

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
August 13, 2020

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Commissioner Jane Christenson, Chairperson
Commissioner Neff Basore, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Steve Edwards
Commissioner Jeffery Teague
Commissioner Jim Hinkle

MEMBERS ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Commissioner John Allison
Commissioner Bill Benton, Secretary

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL ATTENDING:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Major Charles Hubbard
Major Lindsey Williams	Major Mark Hollingsworth
Donna Humphries	Jonathan Nettles
Bill Sadler	

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Smith, DPS – Shared Services	Jami Cook, Secretary DPS
Jackie Baker, DPS	J. R. Hankins, DPS

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on August 05, 2020.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated you have received the minutes from the July 09, 2020 regular meeting, does anybody have any questions on those. Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 09, 2020 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Teague seconded and the motion passed.

WEAPONS RESOLUTIONS:

Major Mark Hollingsworth presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Sergeant Harold Mike Middleton efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-seven years, seven months and twenty-nine days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Harold Mike Middleton retired from this department June 30, 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 Harold Mike Middleton 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, August 13, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 19, Serial Number BMFZ718, 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 Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Sergeant Harold Mike Middleton efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-seven years, seven months and twenty-nine days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Harold Mike Middleton retired from this department June 30, 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 Harold Mike Middleton 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, August 13, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC614056, that Sergeant Harold Mike Middleton has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Sergeant Harold Mike Middleton 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. Commissioners Hinkle/Basore seconded and the motion passed.

Major Lindsey Williams presented the following resolution for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Sergeant Lynn Breckenridge efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-one years, ten months and eighteen days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Lynn Breckenridge retired from this department June 30, 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 Lynn Breckenridge 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, August 13, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 19, Serial Number BMFZ747, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Edwards 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: Sergeant Lynn Breckenridge efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of thirty-one years, ten months and eighteen days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Lynn Breckenridge retired from this department June 30, 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 Lynn Breckenridge 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, August 13, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D614559M, that Sergeant Lynn Breckenridge has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Sergeant Lynn Breckenridge 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.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Michael Phillips efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-three years, one month and eleven days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Michael Phillips retired from this department June 30, 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 Michael Phillips 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, August 13, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 19, Serial Number BMFZ788, 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 Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

Commission Chairperson Christenson state those are a lot of years added up, congratulations.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – John Smith

Mr. Smith stated the overall budget that we got, which we just started FY21 with, was right at \$123 million. Our fuel costs which we budgeted this year, we were able to reduce it. We budgeted \$2.50 a gallon and right now the average cost is \$1.90 so we are going to have some savings there if that trend stays. We just finished submitting our biennium budget requests, we will have hearings starting this fall on that and then get ready for session in the spring.

Commissioner Teague asked what is the budget request total. Mr. Smith stated we requested basically base level for everything, some new capital outlay and general revenue operations. We have to re-request capital outlay and all federal, so that would be a new request also as capital falls out each biennium. Commissioner Teague asked how much does that total. Mr. Smith stated on the general revenue side it is about \$700,000, on Federal it is probably \$10 million, and we bill that. If we don't ask for enough, we can always go to Legislative Council and get it throughout the year, there is a mechanism if we didn't ask for enough.

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 two terminations. The commissioned transactions include three retirements, two transfers, and two terminations. We currently have six military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, July paid claims were \$900,811 which was a decrease of \$4,497 from last month. The fund balance is \$1,501,451 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$8,973,751.57. The discount savings for June was 51%.

Just a quick update on our 2021A Troop School, we received just over 150 applications which that process closed last Friday, the application process did. We will begin the ARPAT testing and written testing this week and that will go for the next couple of weeks. We are kind of excited about the results. Commission Chairperson Christenson ask is that a good average. Major Hubbard stated that is a really good turn out, we did not expect that many. These are all certified police officers who have applied for this school.

