nuckles	Major Lindsey Williams
Lieutenant Colonel Shawn Garner	Major Stan Witt
Major Henry LaMar	Captain David Sims
Sergeant Stuart Woodward	Emma French
Major Mike Foster	Jenna Castleberry
Lieutenant David Lafferty	Captain Charles Hubbard
Lieutenant Brady Gore	Lieutenant Scott Woodward
Janet Chappelle	Captain Forrest Marks
Harmony Daniels	Sherry Woods
Lieutenant Ronnie Qualls	Gary Glisson
Captain Jeff Drew	Lieutenant Mark Hollingsworth
Sergeant Jeff Whitlock	Robin Gifford
Captain Dale Saffold	Sergeant Mike Moyer
Caitlin Sparks	Sergeant Bobby Brown
Corporal Chris Harper	Corporal John Talley
Mary King	Corporal John Rhone
Captain Alex Finger	Sergeant Greg Smith
Corporal Chase Melder	Lieutenant John Carter
Sergeant Jamie Gravier	Lieutenant Brant Tosh
Lieutenant Jason Aaron	Corporal Jason Martin
TFC Elizabeth Chapman	Sergeant Ray Gentry
Sergeant Scott Russell	Sergeant Wanda James
Lieutenant David Cooper	Captain Jackie Clark
Alexis Winters	Jackie Baker
Captain Steve Coppinger	Captain Lance King
Captain Mike Hagar	Captain Wesley Smithee
Lieutenant Kyle Drown	Sergeant Shannon Shepherd
Captain Bryan Davis	
Lieutenant Darren Austin	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Michael Krenn, DFA – Budget	John Holmes
Nga Mahfouz – AG Office	Patti Williams
Emily Williams	Ryan Williams
Sandra Rhone	Stephanie Melder
Rebecca Sims	Bryan Sims
Candice Whitlock	Darrell Winston – PCSO
Butch Heath – ASPF	Joe Thielke – ASPF
Randy Lann – ASPF	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Basore led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on December 01, 2015.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioner Christenson seconded and the motion passed.

WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Major Henry LaMar presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Scotty Dodd efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty years, nine months, and three days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Scotty Dodd retired from this department October 31, 2015;

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 Scotty Dodd 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, December 10, 2015, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him his Glock Model 21, Serial Number PKS119, 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. Commissioners Basore/Shepherd seconded and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Scotty Dodd efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty years, nine months, and three days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Scotty Dodd retired from this department October 31, 2015;

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 Scotty Dodd 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, December 10, 2015, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC535713, that Corporal Scotty Dodd has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Scotty Dodd be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Major Lindsey Williams promoting him to Major in the Regulatory and Building Operations Division.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Captain David Sims promoting him to Captain in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop E.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Jeff Whitlock promoting him to Sergeant in the Director's Office, Office of Professional Standards.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Captain Dale Saffold gave an overview of the incident for which Corporal Chase Melder was nominated for an Official Commendation.

Captain Saffold stated that Corporal Chase Melder is one of our K-9 handlers in the state. On January 16, 2015, while patrolling Pope County on Interstate 40, Corporal Melder stopped a vehicle for a moving violation. Upon further investigation, he asked for consent to search the vehicle and Corporal Melder with assistance from his K-9 located almost 2.5 pounds of cocaine on the two suspects. Both subjects were taken into custody and charges were filed. In 2014, in addition to numerous drug seizures, Corporal Melder was responsible for one of the largest currency seizure in the United States, when he made a traffic stop and recovered over \$1.8 million dollars in U.S. currency.

To give an understanding of the kind of person Corporal Melder is Captain Saffold would have to tell the story of Corporal Melder picking his K-9's name. Shortly after Corporal Melder went and picked up his K-9, Captain Saffold received a phone call. During the phone conversation Corporal Melder told Captain Saffold that he had decided on the name for his K-9. He wanted to name his canine Pavatt in remembrance of our first Arkansas State Trooper that was killed in the line of duty. This was Corporal Melder's way to continue to honor Trooper Sidney Pavatt's memory.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Corporal Chase Melder.

Captain Forrest Marks gave an overview of the incident for which Corporal John Talley was nominated for an Official Commendation.

Captain Marks stated on the evening of March 30, 2015, Corporal Talley was contacted by an acquaintance about a disturbance that he was personally involved in with the acquaintance. Corporal Talley was off duty that day and at his residence. During the phone conversation through texts messages the conversation started going in the direction of suicide. Corporal Talley again off duty took the initiative to start toward the residence in Texarkana. As Corporal Talley was in route it turned bad, a disturbance occurred and the Texarkana Police Department was called to the residence. Texarkana Police Department arrived, attempted to get the subject to come out peacefully and he would not. Corporal Talley then arrived at the residence and was able to talk the subject into coming out of the home and surrendering peacefully and nobody was harmed. While off duty Corporal Talley took the initiative to assist this individual, for that Captain Marks nominated him for an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Corporal John Talley.

