

MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING  
March 11, 2021

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Neff Basore, Chairman  
Commissioner Steve Edwards - Secretary  
Commissioner Jeffery Teague  
Commissioner Jim Hinkle  
Commissioner Murray Benton, Sr.  
Commissioner Ken Reeves

MEMBER ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Commissioner John Allison – Vice-Chairman

STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Bill Bryant	Lt. Colonel Shawn Garner
Major Charles Hubbard	Major Lindsey Williams
Major Jason Aaron	Major Jeff Drew
Sergeant Michael Garlington	Lieutenant Robert Wilson
Captain David Moore	Sergeant Greg Dycus
Emma French	Sherry Woods
Captain Mike Hagar	Lieutenant Jeff Sheeler
Sergeant Michael Bain	Robin Gifford
Jenna Castleberry	Gary Glisson
Lieutenant Brant Tosh	Captain David Lafferty
Sergeant Ted Jones	Captain Stacie Rhoads
Lieutenant Scott Russell	Sergeant Randall Murphy
Corporal Jason Martin	Captain Mike Moyer
Mary Claire McLaurin	Tess Bradford
Katlyn Nelson	Bill Sadler
Donna Humphries	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sara Farris, Attorney General's Office	A. Michelle Harleston
Brenda Garlington	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Chairman Basore led the pledge of allegiance.

NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on March 09, 2021.

MINUTES:

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2021 regular monthly commission meeting. Commissioner Hinkle seconded and the motion passed.

WEAPON 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: Corporal Brigham Jones efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-three years, four months, and twenty-nine days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Brigham Jones retired from this department January 31, 2021;

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 Brigham Jones 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, March 11, 2021, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA295, 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: Corporal Brigham Jones efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-three years, four months, and twenty-nine days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Brigham Jones retired from this department January 31, 2021;

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 Brigham Jones 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, March 11, 2021 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D591236M, that Corporal Brigham Jones has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Brigham Jones 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 Benton seconded and the motion passed.

#### R E S O L U T I O N

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

WHEREAS: Corporal Donnie Belew retired from this department January 31, 2021;

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 Donnie Belew 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, March 11, 2021, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 19, Serial Number BMFZ855, as a token of their esteem and appreciation for service devoted to the Arkansas State Police.

Commissioner Reeves 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 Donnie Belew efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of twenty-six years, three months, and twenty-two days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Donnie Belew retired from this department January 31, 2021;

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 Donnie Belew 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, March 11, 2021 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number RS92698V, that Corporal Donnie Belew has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Donnie Belew be permitted to purchase the shotgun for his personal use.

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

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Robert Wilson promoting him to Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B.

Colonel Bill Bryant presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Michael Garlington promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B.

OFFICIAL COMMENDATIONS:

Captain Stacie Rhoads gave an overview of the nominations of Special Agent Jason Martin and Sergeant Randall Murphy for Official Commendations.

Captain Rhoads stated I don't think there is anything that makes me more proud than to get up here and talk about some of the great work that our agents are doing in CID. So, I want to direct your attention to January of last year, a woman by the name of Christy Rooks was reported missing to the Wynne Police Department. She was last seen by her boyfriend on January 11, 2020 and she was reported missing on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Wynne Police Department initially began their investigation and started looking for Christy. About 6 days into their investigation, they hadn't been able to locate her, so they called Arkansas State Police for assistance. Special Agent Jason Martin and then Special Agent Randall Murphy, who is now Sergeant Murphy, got involved in the investigation. Missing persons are the most difficult cases to work because once their phone stops working, their banking records go away it is really hard to locate people. Once they got into this, they had to recount the steps that the Wynne Police Department had already done. They focused their attention on the phone records and phone records are kind of like excel spreadsheets for me because I am not an accountant and I get really confused on them. These records are just really hard to decipher, and those phone records included things like cell site tower location, data usage from internet just a whole host of things that they had to sort through to try to determine what had happen to this young woman. So, after they started looking at her phone records, they decided that they would do a routine interview with her boyfriend who was the one who actually reported her missing. In this routine interview with this young man, they asked for consent to look at his cell phone and in the cell phone they found a picture of Ms. Rooks driver's license that was taken after she was last seen and that gave them their first suspicion about her boyfriend. So, they took this information and they started digging more deeper into these phone records and they found that wherever Christy Rooks cell phone was located her boyfriends was also located and, in the days, after she was supposedly last seen her phone was still active and in the same location as his. So, with this information they got a search warrant for his property and his home. Now his property consisted of 700 acres of cow pasture, two residences and

