

Meeting Minutes
IDAHO LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTING AND EMS
MEDAL OF HONOR COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 15, 2012
10 A.M. MST

Office of the Idaho Attorney General
Statehouse, Room 210
700 West Jefferson Street
Boise, Idaho

Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, chairing the meeting, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Item 1 – The Commission Secretary called roll.

The following commissioners were present:

Lawrence Wasden, Attorney General
Doug Borah, Idaho Peace Officers Association
Greg Bower, Ada County Prosecuting Attorney
Wayne Denney, EMS Bureau Chief, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
William Flink, POST Academy
Martin Knoelk, Division Chief, Boise Fire Department
Blair Olsen, Jefferson County Sheriff
Joe Rice, Chief, Soda Springs Police Department
Bob Wells, Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

The Chairman announced a quorum was present.

Others present: Teri Nealis, Commission Secretary (OAG)
Bob Cooper, Director of Constituent Affairs (OAG)

The agenda was reviewed; no amendments were made.

Bob Wells moved to include in the record, an official thank you to the OAG staff, specifically Commission Secretary Teri Nealis, for all of the hard work done and the materials prepared. The motion was seconded by Blair Olsen & Greg Bower. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, the Chair called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 – Chairman Wasden asked if there were any changes to the proposed May 20, 2011 minutes. Hearing no comments, he called for a motion to approve. Blair Olsen moved to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Bob Wells. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3 – Chairman Wasden reviewed the qualifications for awarding the Idaho Law Enforcement, Firefighter and EMS Medal of Honor.

Item 4 – Consideration of the Nominees. Chairman Wasden stated that, as in the past, each incident would be discussed and then voted on once the discussion was completed.

Item 4A – Nominations of Officers Dustin Hibbard and Jason Ewing of the Lewiston Police Department. Lt. Michael Pedersen from Lewiston PD was contacted via phone and asked to give a brief summary of the incident. Chairman Wasden then opened up the floor for the Commission members to ask Lt. Pedersen questions. The Commission members then discussed their understanding of the incident and the nominations at length.

Chairman Wasden asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing no comments, he called for a motion. Bill Flink moved to award the Medal of Honor to Dustin Hibbard and Jason Ewing. Joe Rice seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4B – Nominations of Lieutenant Michael Pedersen and Sergeant Ted Piché of the Lewiston Police Department and Sergeant John Hildebrand of the Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office. Captain Roger Lanier from Lewiston PD and Chief Deputy Alan Johnson from Nez Perce County Sheriff's Office were contacted via phone. Capt. Lanier recapped the incident for the Commission. Chief Deputy Johnson was then invited to add to Capt. Lanier's summary of events. Chairman Wasden then opened the floor for Commission members to question Capt. Lanier and Chief Deputy Johnson. It was discovered during this conversation that there was a video of the event not sent with the nomination packet as it was still in evidence at the time. The video has since been released.

The Commission members discussed the nominations at length, but it was finally decided that the Commission was missing a key piece of evidence by not having the video. Greg Bower moved that the nominations of Lt. Pedersen, Sgt. Piché and Sgt. Hildebrand be tabled so that the video evidence could be received. Bill Flink seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Wasden asked Capt. Lanier to mail the video to the OAG, Capt. Lanier responded that it would go out that day. Additionally, the Commission Secretary gave Capt. Lanier the email address for Kriss Bivens Cloyd of the OAG, so he could attempt to transmit the video immediately.

Item 4C – Nomination of Sergeant John Kempf of the Idaho State Police. Chairman Wasden first passed around color photographs of the incident (as the Commission members only received black and white copies in their packets). Captain Eric Dayley from ISP was contacted via phone and asked to give a brief summary of the incident. Chairman Wasden opened the floor for Commission members to question Capt. Dayley. The Commission members then discussed their understanding of the incident and the nomination at length.

Chairman Wasden asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing no comments, he called for a motion. Blair Olsen moved to award the Medal of Honor to John Kempf. Doug Borah seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Following discussion, Chairman Wasden called for the question. The motion passed. Chairman Wasden thanked Capt. Dayley for his assistance.

Chairman Wasden called a recess at 11:20 a.m.

Chairman Wasden called the Commission back to order at 11:33 a.m.

