



ACTION/MINUTES

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 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 10:21 A.M. on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

Chairman Simien informed the Commission that Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford would be arriving late.

II. Roll Call

Present and in-person were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., Robert Mire, and Sabrina Richardson. Present virtually, via Zoom, was Commissioner Jared Caruso-Riecke. Absent was Commissioner Harold Pierite, Sr. There was a quorum. Additionally, Commission Referee Lenore Feeney and Executive Director Jason Hannaman were present. Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford arrived at 10:30 A.M.

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 the discussion of the relevant business item on the agenda.

VI. Business

1. Election of Officers – per SPC Rule 2.1(b):

Chairman: Eulis Simien, Jr. was re-elected without opposition to serve as Chairman.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

Vice-Chairman: Brian Crawford was re-elected without opposition to serve as Vice-Chairman.

In Favor: All

Opposed: None

2. Consideration of the December 10, 2020 minutes.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and passed; the Commission voted to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2020, business meeting. Commissioner Riecke abstained since he was not present at the December meeting.

3. Discussion with Dr. Helen Wise regarding testing and the upcoming 2021 promotional exam.

Dr. Helen Wise, Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University Shreveport, serves as the Director of Applied Research for the Institute for Nonprofit Administration and Research. She is the contracted test administrator for the State Police Commission. Dr. Wise gave an overview of the history of the test development and validation process for the State Police Commission promotional examination. In her presentation, she underscored the close partnership with the Office of State Police in determining promotional exam testing materials and providing subject matter experts to ensure all test questions are systematically assessed based on complexity and relevance to each job classification being tested. It is Dr. Wise's assessment, based on her statistical review of prior year examinations, that 2021 should be considered a mandatory retest year.

4. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police to extend the temporary duty assignment (TDY) beyond 180 days for Jacob Badeaux in accordance with SPC Rule 8.10(e). (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

LSP Chief of Staff, Lt. Col. Doug Cain, 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 extend the temporary duty assignment (TDY) for an additional year for Jacob Badeaux.

5. Consideration of items previously tabled regarding proposed changes to Chapter 11 of the State Police Commission Rules. (Details contained in General Circulars No. 203 and 211)

Chapter 11:

a) Public Comments:

DPS Attorney Michelle Giroir appeared to answer questions on behalf of the Office of State Police regarding the proposed changes. Attorney Mary Ann White appeared on behalf of the LSTA to answer questions regarding the proposed changes.

b) Consideration of Proposed Changes

Commissioner Mire recommended moving forward with the changes as proposed in 11.9(c) with some edits. Chairman Simien expressed concerns about attempting to amend the rule during the meeting and advised that the additional edits should be captured in a new circular. Following further discussion, Vice-Chairman Crawford stated that he would like to see a provision that gives the Commission discretion to review the loss of time when appealing discipline imposed by the Appointing Authority.

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to reject the proposed changes for 11.9(c) and directed that a new proposed rule be drafted in the spirit of today's discussion which would include discretion for the Commission in considering the loss of time following disciplinary appeals.

Following discussions, Michele Giroir and Mary Ann White each spoke and praised one another as well as the Commission for the time and effort spent on looking at this important issue.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to reject the proposed changes for 11.19.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to approve all the changes to 11.29 as promulgated except for subparagraph 11.29(e)3.

Chapter 21:

Rule 21.2.1(d) was rejected at the September 2020 meeting. The understanding was that it would be revisited following time to allow the department to review and collect the names of individuals that could be impacted by the adoption of the proposed rule.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to revisit the proposed verbiage of 21.2.1(d) at the February meeting.

VII. Director's Report

Centenary Nomination - Congratulations were given to Vice-Chairman Crawford now that his reappointment became official for a new six (6) year term.

FY21-22 Budget Request - On Monday, January 11, 2021, Chairman Simien and the Executive Director met with the Commissioner of Administration regarding the FY21-22 budget request. It was reaffirmed to the Commissioner that any budgetary cut to the State Police Commission's funding would be detrimental in fulfilling the agency's mission. The increase in funding submitted as part of the FY21-22 budget request was highlighted as a priority for the Commission to strengthen investigative and audit functions. The concerns of the Commission have been noted and will be considered as the Office of Planning and Budget prepares the executive budget for the upcoming legislative session.

Commissioner Knapp inquired as to the status of the budget approval process to which the Executive Director provided an update. Chairman Simien provided additional information as to the understanding and sympathies expressed by the Commissioner of Administration related to the impact of potential cuts to a small agency such as the State Police Commission. Commissioner Mire asked that if a budget cut is proposed for the Commission that an Office of State Police representative join the Executive Director at the budget hearings to convey the negative impact on the department of such a cut.

Monthly 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 about the report.

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 Richardson, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 11:47 A.M. on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jason Hannaman, Executive Director



Eulis Simien, Jr., Chairman