Captain Forrest Marks gave an overview of the incident for which TFC Christopher Harper was nominated for an Official Commendation.

Captain Marks stated on April 19, 2015, Hot Spring County jail had a subject escape from the jail. He was in jail on capital murder charges and criminal charges to commit capital murder and was considered very dangerous. A man hunt was initiated and Hot Spring County requested ASP's helicopter.

Captain Marks had made arrangements for TFC Christopher Harper and two other Troop K troopers to respond. Around 2:20 in the morning the sheriff's office decided to call off the man hunt. ASP didn't feel it was in the best interest of the citizens to just completely abandon them. Captain Marks met with the troopers and I ask them to just simply keep up their fight in case any leads developed. TFC Harper not only did that but he took the initiative and sought out the family members of the suspect. TFC Harper developed a rapport with them, and it was through that rapport that he eventually learned where the subject was hiding. He learned that the subject was hiding in an abandon RV that was located on a lot. TFC Harper and the other two troopers surrounded the RV and were able to take the murder suspect into custody.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to TFC Christopher Harper.

Lieutenant Brady Gore gave an overview of the incident for which Telecom Specialist Mary Beth King was nominated for an Official Commendation.

Lieutenant Gore stated Telecom Specialist Mary Beth King reported to work on May 6, 2015, at Troop G Headquarters for her 11:00 pm to 7:00 am shift. The operator Ms. King was relieving notified her that Hope Police Department was searching the Hope area for a suspect that was wanted in connection with a homicide that had occurred a few hours earlier in McCurtain, Oklahoma. It was believed that the suspect was in the Hope area, however further details and a description of the suspect were unknown. Ms. King took the initiative to locate a photograph of the suspect on Facebook. The following morning while driving home from work, Ms. King observed a person that matched the description of the Facebook photo she had found walking on Highway 32 just north of Hope. Ms. King then turned around and passed the suspect again to verify that indeed it was the suspect. She notified Troop G's dispatch which then notified Trooper David Hamilton to investigate. After Trooper Hamilton made contact with the subject it was confirmed that it was the homicide suspect and the suspect was then taken into custody. Ms. King needs to be commended for taking the initiative to locate the photograph of the subject and after working a long graveyard shift going out of her way to verify that the subject she observed walking was in fact the suspect they had been searching for.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Telecom Specialist Mary Beth King.

Sergeant Ray Gentry gave an overview of the incident for which Corporal John Rhone was nominated for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Gentry stated on June 10, 2015, ASP received a request from the Arkansas Department of Human Services for a Morgan Nick Alert. Corporal John Rhone responded to the Arkansas Department of Health office in Lewisville, Arkansas. While at the office Corporal Rhone learned that the Department of Human Services took custody of a two year old female for allegations of physical abuse and parental drug use. Arkansas Department of Health took the mother and the child to the Department of Human Services office. While at the Department of Human Services office a worker allowed the mother to exit the building to smoke with the child accompanying the mother, while outside the mother fled the scene on foot with the child. Law enforcement officers were notified and attempted to locate the mother and the child. The incident did not meet the Morgan Nick Alert guidelines. Corporal Rhone assisted in the search in the Lewisville area. On Saturday, July 11, 2015 there was a report of a stolen vehicle. The complainant advised officials that the fleeing mother had taken the van. On Sunday, July 12, Corporal Rhone interviewed the father of the child who was incarcerated at the Miller County Jail. The father stated that the mother of the child had family in Phoenix, Arizona. The father also stated the suspect had stolen \$200 from his mother. On Tuesday, July 14 the stolen van was located in Hope, Arkansas. Corporal Rhone responded to Main Street and confirmed the abandon vehicle was the stolen van. Corporal Rhone was very familiar with the area and decided to check with Amtrak train. When he contacted the Amtrak Police they confirmed the mother and child were on the train in route to Arizona. Amtrak Police then notified FBI in Phoenix, Arizona and Corporal Rhone confirmed that the investigation was on going. An order was issued

for the child and arrest warrant for the mother was issued. FBI, Amtrak Police and Arizona's Department of Human Services met the train in Arizona. The child and mother were taken into custody. The child was turned over to Arizona Department of Human Services. Corporal Rhone responded to the call and remained vigilant and spent numerous hours investigating this case. Many of Corporal Rhone's contacts were made after hours and on the weekend. Although the case did not meet the Morgan Nick criteria, Corporal Rhone assumed the lead in the investigation to ensure the safe recovery of the child. Corporal Rhone recognizing alternative transportation options in the area directly resulted in the safe recovery of the child.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Corporal John Rhone.

