***State of Louisiana***

***MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' SUPPLEMENTAL PAY***

***BOARD MEETING***

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***FEBRUARY 9, 2022***

***10:00 a.m.***

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**Municipal Police Officers' Supplemental Pay**

**Board Meeting**

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**February 9, 2022**

**10:00 a.m.**

**-----**

**MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:**

Bry Layrisson, Chairman

Ternisa Hutchinson

Robert Burns

Kay DeBenedetto

Connor Junkin, Esq.

Wayne Tedesco

Candy Diez

Suzanne Tessier

Col. Jason Starns

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**Municipal Police Officers' Supplemental Pay Board Meeting**

**February 9, 2022**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

All right. I'd like to call this February 9th Municipal Police Officers' Supplemental Pay Board meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

The first item on the agenda is roll call and the introduction of DPS representative board position.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

Okay. And I don't mind doing that, but I didn't know if Colonel Starns wanted to do that, but I certainly don't mind going through the roll call first.

Of course, we got Chief Bry Layrisson.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Here.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

Connor Junkin.

**MR. JUNKIN:**

I'm here.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

Susanne Tessier.

**MS. TESSIER:**

Here.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

Ternisa Hutchinson.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Wayne, I'm sorry. I'm -- I'm going to inter -- I'm going to interrupt you. We really just need the Board members to announce who is here so that we can determine the quorum. The staff members don't have to -- are not part of the quorum.

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

I'm here, Ternisa.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

Okay. Then what we got here is our newest Board member, Captain Robert Burns. And, as I appreciate it, we were notified, essentially, on February 1st that he was going to be our newest Board member. He comes to us here from DPS as representative with Louisiana State Police.

**MR. BURNS:**

Yeah, that's -- that's correct, Wayne. And if -- if I can, I'll just provide just a little bit of -- of background, what I currently do for State Police. I am the captain over our Operational Development Section. It's a very unique section in State Police. I report directly to Colonel Davis, and we handle a lot of senior staff items like the legislative session, the preparation of the budget with Colonel Starns, policy, procedure, all of those things go through my shop. So I'm happy to be here.

I've had the opportunity to review a lot of the documentation that -- that Wayne and Ms. Kay provided to me, and I'm looking forward to being a part of the Board and -- and help in any way that I can.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Thank you, Captain Burns.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

The next item on the agenda would be the review and approval of minutes from the November meeting. I'll make a motion that we accept those minutes as presented.

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

I'll second.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

We have a motion and a second. All in favor certify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Any opposed?

(No response.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

The motion carries.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

One second. I would like to also ask, and I guess we need Connor's opinion, in the past with the Board meeting -- with the Board minutes, we have, of course, been all together and y'all have made your motions to accept the minutes and we had two members of the Board, the -- typically, the chairman and one other Board member sign those minutes to make them the official record. We haven't done that because we haven't all been together in two years.

So, Connor, is it sufficient that we have it in the verbatim minutes that the previous meeting's minutes were approved, or do we need to actually get an exercise going where we get those minutes actually signed?

**MR. JUNKIN**:

It should be fine, as is, as long as -- I mean, all the -- verify that they --

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:**

Am I getting the same?

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

I'd like to ask all members to check your mic. If you're not speaking, please, put your mute on.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. So, Connor, it is okay?

**MR. JUNKIN:**

Yeah. Yeah. If you didn't -- I guess if you didn't hear me, yes. It should be fine as long as all Board members are able to verify that they did review the minutes.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Okay. You good to go on, Ms. Kay?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes.

**NEW DEPARTMENT**

SICILY ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

Gary Lynn Vines

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

All right. The next item on the agenda under new departments is the Sicily Island Police Department. Can someone provide us with the information on this?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Wayne, you want to take that, or do you want me to get it?

**MR. TEDESCO:**

I need to look -- defer it to Soonie to get into the weeds on it.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

This is the Sicily Island Police Department, and it is Gary Lynn Vines. And we do have -- we received his application, and he is the assistant chief --

**MS. TESSIER:**

Assistant police chief.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

-- of the department, but we do not currently -- and -- and Soonie, please, correct me if I'm wrong. We do not currently have anyone receiving in -- in Sicily.

**MS. TESSIER:**

That's correct.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

So, yeah, I'm sorry. Why isn't the chief of police receiving? He signed all the letters, but he doesn't receive?

