

**MINUTES  
STATE POLICE COMMISSION**

Date: September 8, 2016 Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: State Police Commission  
Office of Management Finance & OMV Building  
7979 Independence Boulevard, Suite 208  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Present: Calvin W. Braxton, Sr. Cathy Derbonne, Director  
Donald Breaux M. Lenore Feeney, Referee  
Thomas "T.J." Doss T. Taylor Townsend, Referee  
W. Lloyd Grafton  
Jared Caruso-Riecke  
Eulis Simien, Jr.

Absent: 0 Vacancies: 1

Scribe: Cathy Derbonne, Director

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**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order: Trooper Thomas TJ Doss, Chairman
2. Roll Call of the Members - Cathy Derbonne, Director  
Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of August 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes
4. Consideration of Settlement Agreement in the matter of Tracy Plaisance Appeal, Docket No 14-216
5. Investigations:
  - a) In the Matter of SPC Investigation Docket No 16-226-I SPC Rule 14.3 (g)
  - b) In the Matter of SPC Investigation Docket No. 16-228-I CONST 10 43 (c)
6. Opportunity to Address the Commission by Employees or Others
  - a) Discussion of whether there is a need to propose any new rules or amendments to existing rules.  
Trooper TJ Doss
  - b) Discussion of how the Executive Director pay is set and whether it can be tied to a State Police Service rank. Jared Caruso-Riecke Adjournment

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- 1. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Trooper Thomas TJ Doss, Chairman
  - 2. Roll Call.** Ms. Derbonne called the roll. All members were present, which constitute a quorum.  
Pledge of Allegiance. Trooper Doss led the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - 3. Minutes from the August 11, 2016 meeting:**

Mr. Calvin Braxton moved to approve the minutes, which motion was seconded by Mr. Jared Caruso-Riecke and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote of the Members present.

#### **4. Consideration of Settlement Agreement in the matter of Tracy Plaisance Appeal, Docket No 14-216**

Mr. Calvin Braxton moved to go into executive session, which was seconded by Mr. Thomas TJ Doss. All members voted in favor of the motion go into executive session.

Mr. Eulis Simien moved to recuse himself from participation, citing a conflict of interest, which motion was documented in the record.

The Commission went into executive session at 9:10a.m. and the regular meeting resumed at 9:35 a.m.

Mr. Jared Caruso-Riecke, seconded by Mr. Donald Breaux, moved to deny the settlement agreement and set the matter for public hearing. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

#### **5. Investigations:**

##### **a) In the Matter of SPC Investigation Docket No 16-226-I SPC Rule 14.3 (g)**

Mr. T. Taylor Townsend reported the findings of the preliminary investigation concerning a complaint alleging that a classified member of the State Police Service being transferred to an unclassified position outside of the State Police Service. Mr. Townsend reported that the individual, Trooper Jason Starnes, was not officially appointed to the undersecretary position. Mr. Townsend noted that the Colonel does not have the authority to appoint anyone to this position because the Governor has the exclusive authority to fill the position, subject to Senate approval. Mr. Townsend further explained that the Commission's approval of the new position of "Chief Administrative Officer" at the August meeting has rendered the investigation moot.

Mr. Jared Caruso Riecke, seconded by Mr. Calvin Braxton, moved to go into executive session to discuss the issue further, as it pertained to a personnel matter. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Commission went into executive session at 9:37a.m. and the regular meeting resumed at 10:02 a.m.

Mr. Tom Aswell voiced his opinion that there is conflict of the outcome of this investigation, due to the fact that the LSP website referenced that Mr. Starnes was assigned as the Undersecretary. Mr. Aswell further expressed his opinion that the Commission went into executive session in violation of state law because it was his belief that the matter was not a personnel matter.

Mr. Townsend stated that the motion to go into executive session was to discuss personnel matters in the investigation.

Mr. Jared Caruso Riecke, seconded by Mr. Donald Breaux, moved to take no further action regarding the investigation (Docket No 16-226-I), and the motion carried.

##### **b) In the Matter of SPC Investigation Docket No. 16-228-I CONST 10 43(c)**

On the complaint filed on August 11, 2016, which alleged a violation of the rules of the Louisiana State Constitution Article 10 Section 43(C), Mr. Townsend reported this would not fall under the Commission's jurisdiction.

Mr. Millet questioned whether the Commission had any responsibility to report a possible violation proper authorities for further action.

Mr. Jared Caruso Riecke, seconded by Mr. Donald Breaux, moved to take no further action regarding the investigation (Docket No 16-228-1), and the motion carried.

## **6. Opportunity to Address the Commission by Employees or Others**

### **a) Discussion of whether there is a need to propose any new rules or amendments to existing rules.**

Trooper "T. J." Doss distributed a copy of proposed rule change regarding Chapter 3: Duties of the Director. The proposed by T. Taylor Townsend would make it the Executive Director's duty to provide written notice of any vacancy on the Commission to the Office of the Governor, the Director of the Office of Boards and Commissions, and to the University Presidents enumerated in Article X, Part IV, Section 43(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

Mr. Jared Caruso-Riecke, seconded by Mr. Lloyd Grafton, moved to publish the proposed amendment for consideration at the Commission's next meeting. The motion carried.

### **b) Discussion of how the Executive Director pay is set and whether it can be tied to a State Police Service rank.**

Mr. Jared Caruso-Riecke stated that currently, there are no guidelines dealing with director pay, and that he believes there is a need to create a set range.

### **c) Mr. Leon Millet addressed the Commission on alleged violation of the rules of the Louisiana State Constitution Article 10 Section 43c and asked members how they were appointed to this board.**

Mr. Lloyd Grafton states a proposed rule has been created to provide written notice of any vacancy to the Office of the Governor, the Director of the Office of Boards and Commissions, and to the University Presidents enumerated in Article X, Part IV, Section 43(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.


Mr. Millet requested a copy of the report of the conclusion of the public hearing of the LSTA investigation. Mr. Townsend stated that there was no public hearing on the matter, therefore a report is not required.


**Next meeting:** The next regular business meeting of the State Police Commission will be held on October 13, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., at Office of Management Finance & OMV Building, 7979 Independence Blvd., Suite 208, Baton Rouge, La. 70806.

**Adjournment:** At the conclusion of the Commission's agenda, Mr. Jared Caruso-Riecke moved to adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Mr. Eulis Simien, and passed with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

-END-

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Trooper Thomas "T. J." Doss

  
Cathy Derbonne, Director