

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JULY 9, 2020

ARKANSAS STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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

Commissioners present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Lt. Staci Rhoads
Dr. Jim Golden

Other present:

Jami Cook, Director
Fred Weatherspoon, Deputy Director, Training
Brad King, Deputy Director, Standards
Amanda Yarbrough, CLEST Attorney
Trish Hendrix, Court Reporter
Sue Albritton, CLEST Admin. Asst.
Debbie Atwell, Mountainburg Public Schools
Sara Farris, Attorney General's Office
Tracy Hernandez
Richard Lobbs
Michael Murphy, Fountain Lake School District
Hayden Foslier
James Whatley

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Joseph Burt

Jacob Bradley

Michael Watson

Laci Lobbs

Miguel A. Hernandez

The minutes of the last two meetings were approved with a motion and seconded. The vote to accept was unanimous.

Item I: Item one was a request from the Mountainburg School District requesting to establish its own police department. Having met all requirements, a motion was made and seconded to grant the request. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Fountain Lake School District requesting to establish its own police department. Having met all requirements, a motion was made and seconded to grant the request. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Mountain Pine Police Department requesting an extension for Officer Richard Lobbs who was medically withdrawn from Basic Training Class 2020-A. A motion to grant the request was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Haskell Police Department requesting an extension for Officer Rickets who was medically withdrawn from Basic Class 2020-B. A motion to grant the request was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Item V: Joseph Burt was dismissed from Basic Class 2019-C for sexual harassment. Mr. Burt made a request that the Commission waive the two-year waiting period set by CLEST Rules to re-enroll in the academy. A motion to deny the request was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a reconsideration of an earlier vote to allow the Metropolitan Railroad the authority to establish a police department. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded to rescind the previous commission vote to allow Metropolitan Railroad to establish a police department in Arkansas. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Hampton Police Department to go forward with decertification of former Officer Matthew Chance. A motion was made and seconded to go forward with decertification proceedings. Motion carried.

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Item VIII: Item seven was a request from the Austin Police Department for decertification of former Officer Jeremy Covington. A motion was made to go forward and seconded. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office requesting decertification of former Deputy Sean Cass. A motion was made and seconded to go forward with decertification. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office requesting decertification of former Deputy Jalen West. A motion was made and seconded to go forward with decertification. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office requesting decertification of former Deputy Samuel Brandon. A motion was made and seconded to go forward with decertification. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Marion Police Department requesting decertification of former Lt. Freddy Williams. A motion was made and seconded to go forward with decertification. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Drew County Sheriff's Office requesting decertification of former Deputy Steven Stain. A motion to go forward was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item fourteen was a request from the Office of Law Enforcement Standards requesting decertification of former CLEST Agent Joseph Paull. A motion was made and seconded to go forward with decertification. Motion carried.

Item V: Item fifteen was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for decertification of former Deputy Tyler Lovell. A motion was made to go forward and seconded. Motion carried.

After the agenda items, decertification hearings were held. Uncontested Hearings were held for **Joseph Bradford, Gerald Goza, Danny Wilks, Tiffany Johnson, John Shumard, Nathan Williams, and Baylor Griffie**. Decertification was granted for all Uncontested Hearings by a unanimous vote. Consent Agreements were presented for **Wisam T. Algburi, Ricardo Guevara, Johnathan Coats, and Martelle McDonald**. All Consent Agreements for decertification were granted by a unanimous vote. A Contested Hearing was held for **James Whatley**. A unanimous vote to decertify was given for Mr. Whatley.

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Directors' Report:

Director Cook reported that the NW ALETA academy started via Zoom on April 25, 2020. The first 4 to 5 weeks of the academy were completed virtually. In-person training resumed on May 31, 2020. She reported that the academy in Camden was delayed for 4 weeks but started on May 31st. CLEST worked with the Department of Health to make sure that training plans were in line with state guidelines related to COVID-19, including temperature checks and social distancing when feasible. She reported that the new DPS website, which includes the new CLEST website, will launch soon. She announced that CLEST will be advertising for a paralegal position to assist in decertification and other legal needs. CLEST will also be advertising several agent positions, 2 in Camden and 1 in Little Rock. A Special Meeting will be held on September 2nd and 3rd, 2020 in Little Rock. Finally, she reported that the Law Enforcement Task Force had its first meeting and that she is pleased with the commitment of the task force members.