



## ACTIONS/MINUTES

John Bel Edwards  
Governor

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION  
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020  
10:00 A.M.

Jason Hannaman  
Executive Director

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*STATE POLICE COMMISSION, VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM, SUITE 1247,  
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY BLDG., 5825 FLORIDA BLVD., BATON ROUGE, LA 70806*

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I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 10:05 A.M. on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for the memory of Trooper George Baker.

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.)

A request was received from Brett Conrad; he offered brief comments on behalf of his client Master Trooper Dean Coates and expressed opposition to the request by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, for retroactive approval of the layoff avoidance measure taken in Fiscal Year 2016-17 to withhold performance adjustments, which request had previously been given interim approval by the Executive Director

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VI. Business

1. Consideration of the March 12, 2020 regular business meeting minutes.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2020 business meeting.

2. Consideration of the March 24, 2020 emergency business meeting minutes.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to approve the minutes from March 24, 2020 emergency business meeting.

3. Consideration of a request of the Executive Director to review and ratify interim actions approved under the authority of SPC Rule 21.6:

a) General Circular No. 207: Extension of Rules 21.1 (b) and 21.7 to April 30, 2020; clarification of Rule 21.1 to read "...may permit the use of sick leave..."

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to ratify the Executive Director's interim approval as outlined in General Circular 207.

- b) General Circular No. 208: Extension of Rules 21.1(b) and 21.7 to May 31, 2020.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to ratify the Executive Director's interim approval as outlined in General Circular 208.

- c) General Circular No. 209: Extension of Rule 21.1(b) to July 11, 2020 to coincide with duration of remaining provision of Ch. 21 under Rule 21.10.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to ratify the Executive Director's interim approval as outlined in General Circular 209.

4. Consideration of a request from the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police, for retroactive approval of the layoff avoidance measure taken in Fiscal Year 2016-17 to withhold performance adjustments; interim approval was granted by the Executive Director under SPC Rule 21.6 to permit planning and preparation of possible restorative options available under the rules prior to the end of Fiscal Year 2019-20. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission).

Lt. Colonel Jason Starnes appeared as the agency representative and offered answers to questions from commissioners. He advised of the department's intent to provide the prospective 3% increase for the withheld Fiscal Year 2016-17 performance adjustment; the payment, if their request is approved, would take place prior to the end of Fiscal Year 2019-20.

On motion duly made by Commission Mire, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to provide retroactive approval of the layoff avoidance measure taken by the agency in Fiscal Year 2016-17 which withheld performance adjustments.

5. Review of Chapter 21 sunset and consideration of rule recommendations for July business meeting. The provisions of these rules are set to expire upon Order of the Commission or in 120 days from first adoption (July 11, 2020), whichever comes first.

Executive Director Jason Hannaman offered comments regarding the upcoming Chapter 21 sunset.

Vice-Chairman Crawford expressed his belief that the rules regarding leave usage should be reviewed and aligned in a way that best helps the employee utilize their paid leave when caring for a family member.

Commissioner Knapp would like to see any relevant information from the Office of State Police that reflects whether or not the policy changes taken so far have made an impact.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to extend the authority for the Chapter 21 Emergency Rules until September 15, 2020, with the understanding that a comprehensive review of these rules will be conducted prior to the September meeting.

6. Review of prior State Police Commission agendas and minutes and consideration of clarifications as needed.

Executive Director Jason Hannaman appeared and offered comments regarding his review of prior agendas and minutes wherein the term LSTA was improperly and generically used. He submitted an addendum for the minutes for January 10, 2019 and February 14, 2019, as well as an addendum to the agenda for February 4, 2019, to properly reflect that Mr. Millet's complaint was against classified members of the Office of State Police, acting in their capacity as elected officers of the Louisiana State Troopers Association (LSTA).

Commissioner Riecke made a motion to approve the addendums to the prior minutes and agenda.

Chairman Simien, speaking in support of the motion, stated that the Commission does not have authority over the LSTA; the authority is over the classified members of the Office of State Police.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve the addendums to the prior minutes and agenda.

A recess was conducted by Chairman Simien at 10:42 A.M.  
Chairman Simien called back to order at 10:45 A.M.

Chairman Simien advised that, in developing rules or issuing circulars, there may have been some casual misstatements regarding the LSTA; however, he wished to make it clear that the Commission is not asserting jurisdiction over the LSTA.

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to make it clear that the Commission's position is, and has been, that those statements, made in the process of adopting circulars, were not intended to be a formal position that this Commission was asserting jurisdiction over the LSTA.

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- 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 Request.
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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.
- The electronic cadet testing is still taking place even though the building has been closed to the public. The Commission has been able to continue cadet testing without any interruption due to COVID-19; Senator Barrow was very pleased with our progress in this area when it was discussed at Senate Finance Committee meeting.
- Unfortunately, like most other state agencies, it appears that the Commission's budget will take a 2% cut for FY 20/21. Every effort will be made to ensure that plans set forth for FY 20/21 are not impacted.

- Promotional Exams were supposed to take place during the month of May. However, due to COVID-19, the exam has been tentatively postponed to the month of August and may change based on progress on the phased reopening of state government and testing locations

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IX. Adjourn

There being no further business, on a motion duly made by Commissioner Pierite, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 10:55 A.M. on Thursday, June 11, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Jason Hammaman, Executive Director

  
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Eulis Simien, Jr., Chairman