

# MINUTES OF ARKANSAS STATE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

September 14, 2023

The Arkansas State Police Commission met on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at the Arkansas State Police Headquarters, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commission Chairman Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Steve Edwards, Chairman  
Commissioner Jeffery Teague, Vice-Chairman  
Commissioner Jim Hinkle  
Commissioner Ken Reeves  
Commissioner Neff Basore  
Commissioner Mike Akin

## MEMBERS ON CONFERENCE CALL:

Commissioner John Allison, Secretary

## STATE POLICE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Colonel Mike Hagar	Major Mike Moyer
Major Roby Rhoads	Lt. Colonel Jason Aaron
Lt. Colonel Mike Kennedy	Major Ron Casey
Major Stacie Rhoads	Major Jeff Drew
Kalika Rogers	Janet Chappelle
Sherry Woods	Susan Tedford
Jenna Castleberry	Karen Perry
Captain Chris Goodman	Lieutenant Ted Jones
Sergeant Ryan Jacks	Sergeant Bo Norris
Captain Rick Neill	Sergeant Lagarian Cross
Sergeant Aaron Keith	Sergeant Shane Alkire
Sergeant Scott McLaughlin	Sergeant David Forthman
Captain Scott Russell	Lieutenant Ben Hoyt
Lieutenant Aaron Easley	Captain Scott Joe
Captain John Carter	Hugh Finkelstein
Joan Shipley	Cindy Murphy
Donna Humphries	

## OTHERS PRESENT:

Stephanie Norris	Madison Norris
Kajuana Cross	Lisa Jones
Anna Jones	Camille McLaughlin
Clayton Orr, AG's Office	

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commission Chairman Edwards led the pledge of allegiance.

## NOTIFICATION OF MEDIA:

The media was notified of this meeting on September 05, 2023.

## MINUTES:

Commission Chairman Edwards stated everyone should have received a copy of the minutes of the August 10, 2023, regular monthly meeting and the August 15, 2023, special conference call meeting, I would entertain a motion to approve those.

Commissioner Reeves made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2023, regular monthly commission meeting and the August 15, 2023, special conference call meeting. Commissioners Hinkle/Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and a second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

## WEAPON RESOLUTIONS:

Major Ron Casey presented the following resolutions for consideration by the ASP Commission.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Jason Davis efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of seventeen years, nine months, and twenty-four days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Jason Davis retired from this department July 31, 2023;

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 Jason Davis 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 14, 2023, in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, awards him, his Glock Model 17, Serial Number BMSA490, 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 Hinkle seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS: Corporal Jason Davis efficiently and effectively served the Arkansas State Police for a period of seventeen years, nine months, and twenty-four days;

WHEREAS: Corporal Jason Davis retired from this department July 31, 2023;

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 Jason Davis 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 14, 2023 in accordance with Act 547 of 2003, determines the fair market value of the Remington shotgun, serial number D519988M, that Corporal Jason Davis has carried be affixed at \$100.00, and that Corporal Jason Davis 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 Hinkle seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

PROMOTION CERTIFICATES:

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Lieutenant Ted Jones promoting him to Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company E.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Sammy Norris promoting him to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company B.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Scott McLaughlin promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop C.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Lagarian Cross promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop F.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Shane Alkire promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L.

Colonel Mike Hagar presented a promotion certificate to Sergeant Aaron Keith promoting him to Sergeant in the Highway Patrol Division, Troop L.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated the next item of business is division reports.

Fiscal Section – Karen Perry

Karen Perry gave an overview of the monthly report. Ms. Perry stated we received \$3.2 million in restricted reserve funding for troop school. We finished our legislative audit, and we had one finding, it was a weapon that was stolen from a car. We finished our annual reports, the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and our Annual Equitable Sharing Report. We are going tomorrow to hopefully be approved for \$24 million in ARPA funding.

Commissioner Hinkle stated I should probably know the answer to this and asked Karen Perry what is the line item on federal revenues. Ms. Perry stated that is the federal money we receive for overtime programs for HIDTA, Interdiction, I think some US Marshal and DEA overtime. Commissioner Hinkle stated so it is a variable, it's hard to budget, it doesn't remain the same, is that right. Ms. Perry stated right, it doesn't remain the same.

Commissioner Akin asked the \$24 million in ARPA funds, you're going to get it, it has already been approved? Ms. Perry stated it has been approved by the Governor's Office, but we have to get approval by the Legislature and that is tomorrow. Commissioner Akin asked isn't that the pool of about \$60 million? Ms. Perry stated I think so.