**MS. TESSIER:**

Well, I don't know. This -- this application that we received, he's been employed there since 2017, but he did not get P.O.S.T. certified until May of '21. So maybe the chief is not -- I don't know. I'm not sure.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Chief Layrisson, do you know anything about this particular town?

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

I do not. Are they a recognized municipality within the state?

**MS. TESSIER:**

It's not Civil Service.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

They do have a mayor and a police chief, obviously.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Well, if this just, and police chief that's P.O.S.T. certified, as of, I believe she said, May, then he has met the prior service requirement, then I make a motion that we approve his application with his P.O.S.T. graduation date and approve him to receive supplemental pay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

So that is May the 3rd of 2021.

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

I'll second.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Okay. We have a motion and a second. All in favor certify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Any opposed?

(No response.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

The motion carries.

**INTERNAL AUDIT BRIEFING/CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

The next item on the agenda is new business, the internal audit briefing and corrective action plan.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

We wanted to make everyone aware of a lot of stuff that's been happening behind the scenes. And, yeah, I'm -- I'm apologizing. My camera seems not to be -- I guess I'm too far away, maybe that's the problem.

Anyway, we just recently completed going through an internal audit of -- of our supplemental pay system and our procedures and all that, and a couple of things came to light that we felt needed to be certainly brought to the Board and discussed and give you our plan for moving forward on these things. And, of -- of course, the first thing that the auditors looked at was the amount of overpayments and the amount of the accounts receivable, and this is something that has been brought forth before. We do carry a large amount of accounts receivable and there are a lot of overpayments, and we are trying to work through, particularly with our modernization project, try to minimize the occurrence of overpayments.

We -- the internal auditors did send out a questionnaire, a brief questionnaire, to about 50 towns and departments, police, and fire, to get their opinion on how these overpayments occurred. And everybody agrees, it's the -- it's the process of the warrant and the timing, and, you know, people send in their warrants and then someone leaves and they don't notify us and so that person gets paid for a full month and we don't find out till the next month.

And we just recently were at the new chief's conference and tried to explain to them that, even if you've already submitted your warrant for the month and you have someone that has an event at your department, a retirement, a resignation, a suspension, going out on military leave, please, still notify us by email, and we can get that in if it meets our deadlines. So we are working on that.

And we are also working to make some improvements in the accounts receivable procedures here at the Department. Connor has determined -- and, Connor, jump in here if I -- if I misspeak here, but that we do have a three-year prescriptive period for the accounts receivables, and so we are --

**MR. JUNKIN:**

One comment that I would make, the prescriptive period is the best that I can determine without some official opinion by the Attorney General's office or an opinion by, I guess, the Office of Debt Recovery, which would be the agency that would actually pursue any of these funds, just because it's not entirely clear to me what -- were billed that this would be under. Because, again, these payments do not go directly to the towns that we would be pursuing. The payments go directly to the employees.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

And those are all things that we're discussing in light of the new system and -- and reworking our accounts receivable system, and we will keep y'all abreast of anything that we come -- come upon or -- and if you, please, just let us know if you hear anything from the towns, please, let us know.

But we will be sending out some past due notices for those that are within that three- year prescriptive period, as we know it now, to try to get these back payments in.

The other big issue on the audit was in the area of military leave. We have several recipients who are getting -- still retaining payments and are -- have been out on military leave for an extended period of time. And so we are currently reviewing all military leave -- all people who are receiving supplemental pay who are out away from their home positions on military leave. And we will look at each one individually. We will seek Legal's advice as we need it, or we had -- could interpret or get an additional higher level of opinion or -- on any of these cases. So you -- y'all may get calls or whatever if we seek some information from the towns or from the individuals as to when is their projected date of return and what is their status of military leave. Because, as we dig into this, we see there are many different statuses of military leave, and the law seemed to be pretty specific that you have to meet one of four different scenarios to qualify to continue to receive your supplemental pay while you are on active military duty. So we want y'all to be aware of that.

Any questions?

**MR. TEDESCO:**

I have -- this is Wayne. I got just two comments, one, on the overpayments, and, two, on the active duty military leave.

