

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION
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Meeting Was Conducted Remotely Using Microsoft Teams

DRAFT MINUTES
STATE MARSHAL COMMISSION MEETING
January 27, 2022

Commissioner Skyers-Thomas, Vice Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. Staff Attorney Sousa advised the participants that the proceedings were being recorded.

Vice Chairperson Skyers-Thomas confirmed all members in attendance, and verified that a minimum 5 voting member quorum was present.

Members present and participating remotely: Vice-Chairperson Shirley Skyers-Thomas; Bryan Cafferelli; Michael Desmond (via telephone); Mildred Torres-Ferguson; John Vamos; Salvatore Vitrano; Ex-officio (non-voting) Members State Marshal Thomas Burke and State Marshal Lisa Stevenson; Staff Director Douglas Moore (non-voting); Staff Attorney Thomas J. Sousa, Jr. (non-voting); and Special Investigator Anthony Valenti (non-voting).

Members Absent: Hon. Susan Connors.

Guests/Members of the public present/participating: State Marshal Arthur Quinn, Advisory Board Chairperson.

Topics:

1. Investigator Position: Staff Director Moore introduced Anthony Valenti, the commission's newly hired special investigator.

2. Minutes of the November 18, 2021 Regular Meeting: Commissioner Vitrano made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 21, 2021 regular meeting, that was seconded by Commissioner Torres-Ferguson. All commissioners voted in favor, and the motion passed.

3. New Marshal Class/Appointment Process: Staff Director Moore updated the meeting's attendees on the application process. There were 141 applicants who self-reported as having met the minimum requirements, and these individuals' names will be forwarded to PSI, the contractor that administers the exam.

Staff Director Moore asked for input regarding the extent to which the commissioners wish to be involved in the applicant interviews.

Commissioner Torres-Ferguson stated that she participated in the applicant interviews for the last [2015] class of state marshals, and it while it was a positive experience she will not be able to participate this year.

Commissioner Vitrano asked what has been done in the past, and what the staff's recommendation is.

Ex-Officio State Marshal Stevenson reported that interviews for the last class took place over a two-day period, with 15 minutes allocated for each applicant interview using a list of standard questions with two commissioners and one ex-officio participating. She suggests the same process be used again this year.

Commissioner Skyers-Thomas asked which commissioners would be interested or available to participate in the interviews.

Commissioner Cafferelli is interested. Commissioner Vamos is interested, depending on the dates when the interviews will take place. Staff Director Moore stated that the interviews will likely occur in March or April, after the exam and background checks have been completed.

Staff Director Moore then raised the issue of the commission's potential adoption of formal appointment standards, as per the recommendation from the state auditors. Special Investigator Valenti reported on his research into POST-C appointment standards, which the commission could adopt for state marshals.

Ex-Officio Burke stated he is available to participate in the interviews, but would rather not sit on interviews for any applicants from his (New London) county.

Staff Director Moore proposed the staff update the proposed standards with POST-C criminal background criteria, and send the updated draft out to the commissioners for review.

Commissioner Vitrano stated his recollection that the proposed standards were tabled at last month's meeting, and suggested that this issue be revisited during the commission's February 2022 meeting.

There followed a general discussion of the appointment process timeline, exam, interviews, and potential time conflicts that commissioners may have with the general assembly session dates.

4. Retirements/Resignations/Inactive/Deaths:

Commissioner Vamos made a motion to approve Hartford County State Marshal Bruce Kaz' request for transfer to inactive status effective January 6, 2022. Commissioner Torres-Ferguson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A general discussion took place regarding the possible future appointment of a successor state marshal to take over the accounts of the late Hartford County State Marshal Dennis Conroy. No further action was taken on this matter.

5. Complaints:

Commissioner Vitrano made a motion that the commission adopt a finding of probable cause in complaint number 21-22. Seconded by Commissioner Torres-Ferguson, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Torres-Ferguson made a motion that the commission adopt a finding of no probable cause in complaints number 21-07; 20-24; 20-14; and 19-05. Seconded by Commissioner Vamos, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Administrative Updates –

State Marshal Quinn, Chairperson of the Advisory Board, brought up questions about the exam for new marshals, and voiced his opinion that the ex-officios and at least one commissioner participate in the candidate interview process.

A general discussion took place regarding the exam process. Ex-officios Burke and Stevenson will contact Staff Attorney Sousa to review the current exam.

Ex-officio State Marshal Burke raised the issue of federal funding for CO-17 invoices related to mandated service of restraining orders. Commissioner Vamos stated he has been unable to verify that the state receives any federal reimbursement for restraining orders.

Discussion also took place regarding an apparent lack of capias warrants. The advisory board would like the commission to consider raising the capias topic with support enforcement.

Vice Chairperson Skyers-Thomas asked if there was anything else for the good of the order.

Commissioner Cafferelli voiced concern that despite the commission having spent a lot of time and energy talking about the unpaid CO-17 situation, the issue remains unresolved. He would like the commission to get the coversheets from the batch of 80 unpaid invoices that were recently returned to State Marshal Zaniewski.

The Commission, after a motion by Commissioner Cafferelli, seconded by Commissioner Torres-Ferguson, unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Skyers-Thomas at 5:41 p.m.