

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**Alaska Police Standards Council**  
**Minutes of the 120<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting**  
**December 1, 2015**  
**Anchorage, Alaska**

**CALL BACK TO ORDER – GENERAL SESSION**

**ROLL CALL**

Following an Executive Session, Chairman Sheldon Schmitt called the Regular Meeting of the Alaska Police Standards Council to order on December 1, 2015. A roll call was conducted as follows:

**APSC Members Present**

Chairman Sheldon Schmitt, Chief, Sitka PD

Vice-Chairman Berni Troglio, Prob. Officer IV DOC

Carrie Belden, Director, DOC

Jamie Sunderland, Chief, Unalaska PD

William Comer, Deputy Commissioner, DPS

Luis Nieves, Sergeant, AST

Gus Sandahl, Chief, Kenai PD

Richard Burton, Public Member

Rebecca Hamon, Public Member

Brad Reich, Public Member

**APSC Members Absent**

Walter Monegan, Commissioner, DOC

Bob Kean, Public Member

**APSC Administrative Staff Present**

Robert Griffiths, Executive Director

Wendy Menze, Secretary

Sarah Hieb, Administrative Investigator

**Department of Law Representative Present**

John Skidmore, Department of Law

Robert Henderson, Department of Law

**FLAG SALUTE**

A flag salute was conducted.

**AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS**

Members of the audience introduced themselves:

Mike Hicks	Jake Metcalfe	R.J. Ely
Shayne LaCroix	Tony April	Jeff Laughlin
Joe Linger	Ray Leggett	James Klopovic
Dr. M. Javidi	Jay Menze	Pat Enslow
Randall Aragon	David Campbell	Ed Mercer
Leon Morgan	Joe Masters	Paula Dobbyn

Dennis Casanovas	Eric Swisher	Thomas Milliette
Hal Henning	Andre Achee	Rick Lopid
Jesse Davis	Allison Hanzawa	Chad Goeden
Steve Dutra	Mike Holman	Chris Tolley
Brad Johnson	Andy Greenstreet	

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Acceptance of Current Meeting Agenda**

It was moved and seconded to accept the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

### **Approval of Past Minutes – July 9, 2015**

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the 119<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting held July 9, 2015. The motion carried.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

### **Executive Session Case Decisions**

Chairman Schmitt gave the Executive Session report as follows:

**Herman Trent:** The council voted to revoke his certification.

**Robert Grant:** The council voted to accept the surrender of his certification.

**Neil Minor:** The council voted to accept the surrender of his certification.

**Ray Leggett:** The council voted to reject the decision of the administrative law judge and move forward with an evidentiary hearing.

**Jonathan Clouse:** The council voted to withdraw accusations in this case.

Chairman Schmitt verified that a roll-call vote was taken on each of these cases, and a record of the voting is being maintained by APSC staff.

### **Recognition of Outgoing Council Members**

Chairman Schmitt thanked outgoing Council members Ron Taylor and Jamie Sunderland for their years of service to the Council. They will be given plaques in recognition of their service.

### **Recognition of New Council Members**

Chairman Schmitt then welcomed new Council members William Comer, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety; and Carrie Belden, Director of the Division of Probation and Parole, Department of Corrections.

### **Introduction of Executive Director**

Chairman Schmitt introduced the Council's new Executive Director, Robert Griffiths, who has just been hired. He also thanked Sarah Hieb for her services as interim Executive Director for the last few months. Ms. Hieb will now return to her position as Administrative Investigator.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **Budget**

Ms. Hieb reported that the Council is right on target with its budget.

### **Training Update**

Turning to the training update, Ms. Hieb noted that \$147,000 has been spent on training this fiscal year. Out-of-state training was provided to

several individuals, and also funding was provided for attendees at both the Sitka academy as well as the UAF-CTC academy. Only two people that had received Council funding have dropped from those programs.

## **Complaints**

Ms. Hieb brought to the Council's attention an issue that has come up regarding police departments' reporting requirements to the Council. Under current regulations, police departments are only required to notify the Council if an officer resigns or is terminated. They are not required to notify the Council of suspensions. Ms. Hieb noted she has received complaints about this policy as some suspensions are for causes that are revocable offenses under Council regulations, such as criminal offenses.

Discussion followed regarding whether the Council should create a new regulation requiring departments to notify the Council any time an officer is suspended. Several Council and audience members noted that this would include minor offenses, such as showing up late for work or having a messy police car; and the Council would then be required to go through reams of unnecessary paperwork sifting out the more serious offenses.

It was the consensus of the Council to request that Executive Director Griffiths reach out to police chiefs across the state and ask them to voluntarily tell the council when an officer is suspended for serious alleged misconduct, meaning actions that could ultimately result in an officer losing his or her certification.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Regulation Revision Update**

Ms. Hieb reported that APSC staff has been working with the Department of Law in getting the updated police regulations approved for publication and public comment. It is anticipated the proposed regulations will be available for public comment in the near future, and final review will occur at the next Council meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought before the council.

## **PERSONS TO BE HEARD AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Chairman Schmitt asked if there were members of the public or Council members who had matters they wanted to bring up.

Sergeant Nieves asked whether waivers would be allowed in the proposed police regulations. He mentioned the hypothetical case of an officer, in an emergency situation, taking medication prescribed to a family member. Chairman Schmitt clarified that although the Council can't directly grant waivers, it can offer advice to police chiefs as to whether a particular offense does or does not meet the spirit of the law.

Mr. Burton brought up the suggestion to have term limits for the Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions. Mr. Skidmore clarified that to have a hard-and-fast rule would require a new regulation. Alternatively, as the Chairman and Co-Chairman are elected every year, through nominations and the voting process the Council, as a body, could essentially effectuate the term limits of their choosing.

Oversight of the Executive Director's position was discussed. Executive Director Griffiths noted that his office is directly below Deputy Commissioner Comer's, and he expects to be in regular contact with Mr. Comer as he begins his new position.

Chairman Schmitt thanked former Deputy Commissioner Terry Vrabec for all he's done for the Council over the years, including putting this conference together.

Sarah Hieb and Wendy Menze were thanked for their assistance in putting this conference together as well.

Ms. Hieb reviewed for the Council the coming week's schedule.

## **COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR ELECTIONS**

Elections were conducted to fill the APSC Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions. Chief Sheldon Schmitt was elected as Chairman and Sergeant Luis Nieves was elected Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

## **SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chairman Schmitt noted that the next regular meeting of the APSC will be May 10th in Juneau. In addition, having quarterly telephonic meetings has been agreed upon to help deal with the Council's caseload. Chairman Schmitt asked Council members if they would be available for a telephonic Council meeting sometime in March, and the date of March 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. was tentatively agreed upon.

Ms. Hieb then briefly reviewed for the Council the upcoming APSC training academies and their registration deadlines, noting that this information is available online as well.

Chairman Schmitt thanked Berni Troglia for her service as Vice-Chairman of the Council over the past several years.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.