

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

December 11, 2014

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Futrell called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Woody Futrell, Chairman
Commissioner Frank Guinn, Secretary
Commissioner John Allison
Commissioner Dr. Lewis Shepherd
Commissioner Bob Burns
Commissioner Jane Christenson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner Wallace Fowler, Vice-Chairman

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Stan Witt	Lt. Colonel Tim K’Nuckles
Donna Humphries	Captain Lindsey Williams
Bridgett Cronk	Sergeant Kim Fontaine
J.R. Hankins	Captain Ron Stayton
Major Henry LaMar	Captain Mike Hagar
Sheila Standley	Captain Jeff Drew
Lieutenant David Sims	Lieutenant Rick Neill
Captain Steve Coppinger	Sergeant Stuart Woodward
Lieutenant David Moore	Emma French
Jackie Baker	Sherry Woods
Harmony Daniels	Alexis Winters
Lieutenant David Lafferty	Lieutenant Scott Woodward
Debbie Meachum	Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads
Corporal Ocie Rateliff	Captain Bryan Davis
Melinda Bowman	Gary Glisson
Sergeant Todd Shaw	Janet Chappelle
Captain Lance King	Kasey King
Captain Mark Allen	Captain Wesley Smithee
Major Mike Foster	Corporal Michael Bain
Lieutenant Charles Hubbard	Lieutenant Brady Gore
Major Shawn Garner	Captain Forrest Marks
Barbara Harvey	Sergeant Wanda James
Sergeant Michael Moyer	Sergeant Paulette Ward
Lieutenant Darran Austin	Lieutenant Charles Watson
Captain Jim Howington	Lieutenant Kyle Drown
Lieutenant Jeff Sheeler	Captain Alex Finger
Donna Cox	Tamara Newsom
Mary Jo Saling	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Meredith Rebsamen – AG’s Office	Larry Robinson – Governor’s Office
Benson Cashion – ASPF	Joe Thielke – ASPF
Butch Heath - ASPF	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Guinn led the pledge of allegiance.

Commission Chairman Futrell welcomed all the guests, ASP personnel and guests.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on December 1, 2014.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Christenson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2014 monthly Commission Meeting. Commissioner Burns seconded the motion. The motion passed.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Report – Emma French

Ms. French gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission. She stated we are at 46%. We are doing just fine. After the first of the year, we're going to do an evaluation and look at each of our areas to see what we need to do for the end of the year and see what we need to do to get ourselves lined up. Commissioner Allison asked what we were going to do with the excess money. Ms. French stated we do have a little bit of fuel savings, about \$291,000 right now. She said it will be distributed throughout the agency.

Commission Chairman Futrell asked if any of the Commissioners had questions to ask of Ms. French, but there were none.

Administrative Services – Lt. Mike Kennedy

Lt. 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 of November; we had six civilian new hires, one civilian voluntary resignation, two retirements, three promotions and one termination. The Commission transactions included one resignation, two promotions, four lateral transfers, and four retirements. At this time we currently have five military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, November paid claims are down from last month in the amount of approximately \$18,000 for a monthly paid total of \$943,408. The Fund Balance is \$76,000 higher this month than last with an ending Fund Balance \$9,104,319. Greg Hatcher is here today. He would like to give you a brief update on the status of the Health Plan.

Mr. Hatcher stated he just wanted to give an update of where we are claims wise on the Health Plan. Back in 2009 we were with CoreSource, and our claims were \$10 million. We made the change that year to go to United or UMR, and the following year our claims dropped \$2.4 million to \$8.1 million, so we had a 23% drop in claims that year. The next year they went to \$9.5 up 17%, the next year they dropped to \$8.3 million, down 13%, the next year back up to \$9.4, up 13%, and this year they are at \$11,372 which is up 20%.

