



PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS QUALIFICATION COMMISSISON

State of Georgia

Open Meeting Minutes

Walton County Government Bldg
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 4:00 pm 303 Hammond Drive

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Investigative Panel of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualification Commission of the State of Georgia was held via video conference. Investigative Panel (IP) Chairman Randy McGinley Chaired the meeting, and Ms. Baucum served as Recording Secretary.

Investigative Panel Members Present:

Mr. Randy McGinley, Chairman
Mr. Joey Cowart, Vice Chairman
Judge John Ott, Member
Mr. Jason Saliba, Member
Mr. Steve Scheer, Member

PAQC Staff Members Present:

Mr. Ian Heap, Executive Director
Ms. Barbara Baucum, Executive Assistant
Mr. Greg Blackmon, Investigator

Guest:

Mr. Chris Jones, PAC Chief Financial Officer

Chairman's Comments:

Chairman Randy McGinley called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum of the Panel was present.

Commissioner Saliba made a motion to adopt the minutes from the regular IP meeting held on March 12, 2025. Commissioner Ott seconded this. All were in favor.

Chairman Randy McGinley discussed the budget history of the PAQC under PAC's oversight. The funding was included within PAC's budget in FY2023, and in 2024, it became a separate budget program. Chairman McGinley, PAC Executive Director Pete Skandalakis, and Executive Director Heap met to negotiate a rate at which PAC would handle administrative and budget oversight. An MOU was signed for a 10% de minimis fee, allowing the PAQC to get started.

The House and Senate Senior Budget Analysts both said that 10% was a very large fee for the services provided. Director Heap stated that he spoke with Representative Gullet, accompanied by Chairman McGinley and HP Commissioner Herb Cranford, about the high fee.

There was then a discussion not to ask for anything in the amended budget other than \$ 80,000 to offset the 10% de minimis fee. PAC, via Chris Jones, said that they could potentially cut the fee to 5%. This arrangement will remain in place until June 30, 2025.

Chairman McGinley asked Mr. Jones to speak about the support services. Mr. Jones spoke about high-level services, which include fiscal, budget, HR, monthly budget reports, budget control, and appropriations. Drilling down consisted of accounts receivable/payable, monthly allotment processing, procurement, and supplies. PAC also did general ledger management, monthly reconciliations, asset management, internal controls, and vendor management.

For HR support, PAC did job postings, employee onboarding, recruiting and payroll functions. Also included are benefits and leave management.

Mr. Jones said that the AOC JQC admits that the fee they charge to the JQC doesn't cover their administrative costs. He stated that the admin fee is a distraction to the proposed PAC pay plan, and that Representative Gullet had suggested cutting the fee, so they are going to do so.

At this time, Chairman McGinley asked the IP commissioners what they think the fee should be. Chairman Ott said we are smaller than JQC. Commissioner Saliba said that we are much smaller than JQC, and many of the services that Mr. Jones mentioned, such as payroll, are automated. He noted that between 5-10% is much more reasonable and also stated that he trusted Pete Skandalakis more than anyone on the planet. Mr. Jones noted that Pete Skandalakis would not mind the separation of PAQC from PAC, to avoid any appearance of conflict. Commissioner Scheer concurred wholeheartedly that even the appearance of impropriety is bad.

There was continued discussion about past difficulties with oversight, and Chairman McGinley said that was a conversation for another time, and the focus should be on the fee. Commissioner Ott asked if everyone was comfortable with 5%. He made a motion and Chairman Saliba seconded it. All were in favor.

Director Heap said he would forward a revised MOU to PAC.

At 4:50 pm, a motion was made by Chairman McGinley to go into Executive Session, which Commissioner Scheer seconded. The executive session is used to handle the docket, which contains all statutory confidential cases, and to discuss personnel issues. Public guests were placed in the waiting room. Executive Session ended at 5:32 pm.

There being no further old or new business for discussion, Commissioner Ott made a motion to adjourn, and Chairman McGinley seconded it.

The Open Meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.

The Investigative Panel of the Prosecuting Attorneys Qualification Commission approved these minutes.