So, on the overpayments, just putting on radar, but, essentially, the corrective action plan is to shift that warrants deadline from not being the 10th of the month, but -- but being after month's end, you know, in that following month. So that's the transition that we're trying to get to, and, essentially, that should eliminate this majority of overpayments that we're getting. Again, just pre -- prematurely you know, communicating to us to pay someone, you know, a lot can happen between the 10th and, say, the end of the month, right? So that's the -- that's the corrective action plan that our internal audit division put in place, and that is to -- to shift that warrant deadline to after month end. So that's the goal we're trying to go.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

And we'll discuss that a little bit more too in the -- when we talk about the -- where we stand in our modernization project, what we are doing currently, and what we -- where we might get to in the near future.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

And I think we were looking to try to just get a general discussion out on that active duty military, because we've had -- had some -- some issues internally that we're trying to get clarification on, but I think, ultimately, it's going to be a Board decision. But, you know, you see in that statute, R.S. 29:405(a)(2), that, essentially, there's four criteria, and they have to meet one of the four, right. And that is -- you know, it needs to be a declaration of war, that's the first; it needs to be congressional authorization or presidential proclamation under the War Powers Resolution, that would be the second criteria; national emergency is the third; or a call of the governor as provided for law -- by law as the forth. And I think what we're trying to get the Board to make a decision on is, we've -- we've saw some situations where folks are in full-time National Guard, and as we tried to determine if that, you know, is represented as active duty or not. Because we do have some folks receiving that we believe shouldn't be, you know, and Connor looked closely at the statute, and, essentially, he doesn't, in his opinion, believe that full-time National Guard duty is to be considered active duty. And so, you know, we do have some situations that need to be looked at specifically, but we're just looking for some Board concurrence on -- on that fact.

**MR. JUNKIN:**

And that the reason -- the reason for that is, is that active duty is federally defined, so under 32 USC 101 is the definitions as they pertain -- federal definitions for National Guard matters. And Subsection 12 of the Federal Code defines active duty. The last sentence specifically saying it does not include full-time National Guard duty, and full-time National Guard duty is further defined in Subsection 19 as a separate type of duty. So anything that would be active duty, you know -- orders sometimes say active duty and then further define it as full-time National Guard duty, but once that full-time National Guard duty is set as the status, I do not believe that that applies as active duty as the federal law kind of identifies it.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Conner, Connor, would you be in favor of the Board passing a resolution to request that you request an Attorney General opinion based on the current concerns that you have in regards to this active duty pay?

**MR. JUNKIN:**

Yeah. That's really not up to -- so -- for me to do. It does -- and I think that was going to come in regards to another matter on the agenda today, but in order to request an Attorney General's opinion, I do need a official resolution from the Board requesting that opinion.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Kay, would you like me to do that now or wait until we get --

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yeah. Connor, do you -- do you feel that we need to get an Attorney General's opinion on this, or can the -- can the law be interpreted without it? Do you feel comfortable --

**MR. JUNKIN:**

The board is welcome to request an Attorney General's opinion. It's just whether or not how -- how -- counsel's opinion, myself and my reading of it. And if it -- again, if this is something that the Board believes is going to be challenged in some way by any recipients that might be negatively impacted by it, it would, of course, be more supported if the Attorney General's Office had -- had an opinion. Whether or not the Board would want to do that now, or wait on some type of challenge, that's -- that's going to be up to the Board.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Well, as a Board member, I have a National Guard officer in my department now that's been gone for two years, but he's been on active duty, and it's been related to either the COVID pandemic and Hurricane Ida.

So I think, as a Board member, it's our due diligence to get that opinion now, so that when these issues and challenges do come up, we don't have -- these officers don't have to wait six months to a year to find out if they're eligible or not.

So, with that being said, I make a resolution to the Board that we seek an Attorney General's opinion to give us further guidance on eligibility as it relates to National -- all the branches of our Army and services.

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

Second.

**MR. JUNKIN:**

Yeah. And the only thing, I would just suggest maybe altering the language of the request specifically speak as to the interpretation -- the status and its qualifications under Louisiana Revised Statute 29:405.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

I agree with that recommendation, and we will note the resolution to cover that, as well.

I think Ternisa seconded it. We have a resolution with a second. All in favor certify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Any opposed?

(No response.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Okay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

And, Connor, will you send us the draft of that so we can pass it out to everybody prior to sending it for comment?

**MR. JUNKIN:**

Yes, I will do that.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Thank you.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Thank you, Connor.

