



ACTION/MINUTES

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2021
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 meeting at 10:02 A.M. on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.; Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Sabrina Richardson, and Jared Caruso-Riecke. Absent were Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford and Commissioner Harold Pierite, Sr. There was a quorum. 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.)

Several requests were received and were deferred, without objection, to be heard during discussion of the relevant business item on the agenda.

VI. Business

1. Consideration of the meeting minutes from February 11, 2021.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to adopt the meeting minutes from February 11, 2021.

2. Consideration of a request for investigation pursuant to LSPC Rule 16.2 and formal charges pursuant to LSPC Rule 16.4 by Trooper Randall Dickerson, Trooper George Harper, and Trooper Dakota DeMoss.

Chairman Simien advised that immediately following the vote to consider entering Executive Session on this item, the Commission would also entertain a motion and separate vote to consider continuing Executive Session to discuss business item #6.

- Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to enter Executive Session to discuss allegations of misconduct.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

Opposed: None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to continue the Executive Session for consideration of business item #6 regarding discussion of pending litigation in the matter of LSTA, et al v. State Police Commission, et al, 19th Judicial District Court, Docket No.: C-672676.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Sabrina Richardson, 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 on item #2 at 10:44 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

Opposed: None

Chairman Simien made a note for the record that Commissioner Mire excused himself from Executive Session on item #6 prior to any discussion and recused himself from consideration of that matter.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session on item #6 at 10:44 A.M.

Roll Call Vote:

In Favor: Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Sabrina Richardson, Jared Caruso-Riecke, and Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr.

Recused: Robert Mire

Opposed: None

Attorneys Michael DuBos and Adam Karamanis appeared on behalf of appellants Trooper Randall Dickerson, Trooper George Harper, and Trooper Dakota DeMoss to offer comments regarding the request for investigation and the consideration of formal charges. Attorneys Faye Morrison and Michelle Giror appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police.

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to decline to investigate the matter.

Chairman Simien advised that the basis for declining to investigate the matter was not because the Commission lacks any power to do so, but because there will be an opportunity at a later date to address every one of the allegations that have been made relative to timeliness and, if there is an appeal of any discipline, the Commission can investigate it at that time.

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to decline to accept the formal charges.

3. Consideration of legal arguments on whether or not the Louisiana State Police Commission has the authority to stop a pending administrative investigation involving classified state police service employees as filed in the matter of Dickerson, Harper, and DeMoss (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-249-RV.

Attorneys Michael DuBos and Adam Karamanis appeared on behalf of appellants Trooper Randall Dickerson, Trooper George Harper, and Trooper Dakota DeMoss. Attorneys Faye Morrison and Michelle Giror appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to defer until a determination is made as to the investigation, at which time the parties will have the opportunity, and full rights under SPC rules, to bring it before us again.

4. Public Hearing to Consider Proposed Changes to Chapter 21 of the State Police Commission Rules. (Details contained in General Circular No. 219.)

The Commission conducted a public hearing to consider adopting proposed changes to Chapter 21 of the State Police Commission rules as detailed in General Circular No. 219.

- Public Comments

Attorney Mary Ann White appeared on the behalf of the LSTA in support of the proposed changes.

- Consideration of Proposed Changes

On motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adopt the proposed rule change as published in General Circular No. 219.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

5. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police for reinstatement of 3,994 hours of sick leave for State Police Master Trooper Michael Narcisse per SPC Rule 11.21.1. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Assistant Secretary Faye Morrison appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office of State Police, and asked to defer the request until the next business meeting. The department asked for an interim reinstatement of 200 hours that would keep him without prejudice until the delay to next month. Master Trooper Narcisse appeared on his behalf. Mr. Narcisse stated that he has no arguments with the agency's request and that he is just trying to return to work.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to defer consideration of the department's request until next month's meeting.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

6. Executive Session regarding discussion of pending litigation in the matter of LSTA, et al v. State Police Commission, et al, 19th Judicial District Court, Docket No.: C-672676

See business item #2 for discussion and vote.

VII. Director's Report

Commission Expenditures

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

FY 21/22 Executive Budget

The budgetary recommendations contained in the Executive Budget were presented to the Commission, including planned reductions as well as the absence of the requested funding for investigations. The Commission's budget is set for review in the House Appropriations Committee on April 9, 2021, and the Senate Finance Committee on April 13, 2021.

Commissioner Riecke invited his fellow members of the Commission to the upcoming meetings of the House of Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance Committee to ask for the funds to hire personnel to conduct investigations.

Commissioner Mire agreed with the comments from Commissioner Riecke. Commissioner Knapp concurred and stated that it is time to get sufficient funds. Chairman Simien also concurred with the sentiments expressed; he encouraged those concerned to contact legislators and ask them to adequately fund the Commission to achieve the purposes for which it was formulated.

Chapter 21 Rules

The attention of the Commission was directed to the upcoming April 15, 2021, expiration of Chapter 21 – Emergency Rules.

Commissioner Knapp suggested that we may need to also consider how vaccinations may impact the development of rule verbiage as the Commission considers renewal of these rules.

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- 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.)

No Comments.

IX. Adjourn

There being no further business, on a motion duly made by Commissioner Riecke, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 11:25 A.M. on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jason Hannaman, Executive Director


Edulis Simien, Jr., Chairman