several barns. They coordinated a very extensive search effort utilizing our Emergency Response Team, the Arkansas Game and Fish, the Wynne Police Department, the Prairie County Sheriff's Office, and the Hazen Police Department, just a huge, massive search to search this entire property. While the other agents were searching his residence, these two agents began their interrogation of the boyfriend. This interrogation lasted for five hours, during this whole-time other agents are searching his home and while searching that home they found Ms. Rook's missing key fob for her car and her cell phone. Now, you would think that faced with this information that the boyfriend would just be willing to give up what had happened, but he didn't do that he kept trying to divert them to other locations, no I dropped her off, he kept continuing this fabricated story. After five hours in, you would think that maybe we don't need to continue but they did, and they finally ultimately got him to admit that he had shot her in some sort of a fight. Well, after this we are still at the residence and we begin to try to, okay, can we confirm that there was a fight and we found blood on her mattress that he had turned over to hide from the investigators.

I know this is kind of a convoluted story and I hope that I did their work justice. We ultimately located her car parked at a Wal-Mart in Cabot that he had put their, that we found video showing that he left it there after he killed her. The boyfriend was ultimately charged with Capital Murder. Some side notes to this story are while the boyfriend is still awaiting trial there in Prairie County, one night he up and escaped from the Prairie County Jail and once again Special Agent Jason Martin and Sergeant Randall Murphy were called to help locate him. Luckily, he was found in just a few short hours there at the jail. Another side note is these two officers were recognized recently by the Attorney General's Office as Prairie County Officers of the Year for this particular incident. The other thing, I don't know if many of you all are familiar with Jackie Clark, but Jackie Clark at the time was the Chief of Police with the Wynne Police Department after he retired from the Arkansas State Police. Jackie Clark reached out to me after this and he, if you know Jackie, he doesn't give a whole lot of commendations or a lot of positive comments to people. He reached out to me and he was so proud and pleased with the work that had been done. He even told me, Stacie, we couldn't have done it without you guys, we couldn't have done it without you, and I have to concur with that. I think it was Sherlock Holmes that said, "Crime is common, but logic is rare." And today crimes are just becoming more and more common, especially crimes like this. Their logic, and the way that they handled this case is rare and that is why I nominated them for the Official Commendations.

Colonel Bryant presented Official Commendations to Special Agent Jason Martin and Sergeant Randall Murphy

Lieutenant Jeff Sheeler gave an overview of the nomination of Sergeant Michael Bain for an Official Commendation.

Lieutenant Sheeler stated on the morning of March 31, 2020 Troop A received a call of a road rage incident between two vehicles. This resulted in the impending vehicle allegedly firing at the vehicle of the victim. Troopers responded and confirmed a bullet hole in the victim's vehicle. The victim was able to provide a picture of the license plate that matched the vehicle. Troopers used that information to find the registered owner and determined he was on active parole and had a suspended driver's license. The victim was able to positively identify the driver of the suspect vehicle as being the registered owner. In the suspects lengthy criminal history, a phone number associated with him was discovered and with the assistance of the U. S. Marshals Office that associated phone number was used to track the phone of the suspect. The suspect was physically located later the same day in the Southwest Little Rock area still driving the vehicle. When U. S. Marshals attempted to perform a traffic stop, a dangerous pursuit ensued that traveled up Interstate 430 North where the suspect was seen throwing out a weapon. He entered Interstate 630 East heading toward downtown Little Rock. The suspect was driving very recklessly at speeds greater than 100 mph and endangering all other motorists on the roadway. Sergeant Mike Bain of Troop A, Little Rock, responded to the area. Sergeant Bain is an instructor in emergency vehicle operations and a highly skilled pursuit driver. He has many years of experience in pursuit driving situations in the Little Rock Metropolitan area and he has dedicated many hours to perfecting his skill in this area. Sergeant Bain with great risk to himself performed a precision immobilization technique or PIT at 114 mph which was effective. The suspect was arrested without further incident. Subsequently his parole is revoked, and he is now in the custody of the Arkansas Department of Corrections. This brave act brought an end to a dangerous situation that was escalating quickly. Sergeant Bain brought great credit upon himself and the Arkansas State Police therefore I nominated him for an Official Commendation.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Sergeant Mike Bain.