**STATUTE/ADMINISTRATIVE RULES UPDATES**

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Are we ready to go to the Act 110 payment limit AG opinion regarding the two statutes that have been provided?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes, unless anybody had any other questions, but, yes. We have come up -- come across a situation with the fact that, in our statutes, in the police supplemental pay statutes, it does have a, no payment shall be made to any one recipient in excess of $10,000 at any one time, and the -- the interpretation there is also a little vague. What does that actually mean? Is that one recipient can get $10,000 -- up to $10,000 for a situation, or is it $10,000 payment at one time? For example, if someone were due -- or could seek approval for $12,000 of back pay under Act 110 and it worked -- go through the cycle and get approved, then is it simply that we can't pay them but $10,000 in one month and pay the additional 2,000 in the following month, or is it that that recipient for that one situation can only receive $10,000, which is approximately is, what -- gee, I'm an accountant, I should know that -- 18 months of supplemental pay?

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Connor, how do you suggest that we should word this resolution, as well? Would you draft -- after we approve that resolution, will you assist us with drafting that, as well?

**MR. JUNKIN:**

Yes. It's actually something that I have already -- already have a brief draft of, so I'm definitely able to advise on that. So, yeah, I -- I can send -- I can -- I can send it to the Board.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Okay. I'll make a resolution -- okay. I'm sorry. I'll make a resolution -- go ahead, Connor. I'm sorry.

**MR. JUNKIN:**

I was just going to say that, essentially, what we're asking is just for an Attorney General's opinion identifying and clarifying what that limit -- what that limitation is, whether it is a $10,000 limit at -- is on a kind of monthly payment basis and the -- the authorization has to repeatedly go back to -- to the legislature for -- or sorry -- to the, yeah, to the legislature for approval. But, as I said, I've already drafted that request. I could circulate it to the Board.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

And just for clarity, Connor, right, and I know fire is different, but on the fire statute there, there's no language at all. So we -- we sort of wanted to, you know, I guess get that incorporated, and maybe that can be a part of the request, right?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Well, that's -- that's -- we'll deal with that with the Fire Board.

**MR. CONNOR:**

The Attorney General is going to -- requires a resolution from the Board. It's going to have to be two separate requests.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Okay. Okay. I make a resolution that we seek an Attorney General opinion to give us clarification as it relates to the excess amount that we can pay relative to statute R.S. 40:167.8 -- or 1667.8. Do I have a second?

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

I'll second.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

All in favor certify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Any opposed?

(No response.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

All right.

**MODERNIZATION PROJECT UPDATES**

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

The next item on the agenda is the modernization project updates.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. We are -- we're moving along really good, I'm going to tell you. We have onboarded several staff members, the State OIS, Office of Information Tech -- Office of Information Services --

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

Technology.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

-- handling the -- I'm sorry?

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

Office of Technology.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

-- Office of Technology. I don't know what I said. They're handling all of that. It's done under a contract and everything. We are in the process of looking for a replacement for our business analyst who is not going to be able to complete the job, and so that's being done right now. But we do have some great technical staff already onboarded, and they've been coming up with some really good stuff.

We are now at the point where we will be sending out some surveys to all of the towns in regards to their technical abilities, what type of email platform do they use, do they have scanners, do they have a secure internet access? Because one of the first things that we're going to do is try to change the delivery method of the warrant. Currently right now, y'all all know, and I know Chief Layrisson, you personally have to one of those warrants every month, it's a -- it's a paper nightmare to have us having to do our reconciliation, print all of those warrants, sit down, mail them all out, have the towns receive them, and sometimes they don't go to the right place, it takes them a while, get the proper authorizations, and then get back to us. So we are looking at two things, and that's making some improvements in the format of the warrants, change -- take off some of the old stuff that isn't really necessary any longer, perhaps add some new information that may help the towns review their warrants, change some of the language to where they understand what it is they are doing by signing this warrant and sending it back to us. So they all feel like these are things that can be accomplished in a shorter time -- frame of time than -- and then move on to what we want to call a front- facing format where the towns would actually enter the information into a portal and we would receive it all like that.

Ternisa, you probably would be interested to know that, of course, our first budgetary amount that they gave us was to make sure that we get the system moved -- for safeguard reasons moved off of the old mainframe onto in boost SQL platform to -- to ensure that we can maintain the system because the technology was so old on that old mainframe. And so, with moving it from the mainframe to the SQL server, we're doing these improvements that can be done quickly, and so we can show the towns that we're getting some improvements done and then -- and preparing them for what will take place a little later, like after the end of this fiscal year, as far as really bringing the technology into the current state of front-facing portals and things like that.

