

Meeting Minutes of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission

Business Meeting

900 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 400

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

January 31, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commission was called to order January 31, 2024, at 9:35 am by Commission Chair Joy Blankenship.

ATTENDEES

Staff present included Director Daniel Pace, and investigators Margie Sexton and John Aquilino. The Commissioners in attendance included Chair Joy Blankenship, Duane Neal, Michael Moix, Jeff Baskin, Jimmy Jones, and Scott Wood. Commissioner Rick Whitten was not in attendance and was not previously excused from attendance of this regularly scheduled meeting. Clay Maxey will soon be sworn in as an Arkansas Motor Vehicle Commissioner and was invited by the Commission to attend this meeting as an observer. Also in attendance was Assistant Attorney General Michael Bynum and Courtney Sheppard of Gulf States Toyota.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the Wednesday, October 18, 2023, regularly scheduled meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the Commission following a proper motion by Jeff Baskin and second by Michael Moix.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization of Commissioner (Board member) Expense Reimbursements (pursuant to A.C.A 25-16-902) & Commissioner (Board Member) Stipends (pursuant to A.C.A. 25-16-903) for the 2024 Calendar Year were reviewed and unanimously approved by vote of the Commission following a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Scott Wood.

REPORTS

Director Pace presented the Financial Revenue Report for Fiscal Year 2024, which reflected revenue deposit total of \$344,275.00. Director Pace estimates an additional \$11,000.00 in revenue has been received and deposited in the last week after the original report was compiled. Following a proper motion

by Michael Moix and a second by Jeff Baskin the Financial Revenue Report was unanimously approved by the Commission.

The Monthly License Activity Report was presented by Director Pace, and he noted that renewals were close to completion and the new process has worked well for dealers and lessors. An estimate of 40 licenses have yet to be renewed, and this group includes Cycle, RV/Commercial Truck, Specialty Vehicle, and Auto dealers. This process is being completed on the ELP system adopted by the Commission in 2023. The Commission approved the Monthly License Activity Report after a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Scott Wood.

The investigation Summary Report compiled by Investigator Margie Sexton included November 2023, December 2023, and January 2024. There have been investigations into title, warranty, and advertising complaints. The three-month period has not reflected an uptick in complaints. The Consumer Assistance Report include information dating back to 2022. The Commission has received 1 formal complaint for 2024 and four additional non-formal complaints since the original report was compiled in mid-January.

ACTIONS & DISCUSSION

Assistant Attorney General Michael Bynum delivered a formal introduction of himself to the Commission. Director Pace then explained the background and investigation to support the proposed Consent Agreement between the Commission and Interstate-69 Motorsports, LLC, which included a civil penalty of \$1000.00. This case was listed as C#23-016 – Independence County Off Road, Inc. vs. Interstate-69 Motorsports, LLC (Union City, TN). Chair Joy Blankenship requested a motion to carry regarding the approval of the consent agreement. Following a proper motion by Scott Wood and a second by Jeff Baskin, the motion was carried, and the consent agreement and civil penalty was approved by unanimous vote of the commission.

Chair Joy Blankenship presented the Fiscal Year 2022 Arkansas Legislative Audit Report to the Commission for review pursuant to (A.C.A. 10-4-418). Following a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Jeff Baskin, the Commission unanimously approved the motion to mark the audit report findings and recommendations for State Fiscal year 2022 as reviewed.

Director Pace provided background to the Commission on a request for waiver of late fees for Enterprise Rent-A-Car's two lessor branches that have had their licenses renewed in 2023. Following a proper motion by Michael Moix and a second by Scott Wood, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Lessor Branch License LB 718-35 & LB 718-45 request to waive late fees for License Renewal in 2023 was unanimously approved by the commission.

Director Pace reviewed the Education and Training Education Grant Accounting Reports for Fiscal Year 2023. As of January 2024, 3 of the institutions that were awarded funds have utilized the full amount allotted to them, and EACC (East Arkansas Community College) has utilized most of their allotted funds. The Application process for the 2024 Education and Training Grant will open in late February.

Director Pace provided an update to the Commission with respect to the appointment of Clay Maxey as a new Commissioner to replace Mitch Ward. He also provided an update on the intent to have a

Motorcycle Dealer appointed to replace Rick Whitten, a replacement for Jock Davis who resigned, and the reappointment of Jeff Baskin following his recent term expiration.

Director Pace reminded the Commission that every member of the Commission must have their Statement of Financial interest turned in to the Secretary of State's Office by January 31, 2024.

Director Pace delivered a formal introduction of Investigator John Aquilino and explained he will be covering all of Northern Arkansas for the Commission. He also announced the resignation of former Licensing Supervisor Jeff Huber and the hiring of a new Licensing Supervisor Alexis Dunlap.

The regularly scheduled meeting for February 21, 2024, will not be held, and the Commission will plan to hold the next meeting on March 27, 2024.

AJOURNMENT

Following a proper motion by Jimmy Jones and second by Jeff Baskin, Chair Joy Blankenship thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 10:14 am on January 31, 2024, by unanimous approval of the Commission.

Minutes submitted by:

Margie Sexton Daniel Pace

Margie Sexton and Daniel Pace

03-27-2024

Date:

Minutes Approved by:

Joy Blankenship

Commission Chair Joy Blankenship

MARCH 27, 2024

Date: