

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

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

Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting to order at 10:03 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  
Major Jason Aaron  
Donna Humphries  
Major Charles Hubbard  
John Smith, DPS – Shared Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sara Farris, Attorney General's Office

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on July 07, 2020.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated the minutes from the June 11, 2020 regular meeting have been distributed and I will take a motion for approval.

Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2020 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Benton seconded and the motion passed.

WEAPONS RESOLUTIONS:

Major Jason Aaron presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Sergeant Darrell Lowry Astin efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-seven years, six months and nine days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Darrell Lowry Astin retired from this department May 31, 2020;

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: Sergeant Darrell Lowry Astin 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, July 09, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA601, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Hinkle 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: Sergeant Darrell Lowry Astin efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-seven years, six months and nine days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Darrell Lowry Astin retired from this department May 31, 2020;

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: Sergeant Darrell Lowry Astin 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, July 09, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D605872M, that Sergeant Darrell Lowry Astin has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Sergeant Darrell Lowry Astin 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 Teague seconded and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Steven Bewley efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of nineteen years, ten months and twenty-two days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Steven Bewley retired from this department May 31, 2020;

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 Steven Bewley 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, July 09, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA238, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Steven Bewley efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of nineteen years, ten months and twenty-two days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Steven Bewley retired from this department May 31, 2020;

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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 Steven Bewley 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, July 09, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D591184M, that Corporal Steven Bewley has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Steven Bewley be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – John Smith

Mr. Smith stated we just finished out the Fiscal Year 20 and we had a fund balance of a little over \$82,000 remaining. We always have to leave some money in our fund balance to cover invoices that come in after the first of the year that were for goods received the prior year. So we ended in a good place and we started off well.

Commissioner Allison asked what the total budget cuts is, Madam Chairperson, as we are moving forward. Madam Chairperson stated about budget cuts, who would have the answer to that. John Smith stated the budget cuts we took in FY20 were actually given back to us on the last day of the year, so I believe and I may have to get you accurate numbers on this but I believe State Police took about a \$4 million budget cut and we got most of that back on the last day. We didn't get to spend it but we did realize that money in the end. Commissioner Allison stated so does our new budget for the next 12 months, did we budget less or did we budget recovering that \$4 million. John Smith stated we recovered it, we recovered it. Commissioner Allison stated I understand that we recovered it, but in going forward is our budget cut? John Smith stated it is not.

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. There were no uniformed noncommissioned transactions this month. The commissioned transactions include three retirements, and one termination. We currently have seven military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, June paid claims were \$748,490 that's an increase of \$20,768 from last month. The fund balance is \$154,628 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$7,620,123. The discount savings for May was 73%.

Just an update on our Recruit School, the recruits for Class 2020A have graduated and will begin their final phase of training with their Field Training Officers in the next couple of weeks.

We have already began our recruiting campaign for the 2021A Troop School and that troop school will be for Certified Officers and it will last 12 weeks. The school is scheduled to begin on January 10, 2021 with the graduation to be held on April 1, 2021.

Commission Chairperson Christenson ask how many are you expecting for this class? Major Hubbard stated we are hoping, of course we always try to get as many as the budget will allow, but we are hoping for 40-50.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated am I correct to say these recruits when they get through school are they going to be stationed in the area that they live in now. Major Hubbard stated we always try to work with them the best we can to try to get them in those areas they selected. They are provided the opportunity to give us three counties that they prefer to live in and then we compare that to our critical vacancies around the state and we do the best we can to try to get them as close to those areas as we can.

Commissioner Benton stated back on the insurance, after your savings from prescriptions and changes that we made back in January or so, can you see a trend. Are we saving money on our insurance with the programs that we changed? Major Hubbard stated I would say yes,

we are tracking that and are going to try to get some data put together for the Colonel to take a look at since we are half way through the year. From what we have seen there is some savings there, mainly based upon the administrative costs that we have saved. A lot of that administrative cost was reduced based upon the assistance that we received through that transition. Hopefully we can get some numbers to the Colonel. Commissioner Benton stated okay, if you could give us as we move into the year after 6 months, if you could tell us how that is going, I would be interested to know. Major Hubbard stated yes sir.

#### 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 to discuss 3 promotions.

#### 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 10:14 a.m.

Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting back to order at 10:42 a.m. and stated Colonel Bryant I believe you have some promotions for us.

Colonel Bryant stated yes ma'am we three promotions to consider today. The first one is ASP Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H, Fort Smith. Colonel Bryant stated Madam Chairman and Commissioners, I would like to use my Director's discretion and do a lateral transfer of Lieutenant Matthew Toon from Troop L back to, Troop H, Fort Smith.

Colonel Bryant stated the second position to consider is ASP Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company A. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Randall Murphy. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Corporal Randall Murphy be promoted to Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company A. Commissioner Allison seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next position to consider is ASP Sergeant in the Administrative Services Division, Training, ASP State Firearms Officer. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Chad Staley. Commissioner Benton made a motion that Corporal Chad Staley be promoted to Sergeant in the Administrative Services Division, Training. Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated she would like to congratulate all those who were promoted. There were a lot of good candidates and we congratulate all of you.

#### NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated they were scheduling upcoming appeal hearings. The Talley appeal hearing will be in September and the Bussey appeal hearing will be in November. She stated if we need to change those as the time gets closer, we will whether or not we will be able to meet in person.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. and at this time we are hoping to meet at Headquarters but will wait until further notice on that to see if we are able to.

With no more business, Commissioner Basore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Hinkle seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairperson Christenson adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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Commission Chairperson

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Commission Secretary