

STATE OF ALASKA
Alaska Police Standards Council
Minutes of the 141st Regular Meeting
June 22, 2021
Anchorage and Statewide Teleconference

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Hamon called the 141st Regular Meeting of the Alaska Police Standards Council to order on June 22, 2021, at 12:03 p.m. A roll call was conducted as follows:

APSC Members Present

Vice-Chair Rebecca Hamon, Public Member
Scott Campbell, Public Member
Michael Craig, Public Member
Nancy Dahlstrom, Commissioner, DOC
Steve Dutra, Chief, North Pole PD
David Knapp, Sergeant, Correctional Officer IV DOC
Ed Mercer, Chief, Juneau PD
Leon Morgan, Deputy Commissioner, DPS
Shane Nicholson, Sergeant, Kodiak AWT
Dan Weatherly, Public Member
Jen Winkelman, Director of Probation/Parole, DOC

APSC Members Absent

None

APSC Administrative Staff Present

Robert Griffiths, Executive Director
Sarah Hieb, Administrative Investigator
Wendy Menze, Administrative Assistant
Greg Stocker, Training Coordinator

Department of Law Representatives Present

Stephanie Galbraith, Department of Law
Jenna Gruenstein, Department of Law

2. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS

Jean Ward, ACOA
Captain Gerard Asselin, Anchorage PD
Chief Jerry Reddick, Skagway PD
Chief Tim Putney, Kodiak PD
Chief Dave Ross, Kenai PD
Malan Paquette, Public
Chris Bird, Public
Jonathan Bates, Public
Gary Moore, Public

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Winkelman and seconded by Morgan to approve the agenda. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES – May 6, 2021 Special Meeting

It was moved by Mercer and seconded by Craig to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held May 6, 2021. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Malan Paquette stated she is a life-long Alaskan and strongly supports law enforcement. She expressed concern about law enforcement's interpretation of statutes, particularly the statute of limitations in regards to records production. She also expressed concern regarding the missing persons clearinghouse and the lack of photos available. She strongly encouraged a sharper focus on behalf law enforcement in regard to cold cases involving missing persons. Lastly, she requested APSC have more involvement regarding licensing/credentialing standards regarding investigators in Alaska's business industries. She concluded with her appreciation for all APSC is doing and her hopes that APSC receives the funding it needs to operate in the best interests of the state.

Gary Moore stated he had brought a complaint to ED Griffiths regarding misconduct on behalf of the North Slope Borough PD. This misconduct involved what he considered retaliation against him for reporting missing funds from the North Slope Borough PD's evidence room several years ago. When he submitted his complaint with accompanying documentation to ED Griffiths, he reported that five hours later ED Griffiths concluded his investigation and found no misconduct on the part of North Slope Borough PD. Mr. Moore stated he would be happy to provide copies of the documentation he had submitted with his complaint to any Council members that wished to review the matter as he feels there is serious misconduct going on at the North Slope Borough PD that needs to be addressed.

6. COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice-Chair Hamon noted she will be serving as interim Chair until the next Council election which will be held at the December meeting.

Deputy Commissioner Morgan reported that they are in the process of interviewing candidates to fill the Executive Director position upon Mr. Griffith's upcoming retirement. Lt. Joseph Gamache with the Ted Stevens Airport PD and Glen Klinkhart, Director of the AMCO Board, are currently being interviewed and undergoing background checks, and DC Morgan reported he'll keep the Council updated on the selection process as it proceeds.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The June 15, 2020, Executive Director's Report to Council was distributed to Council members prior to the meeting and is available online.

ED Griffiths urged the Council to resolve the regulatory issue that's before them and to stay informed as to Legislative actions that directly affect the operations of the APSC by either limiting their existing authority or expanding it beyond what the Council is in agreement with.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a. Training sponsorship request for command school (\$4,000)

ED Griffiths noted that APSC has previously utilized training funds with an eye towards providing benefit to the greatest number of people, such as sponsoring events, sponsoring training seminars, etc. He asked the Council's direction regarding a request to sponsor a rural officer's virtual attendance at a command school. Following discussion, it was recommended ED Griffiths grant the request, with the caveat that the funds would be provided as a reimbursement following the officer's successful completion of the course, absent a hardship situation.

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. APSC Basic Academy Funding

ED Griffiths reported that although he hasn't put together a draft policy regarding Basic Academy and in-service training funding and will leave that to his replacement, his recommendation is that APSC reimburse departments for the cost of tuition for those who successfully completed their ALET training, absent a hardship exception.

It was moved and seconded for the Council to consider, when requested, providing reimbursement for successful completion of academy instruction for those municipalities sending their officers to the ALET academy, with the exception of State Trooper recruits as they have their own training program. Hardship exceptions will also be considered. The motion passed with unanimous consent.

b. Regulation Change Project Number 2020200735

This matter will be taken up in a special session of the Council to be held August 5, 2021.

10. ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved Dutra and seconded by Winkelman to adjourn to Executive Session to address subjects that may tend to prejudice the reputation and character of individuals and for deliberations on adjudicatory proceedings in APSC cases: 2015-11, 2021-09, 2021-18, 2020-06, 2020-19, 2020-30, 2021-06, 2016-27, 2018-15, 2020-27, 2020-33, 2021-02, 2021-03, 2021-04, 2021-10, and 2019-45. The motion passed with unanimous consent. Adjourned to Executive Session at 12:57 pm.

11. CALL BACK TO ORDER – GENERAL SESSION

Following deliberations during Executive Session, Vice-Chair Hamon called the General Session back to order at 3:52 pm.

12. ROLL CALL

A roll call vote was conducted, and all members present at the start of the meeting remained in attendance.

13. BUSINESS ARISING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action to Accept Surrendered Certification(s) and findings of disqualification, probable cause to initiate revocation actions, and certificate revocation actions.

2016-11 Nicholas Hunnicutt: It was moved by Dutra and seconded by Winkelman to concur with the Executive Director’s findings on probable cause to support disqualification. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2021-09 Jonathan Bates: It was moved by Mercer and seconded by Dahlstrom to concur with the Executive Director’s findings on probable cause to support disqualification. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2021-18 Christopher Bird: It was moved by Morgan and seconded by Mercer to concur with the Executive Director's findings on probable cause to support disqualification. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion failed.

2020-06 Jordan Serafin: It was moved by Knapp and seconded by Campbell to accept the final order of disqualification. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

2020-19 Dakota Ashburn: It was moved by Nicholson and seconded by Weatherly to accept the final order of disqualification. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Dahlstrom and Winkelman.

2020-30: It was moved by Mercer and seconded by Morgan to accept the final order of disqualification. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Dahlstrom and Winkelman. (After this meeting it was realized that the incorrect information was provided to the council and this case will be re-discussed using the correct information at the next meeting.)

2021-06 Ryan Jones: It was moved by Dutra and seconded by Craig to accept the final order of disqualification. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Dahlstrom and Winkelman.

2016-27 Matthew Schwier: It was moved by Winkelman and seconded by Weatherly to accept the surrender of his certification. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously.

2018-15 Robert Carlson: It was moved by Morgan and seconded by Campbell to adopt the proposed consent agreement. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with three abstentions, Dahlstrom Knapp and Winkelman.

2020-27 Thomas Stoddard: It was moved by Hamon and seconded by Morgan that the APSC has determined there is probable cause to move forward with revocation proceedings. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Dahlstrom and Winkelman.

2020-33 Trevor Howard: It was moved by Mercer and seconded by Winkelman that the APSC has determined there is probable cause to move forward with revocation proceedings. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with one recusal, Morgan.

2021-02 Derrick Medina: It was moved by Dutra and seconded by Mercer that the APSC has determined there is probable cause to move forward with revocation proceedings. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Dahlstrom and Winkelman, and one recusal, Knapp.

2021-03 Tucker Edward: It was moved by Hamon and seconded by Morgan that the APSC has determined there is probable cause to move forward with revocation proceedings. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Dahlstrom and Winkelman.

2021-10 Sean Schneider: It was moved by Dutra and seconded by Craig that the APSC has determined there is probable cause to move forward with revocation proceedings. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Dahlstrom and Winkelman, and one recusal, Knapp.

2019-45 Cody Brown: It was moved by Nicholson and seconded by Campbell that APSC revoke his certificate. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions, Dahlstrom and Winkelman, and one recusal, Knapp.

Ms. Gruenstein noted that she did not provide any legal advice during Executive Session on cases where she had a conflict of interest.

14. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

There were no persons to be heard.

15. SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Following discussion, it was determined that a Special Meeting of the Council will be held on August 5 from noon to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom Videoconference, and the next regular Council meeting will be held December 7 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Anchorage, subject to change if the need arises.

16. COUNCIL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ED Griffiths expressed his gratitude to his staff, noting they have been incredibly supportive and helpful in every way. As Wendy Menze is leaving in August, he especially thanked her for the wonderful job she has done and complimented her on her amazing skills and abilities. He noted Greg Stocker is doing great work in developing new classes and online coursework, and thanked Sara Hieb for her outstanding ability to manage all the cases that come before the APSC.

Vice-Chair Hamon noted that the staff's accomplishments are a reflection on ED Griffith's leadership abilities in empowering his staff to do their best work.

Wendy Menze thanked the Council for the great work they do on behalf of the state, and noted that this will be her last Council meeting.

Vice-Chair Hamon thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their support of ED Griffiths and for her in her role as interim Chair.

17. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, it was moved by Dutra and seconded by Mercer to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by unanimous consent, and the meeting was adjourned.

