

COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS AND TRAINING

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 12, 2012

ARKANSAS LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING ACADEMY

Chairman Harrison called the meeting to order at 10:00 A. M. Commissioners present:

Chief Robert Harrison
Sheriff Butch Morris
Lt. Bobby Walraven
Mr. Cecil Greene
Ms. Jami Cook
Dr. James Golden
Mr. Alonza Jiles
Mr. Barney Reeves
Chief Percy Wilburn
Sheriff Danny Russell

Others present:

Ken Jones, Director
Brian Marshall Deputy Director
Meredith Rebsamen, AG's Office
J. P. French, AG's Office
Larry Robinson, Governor's Office
Sue Albritton, Commission Secretary
Wade Hodge, Hearing Officer
Trent Anglin, Pine Bluff
Chief Brenda Davis-Jones, Pine Bluff
Kyle King, LR Police Department
Robert Newcomb, Attorney at Law
Josh Campbell
Steve Shults, BRTC-LETA
Pat Murphy, Harrison Police Department
David Orsborn, Harrison Police Department
Paul Woodruff, Harrison Police Department
Brent Bridges, Pine Bluff Police Department
Jeremy Hanson, Mayflower Police Department

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A. M. by Chairman Harrison. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October 2011 meeting by Commissioner Morris with Commissioner Greene seconding. Motion passed. There was no news media present.

Item One: At the January meeting each year the Commission votes regarding the Board and Commission Expenses. A motion was made by Commissioner Reeves to approve and accept and was seconded by Commissioner Wilburn. Motion passed.

Item Two: The Garland County Sheriff's Office requested decertification of former Deputy Gerald Gamerding. Commissioner Morris made the motion to go forward with decertification proceedings. Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Item Three: The Benton County Sheriff's Office requested former Deputy William David Fink to be decertified after he failed to pass Field Training requirements. After discussion Commissioner Wilburn made the motion that the Commission not proceed with decertification. Commissioner Walraven seconded. The motion passed not to go forward with decertification.

Item Four: The Cammack Village Police Department requested decertification of former Officer Sheryl Mays after she resigned without adequate notice stating she had medical and anxiety problems. After discussion and reports from the Standards Office it was determined that Ms. Mays was still a probationary officer and had not yet been certified, therefore could not be decertified. The Commission voted to "Red Flag" Ms. Mays' files at the Office of Law Enforcement Standards with a motion from Commissioner Walraven and seconded by Commissioner Wilburn. Motion passed.

Item Five: The Crossett Police Department requested that former Officer Clay Lofton be decertified after having been served with an Order of Protection, suspension and termination after making several threats on his own life. Commissioner Morris made the motion to go forward and Commissioner Wilburn seconded. Motion passed.

Item Six: The Commission considered the matter of former Officer Coleman Duke Brackney of the Bella Vista Police Department who was involved in a shooting incident while employed with the department. Brackney was charged with Negligent Homicide in the Benton County Circuit Court. Commissioner Wilburn made the motion to go forward with decertification and Commissioner Cook seconded. Motion passed.

Item Seven: The Little Rock Police Department requested decertification of former Officer Joel Todd Payne who was found to be untruthful after failing to respond to calls for Assistance, Dereliction of Duty; Cowardice; Neglect of Duty. Commissioner Morris moved to go forward with decertification and Commissioner Cook seconded. Motion passed.

Item Eight: Item eight was the final decertification vote for former officers Andrew Rhew and Rustin McCarty. Each individual had been recommended for decertification at the October meeting and were notified by certified mail. Neither of the individuals requested a decertification hearing. Commissioner Wilburn made the motion and Commissioner Russell seconded the motion. Commissioner Cook recused from the vote.

Item Nine: Former Officer Richard Shaw of the Mayflower Police Department resigned as a result of an internal investigation, the result of which found Mr. Shaw charged with a felony of permitting

unauthorized persons to purchase blue lights. Commissioner Cook made the motion to go forward with decertification and Commissioner Walraven seconded. Motion passed.

Item Ten: At the October 2011 meeting the Commission voted to go forward with the decertification of Ray Thompson and Dewayne Jones of the West Memphis Police Department and Darcy Kwyzla of the Benton County Sheriff's Office. These individuals were sent a certified letter of notification but the letters were returned unclaimed. A motion was made by Commissioner Russell to "Red Flag" the files of these individuals. Commissioner Wilburn seconded.

Item Eleven: Christopher Gregory who was decertified in in 2009 requested the Commission to discuss the possibility of him regaining his certification. After discussion, the Commission concluded that no action should be taken until an agency that is interested in employing Mr. Gregory come before the Commission with the request for Mr. Gregory to be reinstated.

Item Twelve: Director Jones presented to the Commission a recommendation to implement a program which is to be called "Veterans to Law Enforcement". The program would allow military veterans to attend the Arkansas Basic Police Training program prior to being employed by a law enforcement agency, which is something that is not currently allowed under Commission regulations. The Commission gave the recommendation its full support with a motion by Commissioner Jiles and seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Director Jones gave updates on the upcoming Basic Telecommunication Course which has been implemented and the first classes are to be held in February. He also gave reports on the recent remodeling and plans for the funds recently received from the Attorney General's Office.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 A.M.