



ACTION/MINUTES

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022
10:00 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 10:06 A.M. on Thursday, February 10, 2022.
- II. Roll Call
Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., and Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Sabrina Richardson, and Jared Caruso-Riecke. Absent was Harold Pierite, Sr. 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.)
There were no requests by employees or others to address the Commission on matters on the agenda.

-
- VI. Business
 1. Election of Officers – per SPC Rule 2.1(b):

Chairman: Eulis Simien, Jr. was re-elected without opposition to serve as Chairman.
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

Vice-Chairman: Brian Crawford was re-elected without opposition to serve as Vice-Chairman.
In Favor: All
Opposed: None
 2. Consideration of the December 16, 2021 minutes.
On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adopt the meeting minutes from December 16, 2021.
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

3. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police for a two-year reauthorization of one (1) part-time WAE position in the Technical Support Unit effective February 13, 2022. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Lt. Colonel Doug Cain, Assistant Superintendent and Chief of Staff, appeared on the behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police, to answer commissioner questions.

Commissioner Mire asked Lt. Col. Cain to confirm that the department's long-term goal would be to have full-time Troopers hired into these positions.

Lt. Colonel Cain confirmed the long-term goal is to not need WAEs and acknowledged that LSP is currently down 200 troopers in the ranks. He advised that LSP hopes to graduate up to 53 cadets in May. In addition, Lt. Colonel Cain also advised the Commission of LSP plans to hold an academy of only POST-certified cadets. This will be the first time this is done and will allow an accelerated 14-week academy rather than the regular 22-week academy. He reiterated the ongoing concern that LSP must get to a point where they are hiring more than they are losing.

Chairman Simien advised the department to notify the Commission if there was any assistance the Commission could provide.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the request from the Office of State Police for a two-year reauthorization of (1) part-time WAE position in the Technical Support Unit effective February 13, 2022.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

4. Consideration of issuance of an order for a joint hearing in the appeals of George Harper (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-252-T, and Dakota DeMoss (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-253-T, in accordance with SPC Rule 13.15.

- Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct
- Public discussion and possible vote

Chairman Simien acknowledge that there was another appeal that was previously filed. He advised his understanding that the issues in that appeal would be subsumed into the current appeals, so at some point, it is understood that the other appeal would be dismissed.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to consolidate the appeals of George Harper, Docket No. 21-252-T, and Dakota DeMoss, Docket No. 21-253-T, in accordance with SPC Rule 13.15.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Referee Lenore Feeney noted that the consolidated appeals would be heard next month on March 14th and 15th.

5. Public hearing to consider previously tabled proposed changes to State Police Commission Rule 14.3 and consider adoption of new rules in Chapters 14 and 15 as detailed in General Circular No. 224.

- Public Comments
- Consideration of Proposed Changes

Commissioner Knapp commented on the progress of working together on rule changes. He acknowledged the work of Commissioner Mire and Chairman Simien and wanted everyone to know that these rule edits were getting the Commission's attention and there was progress on the matter.

Chairman Simien added that there was a lot of work being done and the intention to bring these items to a vote in short order; however, the goal is to have them done the right way, which would include further discussions.

Commissioner Mire noted that the Zoom meeting was productive but the next meeting being face-to-face would have the potential of being even more productive.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to table consideration of proposed changes to Chapters 14 and 15 for an additional 60 days and have the item placed on the upcoming April meeting agenda.

In Favor: All

Opposed: 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.

SPC Website:

The commissioners were updated about the progress of the new State Police Commission website. Additionally, the commissioners were advised that an archive of all general circulars, transmittals, and minutes dating back to the Commission's creation in 1991 have been scanned and placed online to promote transparency of the historical record of the commission.

Promotional Exam:

The attention of the Commission was directed to the upcoming promotional exams that were set for Thursday, May 19, 2022, and the make-up option set for May 23rd. The promotional exam announcement and application were expected to be posted within a week.

FY 22/23 Executive Budget

The attention of the Commission was directed to the upcoming Legislative Session. The commissioners were advised that the Division of Administration was receptive to the FY22/23 budget proposal and recommended funding for an additional full-time staff

position; however, the recommended salary funding fell short of the requested amount to restore the Deputy Director position at the Commission. The hope is to have the funding level adjusted through the legislative budget review process. The Commission's budget is scheduled for review by the Senate Finance Committee on Monday, March 7th and by the House of Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, March 8th.

Updates:

The commissioners were advised that their Annual Financial Disclosure Forms are due to the State Board of Ethics by May 15, 2022.

The next regular business meeting is scheduled for March 14th and will begin at 9:30 A.M. The consolidated hearing is expected to carry over to March 15th.

Commissioner Mire asked for an update on efforts to live-stream future meetings. Director Hannaman advised that the camera hardware in the meeting auditorium was being tested and recorded utilizing Zoom so that a determination could be made for use in future meetings. Chairman Simien inquired about the possibility of having recordings archived for individuals to view at a later date. Director Hannaman advised that if the test today was successful, the plan would be for future meetings to be live-streamed and the videos would be archived and available for future viewing.

-
- 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.)
There were no requests by employees or others to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda.
-

- IX. Adjourn
There being no further business on a motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 10:25 A.M. on Thursday, February 10, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jason Hannaman, Executive Director


Eulis Simien, Jr., Chairman