



ACTIONS/MINUTES
STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 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

I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 10:04 A.M. on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., Vice-Chairman Monty Montelongo, Commissioners Mark “Aubrey” Cole, Tony Pierite, Ross Bourgeois, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Oliver Jenkins. There was a quorum. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeny, 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. Consideration of the meeting minutes from February 8, 2024.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adopt the meeting minutes from February 8, 2024.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

2. Request of the Office of State Police for a temporary Individual Pay Adjustment in the amount of \$255.57 biweekly for Jameson Jordon, State Police Trooper, in accordance with State Police Commission Rule 6.16(c), effective January 22, 2024, until such time that he meets the minimum qualification for detail to Sergeant or he is no longer serving in the Protective Services unit. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Lt. Colonel Frank Besson, Chief of Staff, appeared on behalf of the Office of State Police. He confirmed that the adjustment request for Trooper Jordon is similar to the

requests submitted in January following the change in administration and the need for protective services for Governor Landry and his family.

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

3. Request of the Office of State Police for a temporary Individual Pay Adjustment in the amount of \$240.89 biweekly for Cadie Manale, State Police Trooper, in accordance with State Police Commission Rule 6.16(c), effective January 22, 2024, until such time that she meets the minimum qualification for detail to Sergeant or she is no longer serving in the Protective Services unit. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Lt. Colonel Besson stated that Trooper Manale has less service time than Trooper Jordon; therefore, the salary adjustment amounts are different, but the type of request is the same.

Commissioner Jenkins asked if it was routine for a trooper to receive this type of assignment when they have over two years remaining to meet the qualifications. Lt. Colonel Besson noted that they evaluate the trooper's background, and prior experience before State Police to determine if they are a good fit for this section and the special duties of the position. He advised that this is the Protective Services section that provides security for the governor's family; the governor has considerable flexibility in selecting the personnel in these positions.

Commissioner Cole shared his understanding that Trooper Manale would provide security specifically for First Lady Sharon Landry. Lt. Colonel Besson confirmed that it does help to have a female trooper provide security for the First Lady as she can go to places that male troopers may be unable to go.

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

4. Update on the status of the State Police Service Pay Schedule that was promulgated as Exhibit A of General Circular No. 231 and unanimously approved by the State Police Commission on May 11, 2023.

Executive Director Hannaman advised the Commission that the governor signed an appropriation for the current fiscal year for the Office of State Police that would provide the necessary funding for the full implementation of the pay grid originally approved by the State Police Commission in May of 2023. Act 20 of the Second Extraordinary Legislative Session of 2024 also included provisions for increases in the uniform allowance, shift differential, and adjustments for the field training officer program; those items are on the agenda as items five through seven. As of yesterday afternoon, Mr. Hannaman received notice from the Governor's Executive Council that Governor Landry had signed the approval for the full implementation of the State Police Service pay grid passed by the Commission in May of 2023.

Once the signed documents are received, Director Hannaman will issue a Transmittal and work with the Office of Technology Services and DPS Human Resources on the logistics for implementation of the new pay grid.

Executive Director Hannaman provided details on the change to entry-level pay: State Police Cadet entry pay rate was \$46,000 last year and then increased to \$53,000 in July with the approval of the provisional pay grid. The new pay grid, as approved by the governor, raises the State Police Cadet starting pay to \$56,000 annually.

In consideration of Executive Director Hannaman's report that requisite funding was appropriated in the current fiscal year by the legislature and approved by the governor, Chairman Simien recommended that the Commission proceed with consideration of agenda items #5 through #7 in globo. Chairman Simien read each agenda item into the record.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the requests of the Office of State Police as listed in agenda items #5 through #7 with an effective date of March 14, 2024.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

5. Request of the Office of State Police to amend the daily uniform allowance from \$8.00 to \$15.00 each day that State Police Troopers are required to work in accordance with State Police Commission Rule 6.29, effective March 14, 2024. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)
6. Request of the Office of State Police to amend the Shift Differential pay from \$0.50 per hour to \$5.00 per hour for work performed during regularly scheduled shifts for any time periods other than 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, in accordance with State Police Commission Rule 6.16(a), effective March 14, 2024. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)
7. Request of the Office of State Police to amend Extraordinary Duty compensation authority from \$1.30 per hour to \$5.00 per hour under the provisions of State Police Commission Rule 6.16(b) for State Police Troopers that actively serve as Field Training Officers, overseeing the performance of newly assigned graduates of the State Police Training Academy, effective March 14, 2024. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)
8. In accordance with State Police Commission Rule 13.22, consideration of the Amicable Settlement of Appeals submitted by the parties in the matters of Russell Brue (Docket 23-270-T) and Mathew Clair (Docket 23-267-S).
 - Discussion of proposed settlement agreements and presentations by the parties.
Jason Hessick, General Counsel for the Department of Public Safety & Corrections, Office of State Police, presented the proposed settlement agreements. Mr. Floyd Falcon appeared on behalf of appellant Mathew Clair.

Chairman Simien advised his concerns that the Commission was being presented with a request to approve a settlement relative to a claim of use of force and asked the parties to provide additional information that might justify the settlement in the Clair appeal. Mr. Hessick and Mr. Falcon provided additional information on the training and tactics deployed by Mr. Clair.

- Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Montelongo, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session at 10:29 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Chairman Simien, Vice-Chairman Montelongo,
Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Jenkins, Bourgeois, and Pierite
Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Bourgeois, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 10:47 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Chairman Simien, Vice-Chairman Montelongo,
Commissioners Riecke, Cole, Jenkins, Bourgeois, and Pierite
Opposed: None

- Consideration and vote on whether to accept the proposed amicable settlement of appeals presented by the parties:

- In the matter of Russell Brue (Docket 23-270-T)

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the amicable settlement of appeal in the matter of Russell Brue.

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

- In the matter of Mathew Clair (Docket 23-267-S)

Vice-Chairman Montelongo moved to approve the amicable settlement of appeal in the matter of Matthew Clair. The motion was seconded.

In discussion, Chairman Simien advised his expectation that the department will take the steps necessary to instill additional training that will ensure that there is compliance with LSP's methods of operation regarding the use of force.

The Commission voted to approve Vice-Chairman Montelongo's motion.

In Favor: All
Opposed: None

9. Consideration of a resolution to amend the professional legal services contract for Fiscal Year 2024.

Executive Director Hannaman read the resolution to amend the legal services contract for Fiscal Year 2024.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Jenkins, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the resolution and amend the contract.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

VII. Director's Report

The attention of the Commission was directed to the Commission's Monthly Expenditure Report.

The Executive Director advised the commissioners that the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees did not have questions or concerns regarding the proposed FY25 budget, which included the higher annualized amount for professional legal services.

Commissioners were reminded to complete their annual Tier 2.1 Ethics Disclosure Report by May 15, 2024.

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.)

There was no request by employees or others to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda.

IX. Adjourn

There being no further business, on a motion duly made by Chairman Simien, the Commission voted to adjourn at 10:57 A.M. on Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason Hannaman, Executive Director



Eulis Simien, Jr., Chairman