



ACTIONS/MINUTES

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2020
10:00 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*

I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meetings at 10:10 A.M. on Thursday, July 9, 2020.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Jared Caruso-Riecke, Harold Pierite, Sr., and Robert Mire. There was a quorum. Absent was Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford and Commissioner Nelson Cantrelle, Jr. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeney and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were present.

III. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr. 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.)
No comments.

VI. Business

1. Consideration of the June 11, 2020 regular business meeting minutes.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to approve the minutes from June 11, 2020 business meeting as amended.

2. In the matter of Sergeant John Trahan (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 20-247-S. Mary Ann White represents the Appellant, John Trahan, Michele Giroir and Jericha Remondet represent the Office of State Police.

a. Public hearing

Attorney Mary Ann White appeared on behalf of appellant, John Trahan. Attorneys Michele Giroir and Jericha Remondet appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police.

Commissioner Mire recused himself from participating in this hearing.

The Commission recessed for a break at 11:00 A.M.

Chairman Simien called the meeting back to order at 11:10 A.M. and the hearing resumed.

- b. Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session at 11:41 A.M. to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Leonard Knapp, Jr., Harold Pierite, Sr., Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 11:50 A.M.

- c. Public discussion of appeal and possible vote

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to affirm the discipline issued by the Appointing Authority.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Leonard Knapp, Jr., Harold Pierite, Sr., Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

Opposed: None

3. Consideration of the impact of language contained within the preamble of HB1 of the First Extraordinary Session of 2020.

No action taken – Governor John Bel Edwards vetoed the language to be considered.

4. Consideration of a motion to go into Executive Session to conduct the annual Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director.

• In accordance with La. R.S. 42:17(A)1.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Pierite, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to go into Executive Session to conduct the annual Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director at 11:53 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Leonard Knapp, Jr., Harold Pierite, Sr., Robert Mire, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

Chairman Simien called the meeting back to order at 12:00 P.M.

5. Consideration of a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2019-20 Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to defer action to the next meeting, which at that time was scheduled for August 13, 2020.

6. Consideration of a motion to grant the Chairman of the State Police Commission the authority to conduct the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Performance Planning session with the Executive Director on behalf of the Commission.

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to reject the motion, so that all members could participate in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Performance Planning session with the Executive Director.

- VII. 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.)
No Requests.
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VIII. 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 question or comments about the report.
- In consideration of necessary revisions to State Police Commission rules as they relate to the pandemic, the attention of the Commission was directed to the emergence of hybrid attendance models being adopted by local school district; the modified school formats will be a disruption for employees across the state and within the classified state police service. There is a particular concern that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act might not permit expanded FMLA coverage for those that choose virtual school attendance this fall semester; this item will be researched further.
- Probational Exams for August 2020:
Office of State Police has made progress on the remaining requisite coursework in advance of the upcoming promotional exam; exam applicants should be on schedule to complete these remaining leadership courses prior to the end of July.

The state's reported Covid-19 numbers are not decreasing; therefore, agreements cannot be finalized with computerized testing centers for August and for the foreseeable future. In the interest of not further delaying the examination, pursuant to the authority delegated to the Executive Director, he decided that a paper-based exam, to be held in early August, would be the best course forward and would enable those taking the exam to compete for upcoming promotional opportunities.

Commissioner Mire thanked the Director Hannaman for the efforts in moving forward with the exam while both protecting the integrity of the exam and also adapting to the current situation.

- Commissioner Knapp inquired about information from the Office of State Police regarding use of the Emergency Rules, such as how many troopers have been impacted so far from the virus during this period? Director Hannaman advised that he would reach out to DPS/HR to seek that information.
- Commissioner Mire inquired about the types of leave available for employees and a desire to have additional clarification related to Covid-19, Worker's Compensation, etc. Director Hannaman advised that he would also seek information on this issue from DPS/HR.

- Commissioner Knapp inquired about the possible need to extend the emergency rules; Director Hannaman confirmed that the rules had been extended through September 15, 2020 by the Commission's action at the June meeting and the general circular regarding the extension would be published soon. Chairman Simien stated that at future meetings there may be a need for additional review and further extensions.

IX. Adjourn

There being no further business, on a motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 12:20 P.M. on Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason Hannaman, Executive Director



Eulis Simien, Jr., Chairman