

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

Thursday, February 15, 2018
10:00 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 10:00 a.m.

Item 1a – The Commission Secretary called roll.

The following Commissioners were present:
Lawrence Wasden, Attorney General
Wayne Denny, Chief, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services & Preparedness
Dennis Doan, Chief, Boise Fire Department
Pete Katsilometes, Office of the Governor
Jeff Lavey, Chief, Meridian City Police
Bart May, Clark County Sheriff
Victor McCraw, POST Division Administrator
Tim Miller, Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office
Bryan Taylor, Canyon County Prosecuting Attorney

Others present: Teri Nealis, Commission Secretary (OAG)
Scott Graff, Director of Constituent Affairs (OAG)

The Chair announced a quorum was present. Chairman Wasden noted the passing of one of our longtime Commission members, Bob Wells, and asked the Commission's blessing for him to write a letter to the Governor and Bob's widow Cynthia, on behalf of the Commission, thanking them for his service.

Next, he welcomed our newest member, Pete Katsilometes, representing the Office of the Governor.

Item 1b – The agenda was reviewed; no amendments were made.

Item 2 – Chairman Wasden asked if there were any changes to the proposed May 17, 2018 minutes. Hearing no comments, he called for a motion to approve. Dennis Doan

moved to approve the May 17, 2018 minutes. Bryan Taylor seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Item 4 – Consideration of the Nominees.

Item 4A – Nomination of Charles Hoop, Corporal for the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office. Capt. Tim Miller of the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office was present and asked to give a brief summary of the incident. The Chair then opened up the floor for the Commission members to ask Capt. Miller questions. The Commission members 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. Dennis Doan moved to award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Charles Hoop. Bart May seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioner Miller abstaining to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

Item 4B – Nomination of Heath Sheppard, Division Chief for the Kootenai County Fire & Rescue. Fire Chief Warren Merritt of Kootenai County Fire & Rescue was contacted via phone and asked to give a brief summary of the incident. The Chair then opened up the floor for the Commission members to ask Chief Merritt questions. The Commission members discussed their understanding of the incident and the nominations at length. The Commissioners asked Chief Merritt to send additional information regarding Chief Sheppard's nomination for a lifesaving award. Chief Merritt was not sure there was a written decision, but would email that to the Commission Secretary right away, if one could be located. The Commission suspended making a decision on this nomination to wait for the email. And moved onto other business in the interim.

Item 5 – Per the statute, the Idaho Medal of Honor Ceremony for law enforcement officers must be held during national law enforcement recognition week, which is May 13-19, 2018. It was moved by Jeff Lavey and seconded by Victor McCraw for the Commission to hold the Idaho Medal of Honor Law Enforcement Ceremony on May 16, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the Capitol Building (exact location to be decided by the Chair) with flexibility given to the Chair to adjust the date based on availability. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Commissioner May informed us he will be unable to attend as the Idaho Sheriff's Association is meeting that week. Chairman Wasden called for any further discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 6 – The Commissioners discussed the possibility of changing the statute to combine the ceremonies to a single date. Jeff Lavey moved that we leave the ceremonies as scheduled, in May and September and explore any potential change to the ceremony next year. Wayne Denney seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission Secretary was directed to place this item on the agenda at the annual meeting next February for further discussion, and to invite the firefighter association officers to attend to be part of that discussion.

Chairman Wasden called for a 15 minute recess at 11:35 a.m. The Chair called the Commission back to order at 11:50 a.m.

Item 4B (continued) – Nomination of Heath Sheppard – continued. No email was received from Chief Warren, but he did send contact information for Deputy Chief Dan Ryan to answer further questions on the nomination. Deputy Chief Ryan was contacted via phone and the Chair then opened up the floor for the Commission members to ask Deputy Chief Ryan questions.

Chairman Wasden asked if there was any further discussion. Hearing no comments, he called for a motion. Bryan Taylor moved to NOT award the Idaho Medal of Honor to Heath Sheppard. Jeff Lavey seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for discussion. Hearing none, he called for the vote. The motion passed with two nay votes from Chairman Wasden and Commissioner Doan. Bryan Taylor moved to have the Chair send a letter on behalf of the Commission commending Division Chief Sheppard's actions. Bart May seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 5 (continued) – As no firefighters were elected to receive the Idaho Medal of Honor for 2018, there will be no firefighter Medal of Honor Ceremony. However, there will still be an Idaho Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony, and Commissioner Doan informed the Commission that it is scheduled for Friday Sept 7, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at the Idaho Fallen Firefighter memorial in Riverside Park.

Item 7 – Chairman Wasden called for a motion to adjourn. Bryan Taylor moved to adjourn. Wayne Denny seconded the motion. Chairman Wasden called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.