



ACTION/MINUTES

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 13, 2021
9:00 A.M.

John Bel Edwards
Governor

Jason Hannaman
Executive Director

*STATE POLICE COMMISSION, VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM, SUITE 1247,
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY BLDG., 5825 FLORIDA BLVD., BATON ROUGE, LA 70806*

I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 13, 2021.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., and Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Harold Pierite, Sr. Absent was Commissioner Robert Mire. There was a quorum. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeney and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were present.

III. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. Opportunity to Address the Commission by employees or others concerning items on the agenda. (Please submit a speaker request form prior to the meeting being called to order.)
No Comment.

VI. Business

1. Consideration of the meeting minutes from April 8, 2021.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adopt the meeting minutes from April 8, 2021.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

2. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police, in accordance with State Police Commission Rule 8.10(e), to extend a Temporary Duty Assignment for State Police Lieutenant Chad Guidry for an additional six months or until the project is complete, whichever is sooner. The department asks for a May 16, 2021, effective date. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

LSP Lt. Colonel Doug Cain appeared on the behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police, and advised the department's justification for the request.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to extend the Temporary Duty Assignment for State Police Lieutenant Chad Guidry for an additional six months or until the project has been completed, whichever is sooner.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Chairman Simien advised the department to notify the Executive Director once the project has been completed.

3. In the matter of Sheldon Perkins (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 19-244-T. Mr. Perkins is a pro se litigant. Michele Giroir and Jericha Remondet represent the Office of State Police. The Commission conducted a public hearing to consider the matter of Sheldon Perkins (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, Docket No. 19-244-T).

- Public hearing

Attorney Michele Giroir and Lt. Colonel Doug Cain appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office of State Police. Mr. Sheldon Perkins represented himself.

Joint Stipulations of Fact and Exhibits were entered into the record by Ms. Giroir.

Chairman Simien sought clarification as to the necessity to view an hour-long video exhibit when both parties have stipulated to all but one of the alleged facts as stated in the department's notice of termination and evidence of the only fact that was in dispute was not contained on the video. Ms. Giroir added that it provides the Commission with a perspective of the troopers' experience on the side of the road in dealing with Mr. Perkins as opposed to only reading about it on paper. Mr. Perkins did not object to the viewing of the video.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to have the option to view the bodycam video if requested by any member of the Commission during the course of the testimony.

Upon the conclusion of the department's case and Mr. Perkins' testimony, Commissioner Knapp asked to view the video exhibit.

Chairman Simien called for a break at 10:42 A.M.

The meeting was called back into session at 10:50 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Jared Caruso-Riecke, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Harold Pierite, Sr., Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, and Chairman Eulis Simien

Opposed: None

Executive Director Hannaman played video exhibit J-2 for the relevant portions identified by DPS Attorney Michele Giroir. There were no objections from Mr. Sheldon Perkins on playing the video exhibit and he rejected the offer made by Chairman Simien to have additional portions played.

Ms. Giroir and Mr. Perkins each provided a closing statement.

- Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct

On a motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session for agenda item #3 as well as agenda item #4 to discuss pending litigation. The Commission entered Executive Session at 11:14 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Jared Caruso-Riecke, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Harold Pierite, Sr., Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, and Chairman Eulis Simien

Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Pierite, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 12:01 P.M. in the matter of Sheldon Perkins (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 19-244-T and also for the consideration of pending litigation in the matter of LSTA, et al v. State Police Commission, et al, 19th Judicial District Court, Docket No.: C-672676.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Jared Caruso-Riecke, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Harold Pierite, Sr., Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, and Chairman Eulis Simien

Opposed: None

- Public discussion of appeal and possible vote

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to determine that cause for discipline was proven by the department.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Jared Caruso-Riecke, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Harold Pierite, Sr, Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford

Opposed: None

Vice-Chairman Crawford commended the actions of the two troopers involved in this case; Trooper Jackson and Trooper Qadir exercised

professionalism and courage during the challenging circumstance dealing with one of their own.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and passed; the Commission ruled that former Lt. Perkins shall be demoted from the rank of Lieutenant to Sergeant and reinstated with the Louisiana State Police. Additionally, the Commission ruled that he shall be suspended for 720 hours without pay. The Commission also recommended that the LSP appointing authority require a lifetime of random drug and alcohol screenings, as long as Mr. Perkins and that Trooper Perkins be required to attend and provide proof of attendance for AA meetings as long as he retains employment with the Louisiana State Police.

In support of his motion, Vice-Chairman Crawford recognized alcoholism as a disease, and in the world of cancel-culture, where one action or one word can end a 19-year career of exemplary service, he asks that his fellow commissioners join him in holding Mr. Perkins accountable for the actions of that night; they were deplorable but they did not rise to the level of termination. He further noted that today we see too little compassion; Mr. Perkins took responsibility for his actions, he showed extreme remorse, and he has no criminal record that will prevent him from rejoining the state police service.

Chairman Simien clarified, and Vice-Chairman Crawford confirmed, that implicit in the motion is a determination that the discipline was not consistent with the conduct as proven by the department.

Commissioner Knapp concurred with commending the troopers involved for their excellent handling of the incident. He added that initially after reading over the pleadings, he thought that termination was appropriate; however, after hearing Mr. Perkins openly admit that he has a problem and then seeking help for that problem, it was commendable and should be something encouraged for others to also seek help.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Jared Caruso-Riecke, Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Harold Pierite, Sr, Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford

Opposed: None

4. Consideration of pending litigation in the matter of LSTA, et al v. State Police Commission, et al, 19th Judicial District Court, Docket No.: C-672676
 - Executive Session regarding discussion of pending litigation
The Commission entered/exited Executive Session for this agenda item at the same time they entered/exited Executive Session for agenda item #3 – see the roll call votes as documented above.
 - Public discussion and possible vote
None

VII. Director's Report

Commission Expenditures

The attention of the Commission was directed to the Commission's Monthly Expenditure Report that had been provided for its review. There were no questions regarding the report.

Disclosure Forms

The commissioners were advised that their Annual Financial Disclosure Forms are due to the Louisiana Board of Ethics by Saturday, May 15, 2021.

Promotional Exam

The commissioners were advised that the 2021 Promotional Exams would be administered on Wednesday, May 19, 2021.

VIII. Opportunity to Address the Commission by employees or others on matters not on the agenda. (Please submit a speaker request form prior to the meeting being called to order.)

No Comments.

IX. Adjourn

There being no further business on a motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 12:09 P.M. on Thursday, May 13, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jason Hannaman, Executive Director


Eulis Simien, Jr. Chairman