One thing that it -- it doesn't really -- or you have -- do y'all have any questions about what we're doing or, or how we're doing it? Feel free -- if y'all get questions after these surveys, please, just -- you know, you can refer them to us or give me a call, and we can talk about it.

**MR. BURNS:**

Kay, if I can just jump in for a second.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Sure.

**MR. BURNS:**

You know, one of the things that we -- we submitted to the Governor's Office as part of our legislative package is, you know, evaluating these various Title 40 statutes and updating them to, you know, be more in line with, you know, the modernization of the processes. And, obviously, I'm new to it and I'm still, you know, learning and reading through things. But I think -- I've had conversations with Colonel Starns and -- and Connor about it. Do we have -- are we kind of working towards maybe a list of things in State statute that need to be addressed this legislative session?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes.

**MR. BURNS:**

Okay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Yes. I am working on that. I had hoped to have it to give to y'all today. I'm sorry. There's -- we had a training this week and everything else, not to make excuses, but --

**MR. BURNS:**

Sure.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

We will have very shortly, in the next few days, a good list to distribute to all of you of all of the housekeeping things that need to be changed in the statutes. You know, we need to take out the delivery by paper check and take out all the references to mail things in and -- and those kind of really old, antiquated things and make it a broader -- you know, we will make payments and -- and things like that.

There's always been some discussion of, do we want to move towards -- and I don't know if Colonel Starns or Captain Burns wants to talk about changes in the way we actually process the payments. We can put something in the statutes to where we have the capability to do it as it's best suited to the system and not tie us down to where we're going to make an individual payment or a payment -- one payment to a town.

**MR. BURNS:**

Yeah. And -- and, as part of that, Kay, I think one of the questions I had, upon reviewing everything and, number one, this -- this -- the Chief's Management Course handout that you provided me was great. It had a lot of good information in it.

The question that I had, and we touched on a little bit earlier and I'm trying to wrap my mind around, so us at DPS make the payment directly to the officer or the deputy, but if there's an error in the payment, it appears that we go to that -- you know, the police agency to recoup the overpayment, but the overpayment was made directly to the officer. So, as it stands now, what -- what is the mechanism that being used to try to get that money back?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Well, that is our -- we have an old, antiquated accounts receivable system. And just to give you some background, the reason we've been doing that is -- yes, we pay the individual, but the town is who tells us that individual is due that payment, that's the warrant.

**MR. BURNS:**

Okay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Because -- and I stressed this at the -- as Chief Layrisson saw at the chiefs meeting, we stressed the fact that we don't know what's going on in your department. It's incumbent upon you to certify to us that this person listed on this warrant is, indeed, still eligible to receive supplemental pay. Now, there's a lot of discussion, and I know Connor has some opinion as to whether we should be billing the town or the individual.

**MR. BURNS:**

Right.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

And the -- the -- frankly, and I'll be very honest with you here, the -- the decision was way made way back in the '80s and put in the administrative rule that we bill the town, because it is easier on us, you know. There's over 13,000 recipients of supplemental pay out there, and for us to have to try to seek reimbursement from individuals can be daunting on our limited staff.

**MR. BURNS:**

Yeah.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Like we say, we want to move forward in this new system to where those overpayments are limited, and I think that some of the changes that we can make in our deadlines and our communications with the towns will definitely limit those. But in the interim, yes, you know, your point is taken that we pay the recipient, but we bill the town.

**MR. BURNS:**

Right.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

In the perfect world, we would pay the town and bill the town, which is how Sheriffs do, and, Ternisa, I don't know exactly what y'all's mechanisms are for things like that, but that has always been in the past. There have been several times in the past when we tried to move towards, for fire and police, paying the town instead of paying the individual, and it always stopped at the legislature in a committee somewhere where someone came and had opposition to that.

**MR. BURNS:**

Okay.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

But -- and -- and I think that Colonel Starns is on board. We're definitely willing to -- to do what we can. And I believe Bry has also indicated you would be favorable for that.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Yes. We are definitely going to work with the amended legislation to get it moved to the municipalities. Common sense says 600 checks is much easier than -- than 13,000, and it takes care of this issue as far as getting the money back. The municipality is the one making the mistake filing a false warrant, so that's why we bill them. Then it's up to them civilly to go after the employee. But this will ease their work, make efficiently and extremely better, and, to me, it's the right way to go moving forward.

