

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 14, 2021

ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A. M. Commissioners present:

Chairman Percy Wilburn
Vice Chair Doc Holladay
Capt. Stacie Rhoads
Mr. Thomas Marsh
Mr. Richard Wingard
Dr. Jim Golden
Sheriff Ron Brown
Sheriff Lafayette Woods

Absent:

Mr. Barry Phillips

Others Present:

Jami Cook, Director
Fred Weatherspoon, Deputy Director, Training
Brad King, Deputy Director, Standards
Amanda Yarbrough, CLEST Attorney
Kreasha Williams, Legal Services Specialist
Sue Albritton, CLEST Admin. Assist.
Trish Hendrix, Court Reporter
Charles Moulton, Hearing Officer
Zeb Gilley, Marion Co. SO
Chief Keith Finch, Dumas PD
Jordan A., Pulaski Co. SO
Richard Retford, Glenwood Police Dept.
Ronald Scott, Helena/West Helena PD
Jimmy Foreman, Glenwood
Don Etherly, Attorney
Robert Newcomb, Attorney

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Don Bales, Respondent

Andre' Good, Ft Smith

Wayne Barnett, Ft. Smith

Greg Evans, Pulaski County, SO

James P. Smith, Helena/West Helena PD

Chief Benny Daniels, Marvell PD

Danny Baker, Ft Smith

Jarrod Copeland, Ft. Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A. M.

A motion to accept the minutes of the last three meetings was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion Carried.

Item I: Item one was to give approval of the Board and Commission Expenses. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to accept and was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was to set new commission meeting dates for 2021. The dates presented were January 14, 2021 in Camden, March 10, 2021 in Little Rock, May 13, 2021 in Camden, July 7, 2021 in Little Rock, September 9, 2021 in Camden, and November 17, 2021 in Little Rock. Commissioner Rhoads made the motion to accept the dates and locations. The motion was seconded and carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Marvell Police Department for an extension for Officer John O'Neal. Officer O'Neal was medically withdrawn from Basic Class 2020-C and was attending Basic Class 2021-A when he was medically withdrawn. Chief Bennie Daniels asked that O'Neal be allowed to remain employed at the department as a part-time officer. Commissioner Brown made the motion to grant the request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was concerning an audit by the Office of Law Enforcement Standards of West Point, Arkansas. After a discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Holladay to let Legislative Audit take any action it determined to be appropriate before the Commission. A second was made by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from the Arkansas State Police for decertification of former Trooper John Talley. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Holladay and was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. Commissioner Rhoads recused.

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Item VI: Item six was a request from the Conway Police Department for decertification of former Officer John Michael Fuentes. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Crittenden County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy William Bell. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Woods and was seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Garland County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Josh Cannon. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Brown and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Garland County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Flint Stock. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Barling Police Department for decertification of former Officer Donald Rowe. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Woods and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Rogers Police Department for decertification of former Officer Dustin Johnson. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Brown and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Benton Police Department for decertification of former Officer Jeff Parsons. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Woods and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the North Little Rock Police Department for decertification of former Officer Zachary Hodge. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Brown and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Arkansas State Police for decertification of former Officer Christopher Bussey. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Holladay and was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. Commissioner Rhoads recused.

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Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Crawford County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Eldon Hammer. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. Commissioner Brown recused.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the West Memphis Police Department for decertification of former Officer A.D. Williams, III. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Brown and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Poinsett County Sheriff's Department for decertification of former Deputy Larry Scott Mangrum. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was regarding the pending decertification of Ryan Thomas. Mr. Thomas died on December 4, 2020. Commissioner Brown made a motion to remove him from the pending decertification list and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the Benton Police Department for decertification of former Officer Alfiya Mills. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Holladay and was seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XX: Item twenty was a request for an extension from the Dumas Police Department for Officer Kristy L. Freeman. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion to grant the request and allow Officer Freeman to return to the Academy in week six. Motion carried.

Item XXI: Item twenty-one was a request from the Arkansas Community Correction for decertification of former Officer Eric Fleming. A motion to go forward was made by Commissioner Woods and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXII: The Metropolitan Railroad Company requested a Declaratory Order pursuant to the Arkansas Administrative Procedure Act. Commissioner Woods made the motion to issue the order and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXIII: Item twenty-three was a request for an extension from Marion County Sheriff's Office for Deputy Tristan Rogers. Commissioner Brown made a motion to grant the extension and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

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At the completion of the agenda items, decertification hearings were held with Attorney Moulton presiding and Court Reporter Hendrix recording. One consent agreement was presented and accepted for **Steven Stain** with a motion by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. Nine (9) uncontested hearings were held for **Jimmy Long, Rodney Davis, Kenya Campbell, Christopher Winfrey, Zachary English, Jalen West, Brooks Grabill, Gary Ladner and Calvin Salyers**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion to decertify all nine was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried. A Hearing was held for **Jimmy Foreman**. After considering all evidence, a motion not to decertify was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried with Commissioner Holladay recusing. A hearing was held for **Ronald Scott**. After considering all evidence, a motion not to decertify was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. A hearing was held for **Don Paul Bales**. After considering all evidence, a motion not to decertify was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. Ten (10) were decertified and three (3) were not decertified.

Director's Report

Director Cook reported that she and Deputy Director Fred Weatherspoon attended a judiciary meeting on November 13 and that the DPS budget, which includes the CLEST budget, was approved by the legislature on November 17. She reported that the Governor's Task Force to Advance the State of Law Enforcement in Arkansas released its final report on December 17, 2020. She provided an update on the legislative session, including the sponsor that would likely run the bills associated with the Task Force report. Finally, she reported that she attended a law enforcement stakeholder meeting with the Arkansas Sheriff's Association on January 5, the Sharp County Jail opening on January 8, and a virtual meeting with the Municipal League on January 13.