



Actions/Minutes

AGENDA

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

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

Executive Session will be held in the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium. Upon the acceptance of a motion to enter into Executive Session, members of the general public shall exit the auditorium to the building atrium until notice is given that the commission is ready to be called back into regular session.

I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 9:03 A.M. on Thursday, February 8, 2018.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., Vice-Chairman Dr. Michael W. Neustrom, Commissioners Brian A. Crawford, Jeffrey Foss, and Harold Pierite, Sr. Commissioner Jared Caruso-Riecke was absent. Commission Referee Lenore Feeny and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were also present.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Opportunity to Address the Commission by Employees or Others

Chairman Simien advised that the governor's office recently made an appointment for the commissioner representing the 2nd Congressional District; however, staff has not yet made contact as of this date.

Mr. Leon "Bucky" Millet appeared before the Commission to comment on item #3 of the agenda, Political Contributions. Mr. Millet also informed the Commission about the outcome of a similar complaint he filed with State Civil Service against a retired Trooper, and LSTA Board Member, that was employed by DPS and subject to Civil Service Rules. Mr. Millet stated that the retired Trooper had been found guilty at the February 7th Civil Service meeting and was given 2-weeks off without pay.

Mr. Floyd Falcon, counsel for LSTA, appeared before the Commission to make a correction to Mr. Millet's statement referencing that the retired Trooper was found guilty yesterday at an appearance before the Civil Service Commission; Mr. Falcon advised that a more accurate description of what transpired was that there was a settlement between the Retried State Trooper and the State Civil Service Commission.

Mr. Millet provided clarification that he spoke with State Civil Service and received confirmation that there was a "settlement" reached yesterday between the retired Trooper and State Civil Service regarding the complaint which resulted in two-weeks without pay. He conceded that perhaps he misspoke in the term guilty vs. settlement agreement.

When asked by Chairman Simien, Mr. Falcon confirmed that the matter referenced by Mr. Millet was settled but contended that it was different circumstances before a different board.

Trooper Jay O'Quinn, current LSTA president, appeared before the Commission regarding the LSTA investigation (item #3) and proposed rule changes (item #4). Trooper O'Quinn provided an overview of the benefits the LSTA brings to its members and provided examples. His perception is that the proposed rule changes are directed at the LSTA and would prohibit the important work they do by removing their ability to have discussions with politicians and would dissolve a huge portion of their organization. He contends that the LSTA cannot sit idle as rules are proposed that threaten its existence.

David Young, LSTA Executive Director, appeared before the Commission and stated that the organization has existed for 51 years and has engaged in political activity throughout that time; however, now the proposed rule changes would do away with the LSTA. Mr. Young gave examples of monies raised for life-saving vests for every Trooper. He introduced Paul Toups, recent LSP retiree, along with other members and supporters to express their views and voice their opinions on the value that the LSTA brings to the community.

Ms. Charron Thomas, representing the Central State Troopers Coalition of Louisiana, spoke against the proposed rule changes (item # 4) and provided examples of the benefits of the association such as community outreach as well as volunteering with youth at an annual leadership camp. She stated that limitations on community involvement as a result of the proposed changes would have a negative effect on the workforce and should be considered.

Mr. Floyd Falcon, LSTA Counsel, appeared to before the Commission to present his legal argument for not proceeding with the proposed rule changes as promulgated in General Circular 190.

V. Business

1. Consideration of the January 11, 2018 minutes.
On motion duly made by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Foss, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2018 meeting.
2. Request from Louisiana State Police for reinstatement of 189.10 hours of sick leave for Master Trooper Ritchie Stanley per SPC Rule 11.21.1.
On motion duly made by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Vice-Chairman Neustrom, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to reinstate 189.10 hours of sick leave for Master Trooper Ritchie Stanley.

3. In the matter of Investigation of LSTA Political Contributions, Docket No. 16-221-I
 - a. Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Mr. Pierite, seconded by Mr. Foss, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Chairman Simien, Vice-Chairman Neustrom, Brian Crawford, Jeffrey Foss, and Harold Pierite, Sr

Opposed: None

Chairman Simien called the Commission meeting back to order at 10:53 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Chairman Simien, Vice-Chairman Neustrom, Brian Crawford, Jeffrey Foss, and Harold Pierite, Sr

Opposed: None

Chairman Simien read the proposed written opinion of the Commission to summarily dismiss the matter.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Neustrom, seconded by Mr. Foss, and unanimously passed, the Commission voted to dismiss the investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Chairman Simien, Vice-Chairman Neustrom, Brian Crawford, Jeffrey Foss, and Harold Pierite, Sr.

Opposed: None

4. Discussion of proposed rule change to Chapter 14, per General Circular 190:

- a. Public Comment
- b. Consideration of rule adoptions.

On motion duly made by Mr. Crawford, seconded by Mr. Pierite, and unanimously passed, the Commission voted to table the consideration of Chapter 14 the rule changes as promulgated in General Circular 190.

5. Other Commission Business

No other Commission Business at this time.

VI. Director's Report

- Promotional Examination Announcement will be posted on February 9, 2018, on the LSP Bulletin Board along with the revised test study materials, updated application form, and updated process for appeal. The promotional exam is currently set for Monday, May 21st, 2018 at 9 A.M. and 2 P.M. in Baton Rouge, Alexandria, and Shreveport. The make-up exam is scheduled for Friday, May 25th, 2018 in Baton Rouge, at 9 A.M. A new version of the examination is being introduced which will require re-testing this year.

- Budgetary expenditures since the last meeting.
- SPC staff office relocation – An alternative location was proposed by the Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry due to logistical issues with the construction of the original location. The new location will be in closer proximity to the Commission meeting auditorium. We are continuing to work to ensure we complete the move before the end of the current fiscal year.

VII. Opportunity to Address the Commission by employees or others concerning items discussed but not previously listed on the agenda and for which prior comment was not received.

No Comments

VIII. Adjourn

There being no further business, on a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 11:12 A.M. on Thursday, February 8, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jason Hannaman, Executive Director


Eulis Simien, Jr., Chairman