So what I'm telling you, the bottom line is over the last two years our claims have increased 33%. This past year when we had a 20% rise in claims and we had two factors going on. One, we had to change from United to QualChoice due to the State bid specs. And it's a little hard to tell what's going on there just yet, but we've had 10 really large claims. So, one reason I wanted to share a little history on the 2011 and 2012 claims, we went down for sure when we went from CoreSource to United, and notice we're going up here and down here which is sometimes the way it works on a self funded plan depending on the large claims we've had. But it's hard to have 33% increase in your claims over the last two years and have no increase in funding. The last time we had an increase in funding was in 2013, we had a 5% increase from \$745 per trooper to \$782, and we did not have an increase in 2014 or 2015.

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So, one of the first things we want to do is meet with the new Director and say based on this record year of claims in 2014. It will be hard to make things stay the same and the health plan sustain itself, if we continue to have claims rise but we don't have contributions rise toward the claims rise. It may very well be that a couple of these big claims really messed us up which they did and it will get better, but we need to watch them.

The other thing that we're going to look at is ways to control our plan costs, whether it's increase deductible, copays, things like that, so, the bottom line is control claims costs. Make some changes there and increase funding, because in today's health care world where we continue to all shift to the private employer, you just can't stay static up there. But again, we didn't want to come to you with a whole bunch of recommendations without meeting with our new Director because it needs to start there. We will be going to work on the plan after the first of the year.

Commission Chairman Futrell thanked Greg Hatcher for visiting and updating the ASP Commission on the ASP Health Plan.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Chairman Futrell asked if there was any new business, and Colonel Witt advised they needed to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Commission Chairman Futrell asked if any of the Commissioners had anything to discuss.

Commissioner Shepherd advised he had noticed an extremely large number of accidents that have happened in Troop K, specifically on Highway 7, about a two or three mile stretch on either side of Bismark. We have lots of students, faculty, and staff members who travel that highway daily to come to work or to attend classes at Henderson. I believe there have been about five fatalities over the course of maybe five or six weeks. As a matter of fact one of the first fatalities was that of a female student who was on her way to class. The stretch of highway is one that's really not conducive to a large number of accidents on first sight when you look at it. I would request that we do some sort of study or I don't know what the cause of the accidents are, many of those are head-ons. He continued by saying he didn't know if it is a study needed or just increased patrols there, but it's an extremely dangerous stretch of highway. He said he noticed an article in the local newspaper where someone had actually written a letter to the editor with their concerns of driving that highway because she takes her grandchildren to school traveling the stretch twice a day. If we could have someone to actually look into that to see what the cause is.

Commission Chairman Futrell advised 54 years ago he went to Henderson and played ball there, and we had Mrs. Henderson and a good athlete get killed on that highway one Thursday before a game on Saturday.

Commission Chairman Futrell stated before they go into Executive Session, he would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and very, very safe Happy New Year on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:21 a.m. and returned at 11:04 a.m.

Commission Chairman Futrell asked Ms. Humphries to introduce our guests, and she recognized Joe Thielke, Benson Cashion, and Butch Heath from the Arkansas State Police Foundation and Meredith Rebsamen from the Attorney General's Office.

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Commission Chairman Futrell asked Colonel Witt if there were any recommendations. Colonel Witt recommended the Commission consider Corporal Jeff Long for the vacant Sergeant position in the Director's Office, Executive Protection Section. Commissioner Guinn made a motion that Corporal Jeff Long be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Allison seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Witt recommended the Commission consider Corporal Michael Bain for the vacant Sergeant position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A. Commissioner Christenson made a motion that Corporal Michael Bain be promoted to Sergeant, Commissioner Allison seconded and the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

The next monthly meeting of the Commission will be held Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Shepherd announced a quick response to his earlier request; he said Captain Allen has already begun a study on that portion of Highway 7 which had been discussed.

Commissioner Allison made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Commissioner Christenson. The motion passed and Commission Chairman Futrell announced the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Commission Chairman

Commission Secretary