Administrative Services – Major Roby Rhoads

Major Roby Rhoads presented an oral summary of the written report distributed to the Commission. He began by reporting the Human Resources/Personnel transactions for the month, on the uniformed noncommissioned side we had two new hires, three terminations which was one voluntary termination and two retirements. The commissioned transactions included two new hires, one reinstatement, one extra-help, thirty-one promotions, three terminations, two voluntary and one retirement, and five transfers.

We currently have three military deployments.

Major Roby Rhoads stated we have 72 applicants left in this process for the 2023B school with three alternates. For the 2024A we have about 80 qualified applicants in the pool still and that closes tomorrow, no, Sunday night.

Major Roby Rhoads stated for the ASP Health Plan, August paid claims were \$1,649,721.00 which is an increase of \$779,329.00 from last month and the fund balance is \$683,328.00 lower than last month, for a total fund balance of \$12,267,659.00.

Commissioner Basore asked in the next school, how many are we starting with? Major Roby Rhoads asked for the 2024 school? Commissioner Basore stated the 2023 B. Major Roby Rhoads stated 67 recruits. Commissioner Basore stated so we are starting with 67 and Major Roby Rhoads stated that is our plan. Commissioner Basore stated well usually we cannot get approval for more than 50. Major Roby Rhoads stated the people in the field have really done a good job of recruiting, our social media they have done a fantastic job, and then some policy changes have helped out, so things are looking good for us.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated I understand that Craig Teague has developed a program of mentoring, that seems really popular with these guys before they are entering troop school they are actually riding with troopers. They had a big saturation in West Memphis the other night and there were several of them and they were excited about it. Major Roby Rhoads stated yes sir, it is a good program, and we think we are going to have good success with it. Every recruit will have a mentor assigned to them, so hopefully we get good results. I know other agencies have had good results, so we are hopeful.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated next, Crimes Against Children, Major Jeff Drew.

Major Jeff Drew stated the CACD Hotline received 5,721 calls in August, last year it was 5,176. There were 2,268 of those accepted for investigation, slightly lower than this time last year which was 2,475. There were 13 child deaths reported, down one from last year, four

of those were investigated, eight were assessed and one was just documented. The CACD investigations unit accepted 502 new cases, and the investigations unit closed 482 cases, with 160 of those being found true, that gave us a substantiation rate of 33%.

Just to show you where we are in the Hotline from this time last year, we are up about 6,612 calls from last year.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated next is Major Stacie Rhoads, Criminal Investigations.

Major Stacie Rhoads stated for the month of August CID opened 142 cases of those we worked one officer involved shooting, 24 were death investigations, six of which were homicide investigations and we worked 4 in custody deaths. I wanted to take a minute to highlight, I know that you are familiar with our companies, but we do have a Special Investigations Unit. There are cases that our companies due to relationship issues we get requests, I know you are going to find this hard to believe, but Judges and elected officials also commit crimes. We get requests of those quite often and so we have incorporated a Special Investigations Unit just to handle those problematic cases. For the month of August, we actually resolved two of those special investigations. One of those involved a Stone County Deputy who was accused of misappropriating \$70,000.00 of county funds and also doing some various other crimes for which he was federally indicted. He recently pled guilty in Federal Court and is now awaiting sentencing. The second was a City Clerk for the City of Dierks who stole over \$500,000.00 from the city and you are like how does Dierks even get \$500,000.00. She pled guilty and was sentenced to 6 years in ADC. I just kind of wanted to let you all know that unit is comprised of five agents, and they work very independently and do those problematic cases. That is another area that you do not often hear much about.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated Regulatory and Building Operations Division, Major Mike Moyer.

Major Moyer stated during the month of August the ID Bureau and AFIS processed 28,084 civil background checks and 9,872 criminal background checks. The Used Motor Vehicle Dealer Section processed 216 dealer applications and also investigated 6 complaints. The PI Security section processed 701 applications, our ASP Bomb Squad handled seven separate explosive calls since last commission meeting. The fire investigators conducted 15 origin and cause investigations, which that is a higher number than normally for a month. Two bomb squad members also responded to the North Little Rock Post Office where they had an armed fugitive, the US Marshals were after, enter the facility. They responded in case the robots were needed to be used. We also had our accelerant K9 handler, requested by the ATF, to respond with their National Response Team to Missouri. There was a farm up there that had about \$8 million dollars' worth of damage from fires set on their equipment, barns, and some of the houses on the farm. At that site they had to conduct 7 separate origin and cause investigations.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked if there was anything going on with the Task Force on Conceal Carry. Major Moyer stated not at this time, the Legislature will be dealing with that.

