



## ACTION/MINUTES

John Bel Edwards  
Governor

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE COMMISSION  
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022  
9:00 A.M.

Jason Hannaman  
Executive Director

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*STATE POLICE COMMISSION, VETERANS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM, SUITE 1247,  
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY BLDG., 5825 FLORIDA BLVD., BATON ROUGE, LA 70806*

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I. Call to Order

The State Police Commission convened its monthly general business meeting at 9:04 A.M. on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

II. Roll Call

Present were Chairman Eulis Simien, Jr., Vice-Chairman Brian Crawford, Commissioners Leonard Knapp, Jr., and Harold Pierite, Sr. Absent were Sabrina Richardson and Jared Caruso-Riecke. 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.

Chairman Simien took a moment to congratulate the 100<sup>th</sup> Cadet Class of Louisiana State Police. He congratulated the 51 men and women for completing a rigorous academy. He hopes they will put all the new material and techniques they learned into practice for the State of Louisiana.

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.)

A request was received from Mr. Robert Burns from Sound Off Louisiana. He appeared and offered comments regarding the prior meeting's minutes; specifically, he believes the minutes from last month should reflect those prospective recording devices that were left in the auditorium during an Executive Session. He identified those individuals as current or former members of the LSTA.

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VI. Business

1. Consideration of the meeting minutes from April 14, 2022.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and passed; the Commission unanimously voted to adopt the minutes as written from April 14, 2022, with the understanding that the today's minutes would reflect the issues that were discussed regarding potential recording devices left behind during an April 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Session.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

In accordance with the approval of the April 14, 2022 minutes at the May 12, 2022 meeting, the following should be noted: Upon entering into an Executive Session at



the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the audience was instructed to clear the auditorium. During that Executive Session, four personal items were identified to contain cellphones or tablets that could be potential recording devices; three belonged to members of the LSTA and a fourth belonged to a member of the LSP legal team. Without ending Executive Session, the commissioners called individuals back in to remove their devices and assure the commissioners that no recording took place on those devices. Each of the individuals responded that there were no recordings made, all members of the public were dismissed, and the Executive Session continued.

2. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police for the two-year reauthorization of fifteen (15) part-time WAE positions. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission  
Alana Collins, Human Resources Manager, appeared on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police; she advised the Commission of the department's support for the request.

Commissioner Knapp asked how many WAE positions are represented in the total LSP force. Ms. Collins did not have that information at this time; Commissioner Knapp asked that she get that information to the Commission.

Commissioner Knapp moved to approve the request. There was no second, instead, Chairman Simien offered a substitute motion that the item is deferred to the June meeting.

Vice-Chairman Crawford advised that if the appointing authority is going to have an item on our docket they should here to present and be prepared to answer questions from the Commission about the item they're requesting. He further stated that the Commission is not a rubber stamp and should not be taken for granted.

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to defer consideration of the request to the June meeting.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

3. Consideration of a request from the Office of State Police, in accordance with SPC Rule 12.5, to place Trooper Garrett Yetman on suspension without pay pending criminal proceedings until the resolution of these criminal charges, or there is no longer a need for the suspension. (Representative of the agency to be available to answer any questions of the Commission.)

Attorney Michele Giroir appeared on the behalf of the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police. Attorney Floyd Falcon appeared on behalf of the appellant, Trooper Garrett Yetman.

Mr. Falcon advised the Commission that Trooper Yetman wished to utilize his leave balance during the suspension. There was no opposition from the Department of Public Safety with the understanding that once the leave balance was exhausted that Trooper Yetman would then be on leave without pay.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission approved the department's request with the understanding



that Trooper Yetman would be allowed to use his accumulated leave during the suspension period until it is exhausted and then he would be placed on leave without pay.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

A 10-minute break was called by Chairman Simien at 9:16 A.M. The meeting was called back to order at 9:28 A.M.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to flip agenda items #4 and #5 and take item #5 first.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

4. In the matter of Carl Cavalier (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-257-S, the following motions are up for consideration and/or oral argument:

The Commission considered the following motions in the matter Carl Cavalier Docket No. 21-257-S:

Motion for Contempt and for Incidental Relief on behalf of Carl Cavalier

Jill Craft and Brett Conrad represented Mr. Cavalier and Gail Holland, Deputy General Counsel, represented the Department of Public Safety and Correction, Office of State Police.

Motion to Quash filed on behalf of Jason Turner

Jill Craft and Brett Conrad represented Mr. Cavalier and Jim Boren represented Mr. Jason Turner.

Mr. Boren withdrew Mr. Turner's motion to quash and advised that he would file one at the appropriate time before July 28<sup>th</sup>.

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to set a deadline to file motions to quash by May 26<sup>th</sup> and any opposition by June 2<sup>nd</sup> so that all motions to quash can be heard at the meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

Motion to Quash and/or limit subpoena duces tecum filed on behalf of Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police

Jill Craft and Brett Conrad represented Mr. Cavalier and Gail Holland, Deputy General Counsel, represented the Department of Public Safety and Correction, Office of State Police. This and related items related to this subpoena were deferred until the June 9, 2022 meeting.

Motion to Recall Subpoena and Eliminate Rule to Show Cause Regarding Contempt filed on behalf of Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police

Jill Craft and Brett Conrad represented Mr. Cavalier and Gail Holland, Deputy General Counsel, represented the Department of Public Safety and Correction, Office of State Police. This and related items related to this subpoena were deferred until the June 9, 2022 meeting.