Sergeant Ted Jones gave an overview of the nomination of Special Agent Buster Rinks for an Official Commendation.

Sergeant Jones stated that on January 30, 2020, ASP Special Agent Buster Rinks was in IZARD County assisting other Company E Agents with an officer involved shooting near the community of Oxford. In the midst of dealing with a SWAT call out and an officer involved shooting, Special Agent Rinks drove over from Harrison as the Boone County Sheriff's Office requested Special Agent Rinks assistance with a bank robbery that had happened in Omaha. So, in the midst of the officer involved shooting Special Agent Rinks left IZARD County and traveled back to Boone County. The two bank robbery suspects had been taken into custody and Special Agent Rinks conducted an interrogation of both suspects obtaining a full confession. So, after that on the same day, after obtaining the bank robbery confessions, the Boone County Sheriff's Office called again because they received a call that a female was dead in her Omaha residence from a single gunshot wound. The victim's two juvenile sons, aged fourteen and twelve, stated that a masked suspect had forced entry into the home while their father was gone, killing their mother. Special Agent Rinks interviewed the husband and both the juvenile sons. The twelve-year-old son eventually stated he saw his older brother shoot his own mother. Special Agent Rinks skillful interrogation of the juveniles discredited the initial story of a mask intruder. Following those admissions, both juveniles were transported to a juvenile holding facility. Three days later, Special Agent Rinks went back and interviewed the fourteen-year-old suspect a second time, this time obtaining a full confession that the suspect shot his mother in the head with a rifle. Special Agents Rinks went further interviewing school classmates of the two juveniles where he learned the boys were telling classmates, the day before the homicide, that their mother was going to commit suicide. The fourteen-year-old was charged as an adult with First Degree Murder for the death of his mother. The twelve-year-old was charged as a juvenile. Seven days following that, the Boone County Sheriff's Office again requested the assistance of Special Agent Rinks with another homicide investigation after Boone County 911 received a call reporting a stabbing near the community of Valley Springs. Boone County Sheriff's Office deputies arrived and found two victims, a sixteen-year-old male, and his twenty-nine-year-old mother, both suffering multiple stab wounds. The sixteen-year-old later died of his wounds at the hospital and the mother survived the attack. Special Agent Rinks deploys over there and learned that the suspect was a fourteen-year-old and was the brother to the sixteen-year-old victim and the mother's son. Special Agent Rinks attempted to interview the juvenile suspect who invoked his Miranda rights. Special Agent Rinks assisted the Boone County Sheriff's Office in the collection of critical evidence and made the death notification to the father and husband of the victims. The suspect was being held in juvenile detention on First Degree Murder and Attempted First Degree Murder pending mental evaluation. It is to be determined whether the suspect will be charged as an adult.

On January 30, 2020, Special Agent Rinks left the scene of an officer involved shooting and traveled over two hours in response to the Lead Hill bank robbery. After obtaining confessions on the bank robbery, Special Agent Rinks began immediately working on the juvenile homicide suspects. Special Agent Rinks logged over eighteen hours in one day on three separate, high profile, and highly emotionally charged cases. Special Agent Rinks maintained a dedicated focus and demonstrated effective techniques by handling all of the nuances of juvenile interrogations. Special Agent Rinks did not stop when he obtained the initial admissions in the Omaha shooting that discredited the juvenile's initial statement of a masked intruder, he followed up with a second juvenile suspect interview as well as interviews of the suspect's classmates. Seven days later, he was requested again on a second homicide, the stabbing. Both homicide cases involved juveniles killing an immediate family member. Special Agent Rinks demonstrated his ability to handle the emotional toll, conduct a professional death notification to a person who had lost his wife to homicide and his son as a suspect, and determine facts that directly lead to the suspect being charged.

