

**COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING**

**COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 13, 2022**

**ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY**

Meeting called to order at 10:00 A. M.

Commissioners Present:

Vice Chairman Doc Holladay

Mr. Thomas Marsh

Chief Mike Reynolds

Mr. Barry Phillips

Capt. Stacie Rhoads

Mr. Richard Wingard

Commissioners absent:

Chairman Percy Wilburn

Sheriff Lafayette Woods

Dr. James Golden

Others present:

Director Jami Cook

Deputy Director Fred Weatherspoon

Deputy Director Brad King

CLEST Attorney Amanda Yarbrough

Sue Albritton, CLEST Admin. Asst.

Chris Hankins, LETA Pocahontas

Mark Mosier, LETA Pocahontas

Lacey Roughton, UALR

Brent Bradley, West Memphis PD

Michael Curtis, Paris PD

Jeff Brondhaver, Rogers

Rick Evans, Huntsville

Kenny Yates, Washington Co. SO

Scott Montgomery, Perry Co. SO

Billie McCormick, Perry, Co. SO

Keenan Carter, Washington Co. SO

Tim Helder, Washington Co. SO

Boyd M. Woody, Camden PD

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 17, 2021 meeting and the November 19, 2021 special called meeting was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was to discuss and approve the Board and Commission Expenses. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from Jeff Brondhaver to be recertified as a law enforcement officer under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was a request from Michael Curtis to be recertified as a law enforcement officer under CLEST Rule 1034. A motion to deny the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Perry County Sheriff's Office requesting a waiver of the two-year period required by CLEST Rules for Deputy Billie Ann McCormick. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from the Washington County Sheriff's Office requesting a waiver of the Refresher Course requested by CLEST Rules for Deputy Darren Falslev. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from the West Memphis Police Department to withdraw the decertification request for former Officer Paul Gregory. A motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the West Memphis Police Department for the decertification of former Officer David Kohl. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Little Rock Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Marcus Getter. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item IX: Item nine was a request from the Crossett Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Carrie Wells. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item X: Item ten was a request from the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Antwan Jones. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Phillips and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Pine Bluff Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Christopher Sweeny. 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 Franklin County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Sheriff Anthony Boen. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

At the conclusion of the regular meeting decertification hearings were held. Four (4) signed Consent Agreements were presented for: **Christopher Bruno, Cody Barnett, James Snow, and Joseph Paull** for a final vote. Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to accept the Consent Agreements and decertify the individuals. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried. Four (4) Uncontested hearings were conducted for: **William Prichard, John Little, Michael Coder, and Prince Bohannon**. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried. A contested hearing was held for **Benjamin Opelt**. After hearing all evidence presented, a motion was made by Commissioner Phillips that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The hearings were presided over by Hearing Officer Charles Moulton and recorded by Court Reported Trish Hendrix. A total of **nine (9)** officers were decertified by the Commission.

#### Directors' Report:

Director Cook announced that CLEST's 2021 Annual Report should be finalized by the end of January and will be distributed to Commissioners at that time. She announced that DPS's, including CLEST, budget hearings will take place next week and will include updates related to raises for CLEST law enforcement personnel and personnel in pay grades GS01-GS05. She announced that CLEST is currently finalizing plans for delivery of CIT, Jailer, and Coroner training for 2022 and is proud of the hard work of CLEST personnel in continuing to provide these valuable training opportunities. She reminded the Commission that the new CLEST rules went into effect on January 1, 2022 and announced that she hopes to have new Commissioner appointments soon.