

MINUTES

BLEOST MEETING
October 26, 2023

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman Greg Pollan.

Roll Call:

The Chair called the roll, and a quorum was established. Board members present were:

Supervisor Anjuan Brown
Hon. Nancy Chambers
Col. Randy Ginn
Deputy Charles Harris
Sheriff Jim Johnson
Dr. Steve Mallory
Constable Glenn McKay
Sheriff Greg Pollan
Chief Daniel Sanford

Board Counsel Luke Williamson

Board members not present were:

Hon. Kassie Coleman
Hon. Lindsay Cranford
Chief Michael Hall
Chief John Mark Quaka

Introduction of Guests and Introductory Remarks:

The guests introduced themselves and were welcomed by the chairman.

Speakers/Guests present were:

Chief Deputy Shane Daugherty, Adams Co. S.O.
Sgt. Ivori Campbell, Adams Co. S.O.
Chief Brian Roberts, Brandon Fire Department
Chief Wayne Dearman, Brandon Police Department
Officer Autery Dunbar, Brandon Police Department

Staff Members Present were:

Program Supervisor Robert Davis
Program Specialist Donna Rogers-Perkins
Program Specialist Risa Turpin

Approval of Minutes:

A copy of the minutes from the meeting on September 14, 2023, was emailed to each member. Sheriff Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

OLD BUSINESS

In-Service Training – Request for Approval:

- 1. Mississippi 2023 Winter Chief’s Association Conference, 20 hours**
- 2. Criminal Gangs-The Bigger Picture, 8 hours, Michael Ricks-Georgia Instructor**
- 3. Vector Solutions, Use of Force/De-escalation, 1-hour online training**

These topics were presented to the Board for approval. Constable McKay made a motion to approve, and Col. Ginn seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition.

NEW BUSINESS

Certification of Officers:

Director Davis presented 1 full-time academy class for certification pending completion of all requirements.

Sixteen full-time and three part-time equivalency of training candidates were presented for certification pending completion of all requirements. The Chair entertained a motion. Dr. Mallory made a motion to approve the full-time class and the equivalency candidates for certification subject to meeting all requirements. Constable McKay seconded the motion. The motion was adopted without opposition.

Director’s Report:

Bob Morgan has returned to his Accreditation Manager role; he is on contract and will be able to work 20 hours per week. After research by our Board Attorney, a person is considered emancipated if they are married before the age of 21. The Director asked the Board for input concerning hearings being postponed by the officer’s attorney. It was suggested that we look into establishing policy to set time limits on hearings if the officer continues to work.

Certification Eligibility Hearing for Officer Ray Allen Thompson:

Ray Allen Thompson sent an email this morning stating that he has decided not to contest the findings of the Board’s staff and will not appear before the Board.

Certification Eligibility Hearing for Officer Autery Dunbar:

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training (BLEOST) received a “Full-Time Law Enforcement Application for Certification” from the Brandon Police Department, indicating that Autery Dunbar was hired as a law enforcement officer on 5/16/23. Based on the information received, the BLEOST staff has determined that he is not eligible for certification. Autery Dunbar requested a Board hearing.

The Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training (BLEOST) has been provided information that Autery Dunbar was discharged “under other than honorable conditions” from the Naval Discharge Review Board on April 28, 2023. According to his DD Form 214, the reason listed for separation was due to a Court-Martial. BLEOST Policy states that former members of the Armed Forces must have been discharged under honorable conditions to be qualified for employment as a law enforcement officer.

Mr. Davis presented a 23-page document taken from Officer Dunbar’s file to back up the allegations (to be marked as exhibit 1). In Officer Dunbar’s statement to the Board, he said an investigation was conducted in December 2013 by his command, but he was not arrested. In July 2015, he was questioned by NCIS. In August 2015, he was arrested due to the severity of the allegations and at a special court martial, he was found guilty of assault under the UCMJ. He served 8 months of confinement, he was reduced in rank to E-1, and was given a Bad Conduct Discharge.

The military judge accepted his guilty pleas to three specifications of assault consummated by a battery. Officer Dunbar appealed his discharge, and the discharge was upgraded to “under other than honorable conditions”.

Officer Dunbar told the Board that the information contained in the documents are the facts. He explained the offenses that he was accused of, and he plead guilty on the advice of his attorney. He said that military courts are different from civilian courts. If these offenses were in civilian court, they would have been misdemeanors. He said that he is a Mississippi certified fire fighter and EMT. He stated that he wants a chance to be a certified law enforcement officer. Chief of Police Wayne Dearman told the Board that this Officer was a good person, he has proven his character by all of his training and various skills. The Chief believes that he will make an excellent officer. Fire Chief Brian Roberts said that he has known this Officer for 4 years and knows that he is a great and dedicated EMT and Firefighter.

The Chair entertained a motion. Dr. Mallory made a motion to go into closed session to consider whether to declare an executive session, Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Nine members were present. Constable McKay made a motion to enter into executive session to consider the allegations of misconduct and evidence produced during open proceedings, and the possible issuance of an appealable order. Mayor Chambers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After executive session was completed, the Chair invited everyone back to the meeting room. Constable McKay made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Deputy Harris. The motion passed unanimously.

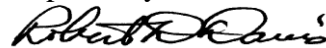
The Chair announced that after deliberations in Executive Session, the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards & Training voted to continue this hearing until the next meeting of the Board on January 11th. Officer Dunbar, you may continue working until further action of this Board, you will be notified of the next action of the Board.

Next Scheduled Meeting: The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2024.

Concluding Remarks; Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Director, Board on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training