

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
September 10, 2020

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and asked Donna Humphries to call the roll since some of the commissioners were on conference call.

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 Forrest Marks	Major Mark Hollingsworth
Major Jason Aaron	Lt. Colonel Shawn Garner
Sergeant Josh Heckel	Sergeant Greg Dycus
Donna Humphries	Jonathan Nettles
Sergeant Marcus Daniels	Captain Stacie Rhoads
Sergeant Neal Thomas	Sherry Woods
Robin Gifford	Captain Kyle Drown
Greta Falkner	Sergeant Chase Melder
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Smith, DPS – Shared Services	Sara Farris, Atty General’s Office
Jackie Baker, DPS	J. R. Hankins, DPS
Jessica Heckel	Stephanie Melder

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on September 08, 2020.

Colonel Bill Bryant introduced Greta Falkner, she is a new attorney to our staff and will be handling all of the appeal hearings before the commission and we just want to welcome her to the Arkansas State Police.

MINUTES:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated you have received the minutes from the August 13, 2020 regular meeting, does anybody have any questions. Commissioner Basore made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2020 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Edwards 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: Captain Randall Dias efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-six years, six months and seventeen days;

WHEREAS: Captain Randall Dias retired from this department July 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: Captain Randall Dias 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 10, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA111, 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: Captain Randall Dias efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-six years, six months and seventeen days;

WHEREAS: Captain Randall Dias retired from this department July 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: Captain Randall Dias 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 10, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number PC622785, that Captain Randall Dias has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Captain Randall Dias 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 Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

Major Forrest Marks presented the following resolution for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Clayton McWilliams efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of nine years, six months and twenty-two days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Clayton McWilliams retired from this department July 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 Clayton McWilliams 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 10, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D584156M, that Corporal Clayton McWilliams has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Clayton McWilliams be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

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

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Sergeant Lori Whillock efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-one years, nine months and nineteen days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Lori Whillock retired from this department July 31, 2020;

WHEREAS: Her 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 Lori Whillock has made formal request that her service weapon be retired with her and remain in her 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 10, 2020, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards her, her Glock Model 19, Serial Number BMFZ723, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

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: Sergeant Lori Whillock efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-one years, nine months and nineteen days;

WHEREAS: Sergeant Lori Whillock retired from this department July 31, 2020;

WHEREAS: Her 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 Lori Whillock has made formal request that her shotgun be retired with her and remain in her 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 10, 2020 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D692602M, that Sergeant Lori Whillock has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Sergeant Lori Whillock be permitted to purchase the shotgun for her personal use.

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

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Joshua Heckel promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company F.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Marcus Daniels promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop A, Pulaski County.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Chase Melder promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop J, Johnson and Yell counties.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated she wanted to congratulate all of you for all of your promotions and your hard work to get to this point. I know the rest of the commissioners feel the same way, congratulations.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Fiscal Section – John Smith

Mr. Smith stated we are in the third month of the state Fiscal Year, and everything is going good. We are really busy working on the last month of the Federal Fiscal Year, so all of our grants will end September 30. We are rushing to make sure we get all federal funds spent and everything closed out.

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 new hires, and three terminations. The commissioned transactions include two reinstatements, four promotions, one retirements, and four transfers. We currently have three military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, August paid claims were \$971,864 which was an increase of \$71,000 from last month. The fund balance is \$136,849 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$9,110,600.00. The discount savings for July was 78%.

A quick update regarding our 2021A Troop School, we had 105 applicants that passed the ARPAT test and 93 of those applicants continued on and took the trooper written exam and we are currently waiting on the results of those exams. We have begun some of the polygraph reviews and once we get those results back on the exams, then we will start on some of the backgrounds.

Commission Chairperson Christenson asked what is the scheduled time to start this Troop School. Major Hubbard stated January 10, 2021, it will be a 12 week school and will be completed by the first of April.

Commissioner Edwards asked, do you anticipate 50ish to start out. Major Hubbard stated we are hoping to get at least 40. Commissioner Basore asked what do we have permission for, 50 or is there a number we shooting for. Major Hubbard stated 40 is the number we are shooting for, but it all depends on the budget and if the budget allows us, I think the Colonel will put every one of them in.

Commissioner Teague asked, does that meet the needs that you have as far as number of troopers. Major Hubbard stated it certainly is going to help, that will fill most of the critical vacancies that we currently have. It really depends on how many we graduate out of that class but is all I think 30 critical vacancies were submitted to us during this process, so if we could get 40 it certainly going to help the totals. Commissioner Teague asked what is your typical attrition rate. Major Hubbard stated I think, what was it 47. Colonel Bryant stated I think in the last five years we have average losing 29 troopers a year due to retirements, terminations or resignations. I think our latest numbers, if we add 40. When I first became Director we were down to around 490 and now we are right around 540, 545. If we add another 30 or 40 that will be the highest we have ever been since I believe Governor Huckabee

was Governor. Commissioner Teague stated so the 40 more than offsets your attrition rate, that is what I was curious about. Major Hubbard stated absolutely.

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated so we will eventually have another troop school come around. Major Hubbard stated yes. Commissioner Teague asked would it be in the fall and Major Hubbard stated no, we will wait until 2022. Commissioner Teague stated so you just have one a year and 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 a couple of 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 10:16 a.m. Commission Chairperson Christenson called the meeting back to order at 11:18 a.m. and stated Colonel Bryant you have some promotions for us.

Colonel Bryant stated the first position is Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company A. Colonel Bryant stated I will use the Director's discretion and laterally transfer Lieutenant Scott Russell from Company B to the Lieutenant position in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company A.

Colonel Bryant stated the second promotion to consider is a Sergeant position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop G, Columbia, Lafayette and Miller Counties. My recommendation to the Commission would be TFC Ryne Shelton. Commissioner Teague made a motion that TFC Ryne Shelton be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop G. Commissioner Hinkle seconded and the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairperson Christenson stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 07, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. with the John Talley Appeal Hearing starting at 10:00 a.m. or upon adjournment of the ASP Commission Meeting.

With no more business, Commissioner Hinkle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed. Commission Chairperson Christenson adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.

Commission Chairperson

Commission Secretary