**MR. STARNS:**

Hey, Chief, this is Jason Starns. In -- in moving towards that, since we're talking about municipalities across the state, I'm wondering if it would be an appropriate, I guess, voice or a point of contact to spark some of those conversations and just your thoughts about the -- the Municipal Association to help pass that information around or work with them on that, or do you have any thoughts on that?

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Colonel, I'd like to get with you and Captain Burns after this meeting to discuss a lot of this in detail to bring y'all up to speed, but I have been working with the LMA, the Louisiana Chiefs' Association, the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, and the P.O.S.T. Council. They've all agreed to have a seat at the table on amending our legislation, bringing our legislation up to date, and then I've already received one of -- one of my local representatives, Dr. Bill Wheat, already agreed to sponsor that legislation. Like I said, let's, the three of us, get together after this meeting, and I can bring you up to speed to where all those partnerships are at this time, and we'd love to have y'all on board and -- and get feedback from you, as well.

**MR. STARNS:**

Yes, sir, I completely agree. And that's something that we've discussed administratively, internally, about making sure that, not only the -- the Board is -- is on board with legislative changes and is signed off, to make sure any other stakeholders that -- that we have those conversations prior, you know -- as the legislation would move through the process that and -- and avoid any issues. So thank you.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Thank you, sir.

**MR. BURNS:**

And just one more point on that, Chief. Dr.Wheat actually carried one of our Department bills last year concerning human trafficking, so we have a great relationship with him. He -- he's a -- a wonderful partner to State Police. He -- he's a great guy, so you have a -- a good man right there with you.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Good deal. Thank you.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. Then if -- if that's -- anybody else have any more discussion on that? And I can certainly provide all of the housekeeping things that need to be done for the system stuff.

If -- the other -- one other thing we have on here, and -- and I'm sorry. I really -- I don't know that this goes under the modernization project, but we -- we're seeking some help from the Board in regard to the NOPD. If someone -- I don't know if someone has a relationship with their chief or their administrative officer, but we are having some really -- difficulties in-house receiving their information. For example, as you know, we have a -- and Captain Burns, what we do is, at the beginning of each year, calendar year, we post our Board meeting dates for the entire year. We -- we set the dates. We'll, you know, always bring that to the Board, and we set the dates a year in advance. And for each Board date, we set a deadline for them to have applications to us to meet that Board meeting, so that we can get them -- it's always a week or so before the Board meeting, so that we have the chance to review all the applications and get them all ready to present.

Every month on the deadline day, typically by, oh, six o'clock that night, we receive anywhere from 10 to 50 applications from the NOPD. They keep all of their applications for the entire quarter until that last minute to send them to us, and that is a true hardship on us. This time, I think -- Soonie, I think this time we only had 12, huh? But we've had as many as 30, 40, and 50 applications sent to us literally a week before the dead -- before the Board meeting, and to try to get them put on is really hard.

**MR. BURNS:**

Kay, do you know the -- the name of the specific person that's usually sends them?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Well, we typically have dealt in the past with their HR Director, but I understand when Soonie told me this was still happening and I said, well, let me give him a call, that he's left, and I don't know who has taken his place. So I don't know if the chief is aware of how this could impact his employees. Because a lot of these people could have actually come on board at a previous Board meeting, and they're holding them, and so that is an impact to their employees too in receiving their pay. What's the appropriate channel or -- or do y'all even feel that that's something a Board can do? I just needed to kind of bring this up, that we are continually having this problem, and is there anyone who has a -- perhaps a -- a -- an opportunity to speak to a chief?

**MR. BURNS:**

Yeah. I mean, yeah, that we -- as a matter of fact, we're working in -- with Chief Ferguson and several other New Orleans partners, you know, there was a request that came in for some additional State resources inside New Orleans. So we have a great relationship with them. And I don't think it necessarily -- in my opinion, it doesn't have to be an official, you know, Board action, as opposed to just a conversation and say, hey, you know, who's -- who's turning in y'all's applications, you know. It'd be really helpful for us. It's a very small number of people trying to work through these things, and, you know, just have a friendly conversation. So, you know, I can certainly reach out to them.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

We can certainly offer our support in if -- if they would like us to go down there and sit with their people and give them instructions and training, we are more than willing to do that.

**MR. BURNS:**

Yeah. Okay.