Commissioner Edwards asked what StarChase training is. Major Hubbard stated StarChase is a new application that we have sort of been looking at. It is a pursuit intervention device that troopers can use, it is attached to the front of their car and it shoots out an attachment that locks into the back of the fleeing vehicle and then they can track that vehicle. It is basically like a GPS and the idea is that once that is attached they can back off their speed and then follow up on the vehicle.

Commissioner Hinkle asked what the status of our recent graduates is and are they riding with FTOs or are all of them completed yet. Major Hubbard stated they are not all completed with FTOs, they are a couple weeks into their FTO process. Some of them that were certified officers will have a reduced FTO process which won't be as long as others it really depends on the experience that they have and how well they can accomplish the tasks list that is given to each one of them. The faster they can get through that task list more efficiently with their FTOs then they would be released sooner, but typically they would go for 10-12 weeks in the FTO program.

Commissioner Teague asked how the last class did as far as retention. Major Hubbard stated everyone that graduated is still here.

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 some 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 10:12 a.m.

Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting back to order at 11:12 a.m. and stated Colonel Bryant you have some promotions for us.

Colonel Bryant stated we have two reinstatements that the Commission needs to consider and I would like to start with those. Colonel Bryant stated the first one is Ronnie Boyd. He worked for the state police from 2014 to 2018 and he left the state police in good standing. He reapplied to come back with us and has met all of the requirements and the background investigation. He would be going back to Troop L, Madison County. My recommendation is to reinstate Ronnie Boyd to the Arkansas State Police. Commissioner Neff Basore made a motion to reinstate Ronnie Boyd to the Arkansas State Police. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the second reinstatement is Michael Tompkins. He worked for the state police from 2008 to 2019 and he left the state police in good standing. He reapplied to come back with us and has met all of the qualification requirements and passed the background investigation. He would be returning to Troop C, Clay County. My recommendation is to reinstate Michael Tompkins to the Arkansas State Police. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to reinstate Michael Tompkins to the Arkansas State Police. Commissioner Basore seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated we have four promotions to consider. The first one is ASP Captain in the Criminal Investigation Division, Administration. My recommendation to the Commission would be Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads. Commissioner Hinkle made a motion that Lieutenant Stacie Rhoads be promoted to Captain in the Criminal Investigation Division, Administration. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the second position to consider is ASP Captain in the Regulatory and Building Operations Division, Administration. My recommendation to the Commission would be Lieutenant Michael Moyer. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Lieutenant Michael Moyer be promoted to Captain in the Regulatory and Building Operations Division, Administration. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the next position to consider is ASP Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L. My recommendation to the Commission would be Sergeant Seth Pinner. Commissioner Teague made a motion that Sergeant Seth Pinner be promoted to Lieutenant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L. Commissioners Basore/Hinkle seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated the last position to consider is ASP Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Morris Knight. Commissioner Basore made a motion that Corporal Morris Knight be promoted to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B. Commissioners Teague/Hinkle seconded and the motion passed.

Colonel Bryant stated Madam Chairperson, the other topic of conversation that I think the Commission needs to rule on is we have an appeal hearing for John Talley scheduled for September, due to unforeseen circumstances concerning our attorneys, we request that the Commission possibly consider moving that to October. We also have the Chris Bussey appeal hearing scheduled for November and we would request to move that to December. The last appeal would be Billy Ealy and we would request to schedule it for February, 2021. Colonel Bryant stated these are proposals for the ASP Commission to consider.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated they were re-scheduling upcoming appeal hearings. The Talley appeal hearing will be moved to October, the Bussey appeal hearing will be moved to December, and we will schedule the Billy Ealy appeal hearing for February, 2021.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. and at this time we are hoping to meet at Headquarters.

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Commission Chairperson Christenson congratulated all those who were promoted today. She stated we had a lot of good candidates and we hope that everybody can get promoted at some point.

With no more business, Commissioner Basore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairperson Christenson adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

Commission Chairperson

Commission Secretary