Sergeant Scott Russell gave an overview of the incident for which Corporal Jason Martin was nominated for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Russell stated the Phillips County Sheriff's Office contacted Arkansas State Police on June 27, 2015 and said they had a man with a gun inside a house. Deputies had responded on a welfare concern. It was relayed to the ASP that the man pointed the gun at the deputies and the deputies retreated and set up a perimeter. Sergeant Russell said that he responded to the scene and started gathering information; of course thinking SWAT may needed to be called, negotiators, the whole nine yards. When he arrived he found out that the man actually had pointed the gun at himself, not at the deputy as had been originally thought. Corporal Martin contacted Sergeant Russell, on his off day, and said he was on his way to assist. Corporal Martin said there was no reason to call in the on-call agent that lived three hours away. Corporal Martin showed up and started to discuss what needed to be done. We were faced with no legal obligation as the man had committed no crimes; he's in his own home. Even though he's threatening to harm himself, what legal obligation did we have to enter the home? What is our legal obligation if we walked away and let him harm himself? No one was able to give a clear cut answer to that. Corporal Martin was not willing to take "No" or "I don't know" for an answer. Corporal Martin was on the phone calling this man constantly, even tried contacting him over the loud speaker on the PA continuously over and over. For a couple of hours we were still discussing what do we do here, we have had no response from the house, we do not know if this man is alive and he may have even gotten out of the house before we got there we do not know. We setup another plan; Corporal Martin volunteered to go around to the back door. We turned on some sirens and loud speakers to divert the man's attention because he has a high powered rifle. We grab shields and go around to the back of the house in the dark and the back door is open. Corporal Martin is able to initiate verbal contact with the man with the rifle, he got the man to respond and in after few minutes he was able to get the man to agree to answer the phone. Corporal Martin and the other officers back out of the house and went back to the cars where Corporal Martin called him on the phone and he picked up. Corporal Martin talked to him a little bit and then asked him if he still had the gun. The man responded yes it is pointed right between my eyes. Most people would have stopped and said what do I do now; Corporal Martin never missed a beat. Within five minutes Corporal Martin has convinced the 58 year-old man who had just lost his wife of nearly 40 years and felt he had nothing to live for. Corporal Martin convinced that man to put the gun down and walk outside and once outside, Corporal Martin continued to talk to him and showing him empathy and talked that man to the back of an ambulance and the man rode with the ambulance and voluntarily checked himself into a local behavioral health unit. Based on his actions that night, Corporal Martin stood up and basically saved a man's life.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Corporal Jason Martin.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Report – Emma French

Ms. French gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission. She stated we are right about where we should be we really do not have anything exceptional to tell you, we will just continue to watch everything.

Administrative Services – Lieutenant Mike Kennedy

Lieutenant Mike Kennedy 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 three new hires, one promotion, one voluntary resignation, one demotion and one lateral transfer. The commissioned transactions included five promotions, six lateral transfers and one retirement. We currently have two department members on military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, the balance for the month is \$7.5 million. The average discount savings for the month of November was 69%. We expect to receive \$501,000 reinsurance monies back in the plan hopefully before the end of the year. We will continue to monitor the fund balance, claims, and plan utilization for the month.

Lieutenant Mike Kennedy announced to the ASP Commissioners that the Arkansas State Police are now on social media and introduced TFC Liz Chapman who will be handling the social media for the agency.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Guinn stated he would like Major/Colonel Stan Witt to stand up. This is his last Commission Meeting, he has been with the state police a long time, will be retiring at the end of the month. He will begin working for the ASP Foundation and will do wonderful things there too.

Also, I would like to recognize Janet Chappelle, this is her last Commission Meeting, she is retiring at the end of the year and she has been a tremendous asset to the state police and she will be a tremendous asset to the organization she going to work for. Thanks to both of them for everything they have done for the Arkansas State Police.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commission Vice Chairman Guinn announced the Commission would go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Shepherd made a motion to go into Executive Session, Commissioner Burns seconded and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:39 a.m. and the open meeting resumed at 11:20 a.m.

Commission Vice Chairman Guinn asked if Colonel Bryant has any recommendations. Colonel Bryant stated he wanted to announce some lateral transfers that he will execute today. The first one will be the Captain position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop K, Hot Springs; he would like to lateral Captain Forrest Marks. The second lateral transfer will be for the Sergeant position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A, Saline County; he would like to lateral Sergeant Donald Johnson. The next position is a Sergeant in Highway Patrol Division, Troop H, Franklin, Logan and Scott Counties; he would like to lateral Sergeant Eric Henson. The last lateral transfer will be for the Sergeant position in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company A, Little Rock; he would like to lateral Sergeant Anthony Todd Quick.

Colonel Bryant recommended the Commission consider Lieutenant John Carter for the vacant Captain position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop C. Commissioner Allison made a motion that Lieutenant Carter be promoted to Captain, Commissioner Benton seconded and the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

The next monthly meeting of the Commission will be held Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

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With no more business, Commission Vice Chairman Guinn asked for motion to adjourn. Commissioner Burns made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed. Commission Vice Chairman Guinn adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Commission Vice Chairman

Commission Secretary