

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2020

BY TELECONFERENCE

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 A. M. Commissioners present:

Chairman Bob Harrison
Vice Chairman Percy Wilburn
Lt. Stacie Rhoads
Mr. Barry Phillips
Mr. Thomas Marsh
Mr. Richard Wingard
Mr. Doc Holladay
Sheriff Ron Brown
Sheriff Lafayette Woods

Absent:

Dr. James Golden

Others present:

Jami Cook, Director
Fred Weatherspoon, Deputy Director, Training
Brad King, Deputy Director, Standards
Amanda Yarbrough, CLEST Attorney
Sue Albritton, CLEST Admin. Assist.
Juan Reyes, CLEST Training Supervisor
Craig Lawson, CLEST Training Supervisor
Brian Johnson, CLEST Agent
Kaleisha Wise, CLEST Agent
Bruce Orr, Lakeside School District
Jeremiah Stephens
MarQuii McLemore
Brian Merryman
Russell Wood, Attorney
Chief Daniel Strickland, Marianna Police Department
Chief Deputy Matt Rice, Faulkner Co. Sheriff's Office
Chief Scott Simmons, DeQueen Police Department

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Chief Hayes Minor, Rogers Police Department

Chief Michael Watson, Haskell Police Department

Item I: A motion to accept the minutes from the meetings on December 9, 2019, January 9, 2020, and March 11, 2020 was made by Commissioner Woods and was seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Lakeside School District requesting to establish its own police department. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Holladay. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from Jeremiah Stephens to regain his certification as a law enforcement officer. Commissioner Wilburn made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried with Commissioner Woods abstaining from the vote.

Item IV: Item four was a request from MarQuii McLemore to regain his certification as a law enforcement officer. Commissioner Phillips made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Commissioner Wilburn. Motion carried with Commissioner Woods abstaining from the vote.

Item V: Item five was a request by Brian Merryman for a waiver of the two-year waiting period required by CLEST Rule following his dismissal from the Arkansas Law Enforcement Training Academy. Commissioner Brown made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Commissioner Holladay. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from the Marianna Police Department for an extension for Officer Ashley Lawson to complete training. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Faulkner County Sheriff's Office for an extension for Deputy Richard McKay to complete training. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the DeQueen Police Department for an extension for Officer Robert King, III to complete training. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

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Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Rogers Police Department for an extension for Officer Sara Montgomery to complete training. Commissioner Brown made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Arkansas State Police for decertification of Nathan Clayton. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for decertification of Jimmy Foreman. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Second Judicial District Prosecutor for decertification of Gerald Goza. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Dewitt Police Department for decertification of Baylor Griffie. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Mansfield Police Department for decertification of Joshua Huskey. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Baxter County Sheriff's Office for decertification of Tiffany Johnson. Commissioner Phillips made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Cabot Police Department for decertification of Holden Lester. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Prairie County Prosecutor's Office for decertification of John Shumard. Commissioner Brown made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

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Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for decertification of Robert Ward. Commissioner Brown made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the Logan County Sheriff's Office for decertification of Danny Wilks. Commissioner Marsh made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from the Perry County Sheriff's Office for decertification of Nathan Williams. Commissioner Phillips made a motion to proceed to a hearing and was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Motion carried.

Item XXI: Item twenty one was a request from the Office of Law Enforcement Standards to allow Standards to grant COVID-19 related extensions of time for officers to complete training. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXII: Item twenty two was withdrawn and was not presented to the Commission.

Item XXIII: Item twenty three was a request from the Haskell Police Department for an extension for Officer Wesley Ricketts to complete training. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

At the conclusion of the regular meeting, two consent agreements were presented for **Brandon Womack** and **Paul Prevo**. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion to accept the consent agreements and decertify these individuals and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried. Four uncontested hearings were held for **Alaric Busbee, Jamarion Ervin, Mark Holland, and Tanner Hazelton**. Commissioner Phillips made the motion to decertify those in the uncontested hearings and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Director's Report:

Director Cook reported that CLEST was complying with all CDC guidelines and Governor Directives related to COVID-19 and that employees are either working from home or on Director's leave. She reported that the Budget Hearings in March went well and that there are two DPS-related House Bills for the ongoing Fiscal session, HB 1078 related to the Arkansas Division of Emergency Management and HB1093 related to all DPS Divisions. Finally, she reported that, due to COVID-19, ALETA in Camden will

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delay its start date for Basic Class 2020-B to May 31, 2020 with a new completion date of August 29, 2020 and that ALETA-NW will maintain its previously scheduled start date of April 26, 2020 with students completing the first several weeks of training via online training. She reported that 2020-C classes will commence as scheduled.