Motion to Recall Subpoena and Eliminate Rule to Show Cause Regarding Contempt filed on behalf of Kevin Reeves

Jill Craft and Brett Conrad represented Mr. Cavalier and Louis Unglesby represented Mr. Kevin Reeves. This and related items related to this subpoena were deferred until the June 9, 2022 meeting.

Oral Argument

Jill Craft, Brett Conrad, Louis Unglesby, James Boren, and Gail Holland argued the case on behalf of their respective clients in regards to the request for contempt, which was the only item that was to be heard at the meeting.

Executive Session regarding allegations of misconduct

On motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to enter Executive Session to discuss the allegations of misconduct on the part of the witnesses and the department relative to the subpoenas and the request for contempt at 11:18 A.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Knapp and Pierite, and Chairman Simien

**Opposed:** None

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session at 11:47 A.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Knapp and Pierite, and Chairman Simien

**Opposed:** None

Public discussion and possible vote

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, unanimously Passed; the Commission voted to uphold the motion for contempt and find and hold Kevin Reeves in contempt of this body for failure to abide by a duly issued subpoena and appear before the Louisiana State Police Commission at the April 14, 2022 meeting, with the penalty phase to be deferred until the June 9, 2022 meeting.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

Chairman Simien advised that the second aspect of the motion to recall the subpoena and eliminate the rule to show cause regarding contempt filed on behalf of Kevin Reeves is now rendered moot. The motion to recall the subpoena will be heard at the same time as the motion to quash.



On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to uphold the motion for contempt to find and hold Jason Turner in contempt of this body for failure to abide by duly issued subpoena and appear before the Louisiana State Police Commission at the April 14, 2022 meeting, with the penalty phase to be deferred until the June 9, 2022 meeting.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to uphold the motion for contempt to find and hold the Department of Public Safety in contempt of this body for failure to provide lawfully requested documents regarding the April 14, 2022 meeting of the Carl Cavalier matter, with penalty phase to be deferred until the June 9, 2022 meeting.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

#### **APPEAL HEARING:**

5. In the matter of Albert Paxton (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-258-RV. Mennon Campbell representing Mr. Paxton. Laura Hopes Ellender representing the Office of State Police.  
The Commission conducted a public hearing in the matter of Albert Paxton (Department of Public Safety and Corrections, Office of State Police), Docket No. 21-258-RV.

- Public hearing  
Mennon Campbell, legal counsel represented the appellant, and Laura Hopes Ellender represented the Department of Public Safety, Office of State Police.
- Executive Session to discuss investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct  
On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to move into Executive Session to discuss the matter of Albert Paxton Docket No. 21-258-RV at 9:38 A.M.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Knapp and Pierite, and Chairman Simien

**Opposed:** None

Chairman Eulis Simien instructed everyone to remove any potential recording devices from the room and wait down in the atrium until the Executive Session is over.

On motion duly made by Commissioner Knapp, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to end Executive Session on the matter of Albert Paxton Docket No. 21-258-RV at 9:51 A.M.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**In Favor:** Vice-Chairman Crawford, Commissioners Knapp and Pierite, and Chairman Simien

**Opposed:** None

- **Public discussion of appeal and possible vote**

On motion duly made by Vice-Chairman Crawford, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission granted the appeal and reversed the decision regarding the issuance of the letter of reprimand in violation of rule 12.13, which allows the Commission to also proceed to rule 12.20 and reverse the penalty phase.

**In Favor:** All

**Opposed:** None

During the discussion, Chairman Simien noted that there would be prejudice from the lack of notice in this case; therefore, he would vote in favor of the motion. Vice-Chairman Crawford clarified for the record that under Rule 12.13 the trooper is to be notified that they are under investigation and shall be provided with the dates of the alleged offenses and the substance of the factual allegations being made.

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VII. **Director's Report**

**Special Election:**

The commissioners were updated about the status of the special election for the classified employee member of the commission. The Call of Election was officially declared on May 2, 2022. The nomination window closed on Wednesday, May 11 at 4 P.M. with only one nomination submitted and qualified. Therefore, the Executive Director certified that Monty Montelongo, being the sole candidate after the close of the qualifying period, has been declared the winner of the special election. The results become official once promulgated by the Secretary of State. Mr. Montelongo will serve the remainder of the unexpired term which will conclude on December 31, 2026. He will be sworn in before the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Commission Expenditures:**

The attention of the Commission was directed to the monthly expenditure report that had been provided for its review. There were no questions regarding the report.

**Promotional Exam:**

The commissioners were updated on the upcoming promotional exam for May 2022. It will be held on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> and the make-up session will be on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Updates:

The commissioners were advised that their annual Tier 2.1 financial disclosure forms are due to the State Board of Ethics by May 15, 2022.

The next regular business meeting is on June 9, 2022, and will begin at 9:00 A.M.

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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.)

There was no request by employees or others to address the Commission on matters, not on the agenda.

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IX. Adjourn

There being no further business on a motion duly made by Chairman Simien, seconded, and unanimously passed; the Commission voted to adjourn at 12:03 P.M. on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Jason Hannaman, Executive Director

  
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Eulis Simien, Jr. Chairman