

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2023

ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

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

Commission members present:

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

Commissioners absent:

Sheriff Phillip Miller
Mr. Barry Phillips

Others present:

Tia Marsh, Ft. Smith
Kenneth Burns, City of Pleasant Plains
Brad Freeman, Pleasant Plains PD
Aretha Posey, Helena/West Helena School District
Judy Hubbell, Fordyce School District
Steven Elrod, Garland County SO
Staci Canterbury, Garland County
Larry Canterbury Garland County SO
Shawn Stapleton, Garland County SO
Lacey Roughton, UALR
Daniel Strickland, Helena/West Helena School District
Brad King, CLEST Deputy Director, Standards
Fred Weatherspoon, CLEST Deputy Director, Training
Kreasha Williams, DPS Legal Services Specialist
Sue Albritton, CLEST Admin. Assistant

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A motion to accept the minutes of the last two meetings was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item I: Item one was a request from the City of Pleasant Plains to establish its own police department. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion Carried.

Item II: Item two was a request from the Garland County Sheriff's Office for the Commission to accept the Home School Diploma of Larry Canterbury. A motion to accept the diploma was made by Commissioner Marsh and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item III: Item three was withdrawn from the agenda by the requesting department.

Item IV: Item four was a request from the Fordyce School District requesting to establish its own police department. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item V: Item five was a request from the Helena-West Helena School District to establish its own police department. Having met all requirements, a motion to grant the request was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item VI: Item six was a request from the Pulaski County Regional Detention Facility for the decertification of former Officer Brandisha Hargraves. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item VII: Item seven was a request from the Haskell Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Jimmy Foreman. After review and discussion, a motion was made to not proceed to a decertification hearing by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item VIII: Item eight was a request from the Haskell Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Elvis Caple. After review and discussion, a motion was made to not proceed to a decertification hearing Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item VIX: Item nine was a request from the Haskell Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Blake Gilliam. After review and discussion, a motion was made to not proceed to a decertification hearing Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

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Item X: Item ten was a request from the Haskell Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Joshua DiCicco. After review and discussion, a motion was made to not proceed to a decertification hearing Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XI: Item eleven was a request from the Haskell Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Billy Hutto. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XII: Item twelve was a request from the Camden Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Dakota Davis. After review and discussion, a motion was made to not proceed to a decertification hearing by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

Item XIII: Item thirteen was a request from the Poinsett County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy William Jason Thomas. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item XIV: Item fourteen was a request from the Benton County Sheriff's Office for the decertification of former Deputy Matthew Cline. A motion to proceed to a hearing was made by Commissioner Reynolds and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XV: Item fifteen was a request from the Ft. Smith Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Angel Rivera. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried.

Item XVI: Item sixteen was a recommendation from the Crittenden County Sheriff's Office for decertification of Deputy Quinton Price. A motion to go forward with a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Rhoads and was seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XVII: Item seventeen was a request from the McGehee Police Department for the decertification of former Officer Tavion Vaughan. A motion to proceed to a decertification hearing was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Marsh. Motion carried.

Item XVIII: Item eighteen was a discussion regarding acceptance of Home School Diplomas. A motion to allow the Standards Office to accept verifiable home school diplomas on behalf of the Commission and to promulgate a rule change to CLEST Rule 1002 was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Rhoads. Motion carried.

Item XIX: Item nineteen was a discussion regarding standards for patrol rifle and select firearms. A motion to review and update the standards was made by Commissioner Holladay and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried.

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Item XX: Item twenty was a discussion of the Medical Forms F2 and F2a. A motion to approve the recommended changes was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Wingard Motion carried.

At the conclusion of the regular meeting, decertification hearings were held. One Consent Agreement was presented for **Michael Jensen** for a final vote. A motion to accept the Consent Agreement and decertify was made by Commissioner Holladay. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reynolds. Motion carried. Four (4) uncontested hearing were conducted for: **Aaron Cochran, Stephen Gulick, William Tollett** and **Sidney Dowd**. Commissioner Rhoads made a motion the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law had been met and to decertify. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Motion carried. Hearings were recorded by Court Reporter Bonnie Parker. A total of five (5) officers were decertified by the Commission.

Following the hearings Commissioner Percy Wilburn announced his retirement from the Commission, effective March 9, 2023. A motion to appoint Vice Chair Commissioner Doc Holladay as Chairman was made by Commissioner Rhoads and seconded by Commissioner Wingard. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Director Chris Chapmond reported that on January 30, 2023, he replaced Director Hankins who retired on January 27, 2023 and that CLEST Counsel Amanda Yarbrough resigned her position on January 31, 2023. Director Chapmond reported that he has reviewed all facilities and infrastructure needs, toured ASP driving track to discuss possibility of all students taking the course, that he has been conducting regional meetings with Chiefs and Sheriffs to address concerns and/or suggestions to maximize Standard's operations, that in June six CLEST instructor's will be attending a physical fitness certification course, that the Code of Conduct policy has been revised and policies for Adverse Weather Conditions Training and Adjunct Instructors have been implement, also the instructor's manual (now Agents' Manual) has been revised and updated. He has implemented a staff study on new physical fitness agility testing, a requirement for Standards' Agents to do onsite audits a minimum of 25% of the work week. He met with General Stubbs to pursue a 3-year MOU for CALETA's continued use of Camp Robinson's facilities. He also reported he has assisted with interviews for the new CLEST attorney and provided comments and research on proposed legislation. Director Chapmond reported that he met with Attorney General Tim Griffin to make a \$400k equipment assistance request and that he has presented to DPS a budget needs list that included approximately \$20 million in infrastructure and equipment needs.