**MR. TEDESCO:**

Before we moved on, I just wanted to back up and mention one comment on Act 110, and we talked with Chief Layrisson on Monday about it, but maybe -- you know, just brief -- Ternisa, you know, you may have seen us, right, Ternisa, just -- just recently in December going before JLCB for the -- what -- what we used to do was once a year act for that -- ask for that approval on that Act 110 back pay. But recently, internally, we kind of made a -- a decision to go a little more often and that being semi-annually, and that being in March and September. So, actually, we're going to try to be coming back in March, next month, again just to do this again a little more often, twice a year, so that, you know, they don't have to wait so long.

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

I don't understand, why not just do it every quarter? They wouldn't have to wait. There's no limit necessarily, but that's up to y'all.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Every quarter kind of puts a hardship on us, frankly, because we have this Board meetings and with the reconciliation process.

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

Yeah. I mean, that's completely up to if y'all, I mean.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Okay. All right. Are we ready to go to new applications submitted for approval, 163?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

We are.

**NEW APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL - 163**

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

And we're going to request something that, as we were discussing the Act 110 money with Connor, we need to start, as part of the Board procedures is, you know, we present this spreadsheet to y'all. It really serves two purposes. It lists all of the applications that we've reviewed and they meet the standards and guidelines that y'all have clearly set forth, no questions about their dates or anything like that. We present those to y'all. And we also include, there's a column at the very end for any Act 110 money that might be associated with this application.

So, you know, it -- it -- we need to really make two motions. We need to make a motion to accept the new applications and put those on, and we also need to make a motion to accept the Act 110 money, and so that when we do submit, we can clearly say that these -- this Act 110 money has been previously approved by the Board. So is that all right with y'all?

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

That's fine with me. I'll make the first motion that we approve the 163 applications to receive supplemental pay.

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

Second.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

All in favor certify by saying, "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Any opposed?

(No response.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

All right. My second motion will be to approve all of the Act 110 money on this application report. Do I have a second?

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

Second.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

All in favor certify by saying "aye."

(All aye.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Any opposed?

(No response.)

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

The motion carries.

**SET THE TIME AND DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

The next item is to set the time and date for the next meeting, which will be May 11th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. Are we going to finally meet at the office, Kay?

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

We're all back to work.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

I've kind of gotten used to this Zoom thing.

(Off the record.)

**COURT REPORTER:**

This is Michelle. I have an issue with I think it's May 11th. It is. I'm not going to be able to attend that day, so -- or that week, so I can do it May 4th, May 18th, or some other day, if y'all come up with that.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. Well, we'll have to discuss that and look at calendars.

How about we pass on that motion, Chief Layrisson, and we will get y'all a -- a date to approve or if we come up with a different method of --

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

That's fine. I'll rescind that motion. You can send out some -- some updated information to the Board members when you make that official.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Okay. Michelle?

**COURT REPORTER:**

Yes.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

If we were to have -- let's just say we were to a face-to-face meeting or a -- a Zoom meeting and we record the meeting, is that sufficient for you to do the minutes?

**COURT REPORTER:**

Yes. As long as the audio is good, that's fine. I don't have a problem with that.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

Well, that being said, do y'all want to go ahead and move forward with the May 11th date, and we'll just ensure that we have -- and by that time we may have our -- our conference room set up with good video and audio, and then, you know, whoever can --we either meet face to face or Zoom. We can always determine that, but we'll have a good audio and visual recording to give to Michelle, and that way we can move forward with our schedule. Is that all right with y'all?

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

So you need me to redo my motion.

**MS. DEBENEDETTO:**

I do.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

I'll make another motion that we have our next meeting date scheduled for May 11th, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

**MS. HUTCHINSON:**

I'll second.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Motion and a second. Robert, do you vote in favor of that motion?

**MR. BURNS:**

I do.

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

All right.

**ADJOURN**

**MR. LAYRISSON:**

Now I'm going to make a motion that this meeting is adjourned. Everyone have a blessed day. Robert, I'll be reaching out to you, man. Welcome to the Board. We -- we're going to love having your help and your expertise.

**MR. BURNS:**

I'm happy to be here, yes, sir. Thank you, Chief.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED

CERTIFICATE

I, MICHELLE S. ABADIE, Certified Court Reporter in and for

the State of Louisiana, as the officer before whom this hearing was reported, and during which, testimony was taken after duly being sworn, that on February 9, 2022, a meeting for the Municipal Police Officers' Supplemental Board was held, that this testimony and matters were reported by me, was prepared and transcribed by me, and that the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 32, inclusive, is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this proceeding.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MICHELLE S. ABADIE, CCR #24032

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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Bry Layrisson, Chairman

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