Within a one-week span, Special Agent Rinks went above and beyond with his dedication, his skill, and his thoroughness. Special Agent Rinks could have easily rested on the successful interrogation of the bank robbery suspects and not have responded to the additional requests; we had certainly been busy that day. But he didn't do that, he dug in and he followed it all through. Special Agent Rinks actions, skills, and dedication reflect the highest standards of the Arkansas State Police Criminal Investigations Division, and the highest standards of service to the other law enforcement agencies and the citizens of Arkansas.

Colonel Bryant presented an Official Commendation to Special Agent Buster Rinks.

Commission Chairman Basore stated congratulations to all of you for fine jobs.

#### DIVISION REPORTS:

##### Fiscal Section – Emma French

Ms. French gave an overview of the reports which were distributed to the Commission. Ms. French stated we are at 67% and we are doing okay, we are watching things. We are watching the price of gasoline go up is what we are watching. So far this year we have spent \$1.2 million dollars on gasoline and so we are still okay, we are not in a position to worry about it yet, but we are going to keep watching it.

##### Administrative Services – Major Charles Hubbard

Major Hubbard 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 uniformed noncommissioned transactions include three new hires and three terminations. The commissioned transactions include four terminations, four promotions, and three transfers. Currently we have five military deployments.

Regarding the ASP Health Plan, February paid claims were \$948,809 which is an increase of \$121,508 from last month and the fund balance is \$700,719 higher than last month for a total fund balance of \$10,084,853. The average discount savings for the month of January was 67%.

Just a quick brief on our Troop School, we currently have thirty-one recruits who have entered week 7. They are doing really well. Some of the things that they have already completed include the classes of crash investigations VERS, a couple weeks of firearms training, TASER, Standardized Field Sobriety testing this week along with roadside impaired driving enforcement, and DWI Courtroom testimony. All of the recruits are doing really well, they are in real good spirits and I think they are looking forward to their graduation next month. We are looking at the 29 of April for the graduation date and we are still trying to drill down on a venue for that so just as soon we have a venue, we will certainly share that information with the ASP Commission.

Commission Chairman Basore stated I had an opportunity yesterday to go in and meet I guess everybody but those trying to sing the National Anthem. Major Hubbard stated I believe there were a couple of them trying out. Commission Chairman Basore stated they are a great bunch of folks, they are all in high spirits, already certified so 5 ½ more weeks.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Basore asked Colonel Bryant is there any other business? Colonel Bryant stated yes Mr. Chairman, we have some promotions to consider.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering employment, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of employees, Commissioner Allison seconded, and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:33 a.m.

Commission Chairman Basore called the meeting back to order at 11:18 a.m. and asked Colonel Bryant if he has any recommendations.

Colonel Bryant stated we have some promotions to consider today. The first promotion will be a Major in the Criminal Investigation Division. My recommendation to the Commission would be Captain David Lafferty. Commissioner Edwards made a motion that Captain David Lafferty be promoted to Major in the Criminal Investigation Division. Commissioner Reeves seconded and the motion passed.

The second promotion will be the Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop G, Howard, Little River and Sevier Counties. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Brandon Lofton. Commissioner Teague made a motion that Corporal Brandon Lofton be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop G, Howard, Little River and Sevier Counties. Commissioner Benton seconded and the motion passed.

The next promotion will be in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D, Crittenden County. My recommendation to the Commission would be Corporal Brandon Bennett. Commissioner Reeves made a motion that Corporal Brandon Bennett be promoted to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop D, Crittenden County. Commissioner Edwards seconded and the motion passed.

The last position for consideration Mr. Chairman is a Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H, Sebastian County. Colonel Bryant stated I am going to use the Director's discretion and laterally transfer Sergeant Greg Smith into the Sergeant position in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop H, Sebastian County.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Basore stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, April 08, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

With no more business, Commission Chairman Basore adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary