



Ohio Private Investigation & Security Services Commission (OPISSC) May 28, 2015, Minutes

Commission Meeting Date and Location: May 28, 2015, Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS), 1970 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Commission Members Present: Mr. Rodney Armstrong, Mr. Jay Beighley, Mr. Dennis Deskins, Mr. Dwight Holcomb, Mr. Christopher Johnson for Mr. Paul Pride, Mr. Anthony Macisco, Mr. Ted Owens, Mr. John Pezzino, Mr. Ralph Portier, Mr. Joseph Montgomery for Mr. John Born,

Commission Members Absent: Mr. Brian Simms, Mr. Mark Wasylyshyn

Also Attending: Aleta Dodson, Geoff Dutton, Christy Clark, Julie Faulconer, Anne Vitale

Visitors Attending: Cassandra Allgire, Nick Garver, Greg McDonald, Terry Myer

Mr. Rodney Armstrong, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Armstrong	Here	Mr. Pezzino	Here
Mr. Beighley	Here	Mr. Portier	Here
Mr. Montgomery for Mr. Born	Here	Mr. Johnson for Mr. Pride	Here
Mr. Holcomb	Here	Mr. Simms	
Mr. Macisco	Here	Mr. Mark Wasylyshyn	
Mr. Owens	Here		

A quorum was present to conduct business.

ACTION: Motion to approve the minutes of October 23, 2014, November 6, 2014, and February 26, 2015. Holcomb first. Macisco second. None opposed. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Clark directed the Commission to review the compliance check and license renewal comparisons on the hand out in front of each member. Mr. Dutton said that PISGS started emailing a tip of the week to companies based on customer questions. The Training Committee has been meeting and the DPS web-based training developers John Conomy, Kris Marple and Kristie Rampe were very helpful in giving ideas and options for the online training. Dennis Deskins resigned from the Commission due to the company reorganizing and he no longer qualified for the seat. Mr. Deskins was unable to attend today's meeting, but will be invited to the next meeting to be presented with a certificate of service. Mr. Deskins will continue to work with the department on developing the Active Shooter training exercise for future use by companies around the state. Legislative Liaison Andy Bowsher was unable to attend today's meeting because he's at the State House. Senator LaRose, a Republican, is still planning to introduce the ORC rewrite and has identified a joint sponsor, Senator Cecil Thomas, a Democrat. Senator Thomas is a former Cincinnati police officer and has knowledge and interest in the legislation. They hope to get it introduced in the next few weeks. Regarding the online system, Mr. Dutton reported that the IT project is approaching the finish line. The industry has asked for a better registration card and we are getting ready to print the new cards. Although there has been some frustration

with uploading electronic photos, we have worked hard to smooth out the issues because it directly affects the new registration card. Mr. Dutton distributed new cards he had printed for the Commission members in the online system. The new cards will probably be rolled out sometime in July to registrants that are in the online database. Paper applications that are submitted with a paper photo will continue to get the old registration card. The members commented that they were pleased with the new card. The Governor's office appointed Lieutenant Kimberly Spears-McNatt, who is with the Ohio State University Police Division, to fill the seat vacated by Sergeant Bryan Kirk.

Chair Armstrong asked why the compliance checks were down on the Enforcement Unit's report. Ms. Clark responded that the unit was down one investigator and when the investigators are working on a time consuming audit or a case, it takes them off the road. Mr. Dutton added that the compliance checks for 2014 were much higher than 2013, and this report is comparing checks in the first quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2013. More compliance checks were made in 2014, but fewer violations were found, which is a good thing. The Commission agreed. Mr. Holcomb asked if another investigator will be hired and Mr. Dutton answered that the needs of the division are being reviewed and is not actively posted at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

OPISSC Committees:

Mr. Armstrong told the members that the Training Committee is making good progress. Originally, there was the potential need to outsource the training because the State wasn't able to handle the large volume of one-time users taking the training and test. That issue has been resolved, and the demonstration the developers presented was very encouraging. The developers can implement interactive games, video scenarios, narrative, and text as part of the training. The Training Committee is currently working on the first module which is the role of a security officer and private investigator. The core training outline established several years ago is being used, but additional subject matter is being gathered to give the web developers. Once this first module is completed, the remaining training modules should roll out smoother and faster. Mr. Dutton added that this information will be useful to the industry regardless of whether the legislation passes.

Mr. Owens reminded the Commission that he had made three legislative suggestions at the February meeting, and asked if the Legislative Committee could begin meeting again to address these issues. Mr. Armstrong agreed, but added that Mike Moran is no longer the OASIS legal counsel, and may not wish to continue being the chairperson of the Legislative Committee. If that is the case, a new chairperson will need to be appointed at the next Commission meeting in June before the committee meets. Ms. Vitale verified that a committee and its members must be approved by the Commission, but the Commission chair may select the committee chair without a ruling. Mr. Armstrong will contact Mr. Moran and suggested a Legislative Committee meeting be scheduled for July.

Mr. Montgomery asked if the Commission needed to meet every month during the summer with the legislature going on recess and several members having such a long drive in order to attend a meeting. Mr. Armstrong canceled the June meeting. The July meeting will stay scheduled, but may be canceled at a later date.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Nick Garver, holder of two Class A licenses, introduced himself. He is a member of the Madison Township Fire Department in Licking County, and is concerned about a recent incident regarding Steve Little. Mr. Little was hired by the board of trustees to conduct an efficiency study from October 7 until December 30th on the fire department. On December 30th, a new contract was established for Mr. Little for the express purpose of

conducting an investigation in Madison Township. Mr. Garver filed a complaint with PISGS and provided documents. He said the investigator did a good job with the case and agreed that Steve Little was operating without a license. Mr. Garver feels the prosecuting attorney wasn't forthcoming with DPS claiming after the fact that Steve Little worked for him so he falls under an exemption of Chapter 4749. Mr. Garver said PISGS sent a letter to the prosecuting attorney saying basically that if they assure he's working for them, the exemption will apply. He explained additional events around the investigation and feels Steve Little is working illegally and should be made to stop. Mr. Garver said if he did something illegal he would have to pay a penalty and could possibly lose his license. It isn't fair to the people who follow the law and pay their fees. Mr. Garver wanted the Commission to be aware of the case and to share his concern for the safety of his township. Mr. Owens asked if Steve Little was in law enforcement and the answer was no. A copy of Steve Little's resume was given to Mr. Owens. Greg McDonald spoke next on the issue expressing his concerns and point of view that Steve Little was providing illegal services, and that this issue was important to the citizens in Madison Township. Mr. McDonald said he was told there wasn't a lot PISGS could do about Mr. Little because he wasn't licensed; that's a problem.

Mr. Armstrong thanked Mr. Garver and Mr. McDonald for coming to the meeting and bringing this to their attention. The Commission is very concerned with illegal activity, but the ORC has very specific exemptions for licensure. The Enforcement Unit of PISGS conducts the investigation, and it is handed over to the State's attorney to determine if charges should be filed. Mr. Armstrong expressed that he has faith in PISGS and DPS's legal team. Mr. Dutton added that PISGS has administrative power over those that are licensed with PISGS, but not over those who are not. If a case is considered criminal, the information is given to local officials who decide whether to pursue such charges; it's the same in Newark as it is in other cities in Ohio.

Mr. McDonald asked if the department could make Steve Little cease and desist and make the township hire a licensed investigator. Ms. Vitale answered that the department has the ability to do an administrative cease and desist order, but there are other issues involved such as the township's statutes as to whether or not a private citizen needs to be licensed or not. Ms. Vitale did not wish to make any additional comments on the case and the discussion came to an end.

Mr. Armstrong requested keeping the July 23rd meeting scheduled for now though it is doubtful the meeting will be needed. He will review the current membership of the Legislative Committee to see if they wish to remain.

ACTION: Motion to adjourn. Owens first. Beighley second. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.