

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A. M. Commission members present:

Chairman Percy Wilburn  
Vice. Chair Doc Holladay  
Sheriff Lafayette Woods  
Dr. James Golden  
Mr. Thomas Marsh  
Chief Mike Reynolds  
Mr. Barry Phillips  
Mr. Richard Wingard  
Capt. Stacie Rhoads

Others present:

Jami Cook, Director  
Brad King, Deputy Director  
Fred Weatherspoon, Deputy Director  
Amanda Yarbrough, CLEST Attorney  
Kreasha Williams, Legal Asst.  
Sue Albritton, Admin Asst.  
Jim Brader, Hearing Officer  
Trish Hendrix, Court Reporter  
Ron Brown, Alma  
B. J. Applegate, Mt. Pine School Dist.  
William Hoolapa  
Christopher Haynes, Mt. Pine School Dist.  
Lacey Roughton, UALR  
Scot Montgomery, Perry Co. Sheriff  
John Wilson, Perry Co. Sheriff's Office  
Terry Payne, Perry Co. Sheriff's Office  
Stan McGahee, Dallas Co. Sheriff  
Jordon Ables, Dallas Co. Sheriff's Office  
Chief Angela Jordan, Prescott PD  
Chief Roy Hill, Jericho PD  
E. E. Rice, Jericho PD

Robert Poole, Prescott School District  
Robert A. Newcomb, Attorney  
Seneca Thornton

A motion to accept the minutes of the July 7, 2021 meeting and the June 28, 2021 special called meeting was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried. Retiring Commissioner Ron Brown was recognized for his service and time served on the Commission with a commemorative plaque.

Item I: Item one was a request from the Prescott School District to establish a police department for its school district. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was postponed until the November meeting.

Item III: Item three was a request from the Mt. Pine School District to establish a police department for its school district. Commissioner Phillips made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Prescott Police Department to withdraw its request for decertification of former officer Justin Babbitt. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request for an extension of time for Dallas County Deputy Jordan Ables. Commissioner Woods made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from the Jericho Police Department for a waiver to employ additional part-time officers. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to grant the waiver for one year to allow Jericho Police Department time to come into compliance with Act 218 of 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Golden. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from Terry Payne to be recertified as a law enforcement officer under CLEST Rule 1034. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Commissioner Golden. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from Tanner Hazelton to be recertified as a law enforcement officer under CLEST Rule 1034. Commissioner Holladay made a motion to grant the request and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was postponed until the November meeting.

Item X: Item ten was a request from William Hoolapa to be recertified as a law enforcement officer under CLEST Rule 1034. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Centerton Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Heather Ivey. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Jacksonville Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Ryan Childers. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Jacksonville Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Brandon Martin. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Haskell Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Brian Cooper, Sr. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Haskell Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Brian Cooper, Jr. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a request from the Trumann Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Luke Roe. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the Texarkana Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Danielle Thompson. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a request from the Faulkner County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Justin Bowie. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Holladay. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a request from the Conway Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Austin Claggett. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion Carried.

Item XX: Item twenty was a request from the Conway Police Department for the decertification of former Officer William Lipsmeyer. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XXI: Item twenty-one was a request from the Conway Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Peter Beck. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item XXII: Item twenty-two was a request from the ASU Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Kalvin Booker. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XXIII: Item twenty-three was a request from the Hot Springs Police Department for the decertification of former Officer John T. McLean. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Following the regular business meeting, signed Consent Agreements by **Rhett Ballard and Jason Wolfenbarger** were presented to the Commission for a final vote on decertification. A motion was made by Commissioner Phillips to accept the consent agreements and decertify both individuals. Commissioner Reynolds seconded. Motion carried.

Five (5) Uncontested Hearings for **James White, John Alberson, Lannie Reaves, Corey McCullough, and Dakota Dunkin** were conducted. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion that the Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law had been met. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Golden. Motion Carried. A contested hearing was conducted for **Seneca Thornton**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Rhoads that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met but to not decertify. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Golden. Motion carried by a majority vote. The hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Jim Brader and recorded by Court Reporter Trish Hendrix. A total of seven (7) officers were decertified by the Commission.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Cook reported that she and Deputy Director Fred Weatherspoon attended a press conference announcing an award of \$500,000 by the Attorney General's Office to the DPS Equipment Grant Fund. She reported that CLEST staff is finalizing the report on the CLEST strategic plan and that Duty to Intervene training has been completed and is now available online. She reported that the Telephone-CPR training program has been launched and is now available on the DPS website. She reported that DPS received CARES Funding to upgrade the Commission Room in Little Rock.