



ACTIONS/ MINUTES
STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024
10:00 A.M.

JEFF LANDRY
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

Chairman Simien welcomed new Commissioner Oliver Jenkins.

- I. Call to Order
The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, January 11, 2024.
- II. Roll Call
Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., Vice-Chairman Monty Montelongo, Commissioners Mark “Aubrey” Cole, Tony Pierite, Bernell Nevil, Jr, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Oliver Jenkins. There was a quorum. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeney, Deputy Director Aarika Dorsey, and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were present.
- III. Moment of Silence
A moment of silence was observed.
- IV. Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Eulis Simien 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: Monty Montelongo was re-elected without opposition to serve as Vice-Chairman.
In Favor: All
Opposed: None

2. Consideration of the meeting minutes from December 14, 2023.
On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adopt the meeting minutes from December 14, 2023.
In Favor: Vice-Chairman Montelongo, Commissioners Cole, Pierite, Nevil, and Chairman Simien
Opposed: None
Abstained: Commissioners Jared Caruso-Riecke and Oliver Jenkins

3. Appearance by Colonel Robert Hodges regarding immediate priorities and plans for the Department of Public Safety – Public Safety Services, Office of State Police.
Colonel Robert Hodges, State Police Superintendent, appeared on behalf of the Office of State Police. He discussed several public LSP priorities as well as provided a preview of several pay requests to be submitted at future meetings.

Immediate agency priorities:

- Troop NOLA: establishment of a standalone troop that when fully staffed will mirror the other nine troops; it would have a city-wide role and would not function solely within the French quarter.
- Recruitment Section: establishment of a unit that will have a commander and full staff to actively focus on recruiting across the state, at universities, the military, and other law enforcement agencies.

Executive Director Jason Hannaman briefed the Commissioners that he reviewed the position requests submitted by the Appointing Authority and has approved the creation of these positions; therefore, the items did appear on the agenda as a request for Commission approval.

For future consideration:

- Uniform Allowance: A request to increase the approved uniform allowance from \$8.00 to \$15.00 per shift per day of work.
- Shift differential pay: A request for shift differential pay to increase from \$0.50 to \$5.00 per hour.
- Field Training Officer (FTO) pay: A request to increase FTO pay from \$1.30 per hour to \$5.00 per hour.

Executive Director Jason Hannaman briefed the Commissioners that the three increases would need to be brought up at a future meeting along with a fiscal note and attestation of sufficient funds to implement these proposed adjustments. These items weren't on this current agenda.

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commissioners voted to add an item to the agenda considering the classifications requested by the Office of State Police for Troop NOLA and a new Recruitment Section.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Montelongo, Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Nevil, Pierite, Jenkins, and Chairman Simien.

Opposed: None

- 3a. Consideration of a motion to ratify the actions taken by the Executive Director to create the positions requested by the Office of State Police for Troop NOLA and a new Recruitment Section.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commissioners voted to ratify the actions taken by the Executive Director.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

4. Request of the Office of State Police for a temporary Individual Pay Adjustment in the amount of \$504.80 biweekly for Michael Nicolini, State Police Lieutenant, in accordance with State Police Commission Rule 6.16(c), effective January 11, 2024, until such time that he meets the minimum qualification for detail to Captain or he is no longer serving as the Acting Commander for the Protective Services unit. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Commissioner Rieke moved to approve the request as submitted; the motion was seconded.

Colonel Robert Hodges, State Police Superintendent, appeared on behalf of the Office of State Police. He advised that Governor Landry has selected Lieutenant Michael Nicolini, to lead his protection detail.

The Commission voted to approve Commissioner Riecke's motion.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

5. Request of the Office of State Police for a temporary Individual Pay Adjustment in the amount of \$585.02 biweekly for Valentine Emery, III, State Police Lieutenant, in accordance with State Police Commission Rule 6.16(c), effective January 11, 2024, with an adjusted increase to \$602.40 to account for longevity pay effective January 29, 2024, until such time that he meets the minimum qualification for detail to Captain or he is no longer serving as the Acting Commander for Troop-NOLA. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Colonel Robert Hodges, State Police Superintendent, appeared on behalf of the Office of State Police.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the request as submitted.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

6. Request from the Office of State Police to increase the rate of Special Escort pay from \$60 per hour to \$75 per hour for all classified Troopers and unclassified WAE Troopers eligible to work a Special Escort assignment in accordance with State Police Commission Rule 6.29, effective January 15, 2024. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)
Colonel Robert Hodges, State Police Superintendent, appeared on behalf of the Office of State Police.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the request as submitted.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

7. Request from the Office of State Police to amend the rate of pay for all Commission-approved unclassified WAE Trooper positions from \$27-35 per hour to \$35-40 per hour in accordance with State Police Commission Rule 4.1(d)2, effective January 11, 2024. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)
Colonel Robert Hodges, State Police Superintendent, appeared on behalf of the Office of State Police.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the request as submitted.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

8. In the matter of Justin Chiasson (Department of Public Safety Consideration of Public Safety and Corrections—Office of State Police), Docket 23-268-T.
- Discussion of a proposed settlement agreement and presentation by the parties.
Attorney George Hardy appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police. Attorney Ted Alpaugh appeared on behalf of the appellant, Justin Chiasson.
 - Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct.
On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session at 10:32 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Montelongo, Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Nevil, Pierite, Jenkins, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 10:46 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Montelongo, Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Nevil, Pierite, Jenkins, and Chairman Simien

Opposed: None

- Consideration and vote on whether to accept the proposed settlement agreement presented by the parties.
On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo and seconded, the Commission voted to approve the settlement. As there was no need to break a tie in the Commission voting, the Chairman did not vote.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Vice-Chairman Montelongo, Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Nevil, Pierite, and Jenkins

Opposed: None

VII. Director's Report

The attention of the Commission was directed to the Commission's Monthly Expenditure Report that had been provided for its review. There were no other questions regarding the report.

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.)


A request was received from Mr. Robert Burns of Sound Off Louisiana to advise the commissioners on his findings about Lt. John Clary; he believes that Lt. Clary is owed an apology for the false accusations made against him.

A request was received from Mr. Billy Broussard with hopes of clearing his name through a request to have a supplement to a state police report filed on his behalf.


IX. Adjourn

There being no further business on a motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 11:02 A.M. on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason Hannaman, Executive Director



Eulis Simien, Jr. Chairman