Commission Chairman Edwards Highway Patrol Division, Major Ron Casey.

Major Ron Casey stated in the Highway Patrol Division for the month of August, Troopers made 2,423 criminal arrests in the state, we put 1,596 people in jail. There were 289 DWI arrests, and the total of hazardous arrests was 7,625. We put 552 other people in jail from citations, suspended driver's license and so forth. We had 50 pursuits for the month of August. We investigated 1,188 traffic collisions, with 27 fatalities. We had 22 flight missions. Troopers wrote 17,612 citations, drove 863,072 miles, recovered 19 stolen vehicles with an estimate of \$349,502.00 worth, we show other stolen property recovered as 10 and that's probably weapons. On the drug side of it, there was 117,400 grams of marijuana, 7,961 grams of methamphetamine, 18,779 grams of cocaine, 273 pills, and \$11,334.00 in money seizures. We did have one night of Operation Safe Speed in August, it was the 31<sup>st</sup>. Just one night with 16 Troopers, 4 Sergeants and no assists from any other agencies in the Little Rock area, they wrote 147 tickets, 28 of those were arrests of criminals, and the total officer violator contacts was 258, that is just one night from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m., that's 4 hours of work from the troopers in the Troop A area. They did an outstanding job again as they do every month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Chairman Edwards stated the first item of new business, Commissioner Teague would like to make a statement he would like entered in the minutes. Commissioner Hinkle made a motion that the statement be entered in the minutes.

Commissioner Teague stated Mr. Chairman, fellow commissioners, Colonel Hagar, and the Arkansas State Police family.

When I was appointed as an Arkansas State Police Commissioner in 2018, I was unaware I was joining a unique cadre with ties that would bind each of us in special ways, as we lived our lives both at work and with our private families. Then the Teague family experienced a tragedy that has shaken our very foundation. On August 18, 2023, our youngest son, Jeffery Franklin Teague II, took his life. An event such as this is never expected; we were under the impression that he was on top of the world both professionally and personally.

In the wake of this devastating occurrence, we were inundated with flowers, emails, cards, social media comments, phone calls, texts, letters, and myriad expressions of care. We were unprepared for this outpouring of concern and comfort. We want to acknowledge our appreciation of your prayers and other expressions of sympathy.

I want to thank the Colonel, the Governor's office, and the troopers for their presence at the visitation. I was particularly touched during the funeral service as I looked to my right and saw my fellow Commissioners as well as troopers in attendance. Words cannot express the support I felt from this group as we struggled through that difficult day. I never dreamed that my service to the state police Commission would provide me with such a staunch and steadfast bond of brothers and sisters.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission, along with the approval of the Commission, I would ask that this statement be included as part of the minutes of today's Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hinkle made a motion that the statement be entered in the minutes. Commissioner Basore seconded. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, the motion was approved.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated we are still giving our condolences to you, and I cannot imagine how hard that is and you are in our prayers, and we are here to support you.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked Colonel, do we have any promotions sir?

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, Mr. Chairman, I would ask that we go to executive session to discuss personnel matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Reeves stated I move that we retire into Executive Session to consider personnel matters. Commissioner Basore seconded, and the motion passed. The Commission went into Executive Session at 10:28 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards called the meeting back to order at 11:13 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked Colonel, do you have any personnel issues for us?

Colonel Hagar stated yes sir, I have two recommendations for promotions for the Commissioners to consider.

The first promotion would be Sergeant in Company E, and my recommendation would be Corporal Jake Bartlett. Commissioner Akin made a motion that Corporal Jake Bartlett be promoted to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigation Division, Company E. Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

The next is Sergeant in Administrative Services, Training the Armory and my recommendation would be TFC Alexander Bray. Commissioner Basore made a motion that

TFC Alexander Bray be promoted to Lieutenant in the Administrative Services Division, Armory. Commissioner Reeves seconded the motion. Commission Chairman Edwards stated we have a motion and second, all in favor, any opposed and the motion passed.

Colonel Hagar stated that is all I have Mr. Chairman.

Commission Chairman Edwards asked do we have any other business to come before the commission.

NEXT MEETING:

Commission Chairman Edwards stated the next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, scheduled at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Chairman Edwards stated if there is no further business, I will entertain a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Reeves made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Basore seconded the motion. With no more business to come before the commission, Commission Chairman Edwards adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

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Commission Chairman

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Commission Secretary