Item 4D – Nominations of Corporal Allen Ashby and Senior Specialist Gerald Stemm of the Idaho State Police; and Paramedic/Firefighter Captain Richard Halligan and Firefighter/EMT Donald Porter of the Coeur d’Alene Fire Department. The Commission first viewed the Coeur d’Alene Fire Department’s video of the incident. Sgt. Kevin White from ISP and Chief Kenneth Gabriel from the Coeur d’Alene Fire Department were contacted via conference call, and Chairman Wasden asked them to give a short overview of the events. Chief Gabriel spoke first, then Sgt. White was given an opportunity to speak. Chairman Wasden opened up the floor to the Commission members to ask Sgt. White and Chief Gabriel questions. The Commission members then discussed their understanding of the incident and the nominations at length.

Chairman Wasden asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing no comments, he called for a motion. Martin Knoelk moved to award the Medal of Honor to Corporal Ashby, Sr. Specialist Stemm, Capt. Halligan & Firefighter Porter. Greg Bower seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4E – Nominations of Deputy Anthony Glenn and Deputy Chad Lenz of the Bonneville County Sheriff’s Office and Officer Malin Reynolds of the Idaho Falls Police Department. Captain Darren Cook from Idaho Falls PD and Lieutenant Kevin Casper from the Bonneville County Sheriff’s Office were contacted via conference call and asked to give an overview of the incident. Chairman Wasden opened up the floor to the Commission members to ask Capt. Cook and Lt. Casper questions. Chairman Wasden then opened up the floor for discussion of the nominations.

Bob Wells moved to award the Medal of Honor to Deputies Glenn and Lenz and Officer Reynolds. Joe Rice seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Doug Borah commented that the task force report sent with this nomination was incredible, with superb detail. Bob Wells moved that it be noted in the Commission minutes that the agency that made up the report is to be commended. Joe Rice seconded that motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none he called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4F – Nomination of Officer Dennis Clark of the Jerome Police Department. Police Chief Daniel Hall appeared before the Commission in person, arriving at approximately 12:30 p.m. Chief Hall was invited to give a summary of the events. Chairman Wasden

opened up the floor to the Commission members to ask Chief Hall questions. Greg Bower moved to award the Medal of Honor to Officer Clark. Blair Olsen and Joe Rice seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 4G – Nomination of Idaho Fish & Game Certified Peace Officer Paul Alexander. Jon Heggen, Chief of Enforcement from Idaho Fish & Game, was contacted via phone and asked to give a summary of the events. Chairman Wasden opened up the floor to the Commission members to ask Mr. Heggen questions. Bill Flink moved to award the Medal of Honor to Officer Alexander. Joe Rice seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Wells requested that, in the future, we ask the agency contacts to not be on a cell phone so we do not have issues with bad connections.

The attempt to e-mail the video from the Lewiston PD was unsuccessful. Chairman Wasden stated that a date for the next meeting to decide the remaining nomination could not be set, as it depends on when the video arrives. Bob Wells moved that the next meeting of the Commission be at the call of the chair, and that the nominations of Lt. Pedersen, Sgt. Piché and Sgt. Hildebrand be placed on the agenda. Blair Olsen seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the question. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Wasden stated that Commission members who are out of town could attend this meeting via conference call.

Item 5 – Per their agreement at the Commission meeting on February 11, 2011, POST will once again assume the responsibility of ordering the medals for the ceremony. The Commission Secretary will send vendor contact information and details of the order to POST.

Item 6 – The Commission usually holds a meeting after the Medal of Honor ceremony (which will be on May 18, 2012). Bob Wells moved that, per the Open Meeting Law, we post notice that the Commission will meet following the Medal of Honor ceremony in the Region 3 conference room at ISP. Following discussion, Bob Wells amended his motion to notice the meeting prior to the ceremony, adjourn to the ceremony, then reconvene following the ceremony. Multiple seconds were given. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the question. The motion passed unanimously. Bill Flink volunteered to reserve the ISP Region 3 conference room for the May 18th meeting.

Martin Knoelk noted that if new legislation passes regarding the MOH ceremony, the firefighters will be awarded their medals at a separate ceremony.

Item 7 – Chairman Wasden called for a motion to adjourn. Bob Wells moved to adjourn. Blair Olsen seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for the question. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.