

Wyoming Court Security Commission

Record of Proceedings

Supreme Court Building, Room 237

Cheyenne, Wyoming

July 17, 2013

I. Call to Order

The Wyoming Court Security Commission public meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., July 17, 2013, by Chairman Guy Cameron at the Supreme Court Building, Room 237, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

II. Roll Call and Introductions – Chairman Guy Cameron

In Attendance:

Commission Members:

Director Guy Cameron – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Justice William Hill – Wyoming Supreme Court

Judge Denise Nau – Laramie County Circuit Court

Representative Kendell Kroeker – Wyoming House of Representatives

(VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE)

Judge Jeffrey Donnell – Second Judicial District Court, Laramie, WY

(VIA TELECONFERENCE)

Jeani Stone – Campbell County Attorney

Senator Drew Perkins – Wyoming State Senate

Lt. Mike Thompson - Casper Police Department

Ex-Officio Commission Members:

Joann Odendahl – State Court Administrator/Supreme Court

Joe Hartigan – Court Security Officer/Supreme Court

Absent:

Commissioner Mike Colling

Sheriff “Skip” Hornecker

Also Attending:

Chief Justice Marilyn Kite – Wyoming Supreme Court

Cindy DeLancey – Executive Director, Wyoming County Commissioners Assoc.
George Parks – Executive Director, Wyoming Association of Municipalities
Beth Blackwell – State Land and Investment Board
Pam Eisenach – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Doug Gumm – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Chuck Bayne – Deputy Director, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
(Teleconference)

Introductions:

Chairman Guy Cameron welcomed everyone and introduced Representative Kendell Kroeker from Natrona County representing House District 35.

III. Approval of December 18, 2012 and April 25, 2013 Minutes

Chairman Cameron entertained a motion to approve the Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2012. Judge Donnell made a motion to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Jeani Stone and Lt. Mike Thompson. The motion was voted on and carried.

Chairman Cameron entertained a motion to approve the Wyoming Court Security Commission Special Conference Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2013, in support of Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kite's recommendation to the State Loan and Investment Board to support the grant proposal by the Fremont County Commission for a new Fremont County Justice Center in Riverton, Wyoming. Justice William Hill made a motion to approve the minutes; the motion was seconded by Representative Kroeker. The motion was voted on and carried.

IV. Court Security Funding Discussion – Chief Justice Marilyn Kite

Chief Justice Marilyn Kite gave background information to the commission regarding the situation at the Fremont County Circuit Court in Riverton, WY. The Fremont County Commissioners requested fifty percent of the funding through the State Loan and Investment Board for construction of a new Fremont County Justice Center. This request to the State Lands and Investment Board was denied. The Fremont County Commission is encouraged to reapply for this funding in January.

The Joint Appropriation Committee Members recognized and suggested money be earmarked to the State Land and Investment Board for addressing court security initiatives across the state. Chief Justice Kite suggested the Wyoming Court Security Commission has the expertise to help prioritize these issues.

Judge Donnell indicated that it is his understanding that this one-time money will be used for construction, equipment, etc. Judge Donnell also noted that while the funding is available for construction or equipment, there has to be provisions for funding for on-going expenses for personnel who operate this equipment.

The Wyoming Court Security Commission's Annual Report is due September 1st to the Governor, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Joint Judiciary Interim Committee and the Joint Appropriations Interim Committee on the status of court security in the state. This commission agreed this would be a timely opportunity to look at criteria for a county to request funding through the State Lands and Investment Board process for court security. It was suggested that a subcommittee be established to research and develop criteria for the purposes of enhancing the security of court facilities with the greatest need.

V. Fremont County Justice Center

State Lands and Investment Board Report – Chairman Guy Cameron

Chairman Cameron gave additional background information regarding the incident that took place on July 29, 2012 at the Fremont County Circuit Court. A bullet was fired from a handgun and pierced the exterior north wall of the Fremont County Justice Center. The Fremont County Circuit Court, the Riverton Division of the Fremont County Sheriff's Office and the Fremont County Attorney's Office are located in the Fremont County Justice Center.

As an immediate temporary solution Conex Boxes were strategically placed around the building. The State Lands and Investment Board provided emergency funding in the amount of \$10,800.00 for these Conex Boxes, which are currently in place today.

On June 20, 2013, the Fremont County Commissioners requested, through the State Loan Investment Board, funding for construction of a new Fremont County Justice Center. The total estimated cost of the new Fremont County Justice Center project is \$5.2M. The Fremont County Commissioners have requested \$2.6M from the State Land and Investment Board, which represents fifty percent of the total project cost. As Chief Justice Kite mentioned, this project was not funded by the State Land and Investment Board.

VI. Update on Court Security issues around the state – Joe Hartigan, Court Security Officer for the Wyoming Supreme Court

In January of this year the local court security management committees from all 23 Wyoming counties were contacted. The committee members contact information was updated and a mass mailing was then sent to each committee member. The letter

from Chairman Cameron addressed the Wyoming Court Security Act 5-11-101 and the four Wyoming Court Security Standards, as well as a Court Security Checklist. Joe Hartigan, Court Security Officer for the Wyoming Supreme Court, traveled from March 26th to June 12th and met with each county committee, toured each facility, addressed security issues and offered suggestions. Joe discussed the Wyoming Court Security Act and the Wyoming Court Security Standards, and emphasized the Wyoming Court Security Standard 2009-1 which directs each committee to meet twice a year, as well as report annually to the Wyoming Court Security Commission.

Joe Hartigan also emphasized to the local court security management committees the importance of Wyoming Court Security Standard 2010-2. The importance of this standard is to strive for organization, cooperation and acceptance between all the parties involved to enhance court security in their facility. Recommendations included the need to conduct regular security assessments with input from all the committee members, and they need to view court security as an ongoing process.

Concerns Identified:

The main issues of concern for the local court security management committees are: manpower; lack of funding for equipment; lack of funding for construction upgrades to facilities; and, lack of emergency training/guidelines for personnel.

Chairman Cameron noted increased participation from the local Court Security Management Committees in furthering court security initiatives and improved annual reporting to the commission.

VII. Legislative Overview – Chairman Guy Cameron

House Bill 103, Regulation of Firearms-State Preemption did not pass the legislative process. House Bill 103 is an act relating to firearms, and provided that the State of Wyoming preempts the entire field of firearm and ammunition regulation. No city, town, county, political subdivision or any other governmental entity could have a voice in firearm regulations.

The following amendment was suggested by the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

“This section shall not affect the ability of any court of law to regulate, authorize or prohibit the use of carrying, or possession of firearms, weapons, accessories, components or ammunition in facilities or areas used by the court to conduct business.”

This amendment passed out of committee on a 4 to 1 vote. House Bill 103 did not make it to general file and was not heard. Therefore, House Bill 103 did not pass the legislative process.

House Bill 216, Deadly Weapons in a Courtroom sponsored by Representative Brown was passed. This bill prohibited carrying deadly weapons in a courtroom except by the presiding judge or as authorized by the presiding judge. This bill created a misdemeanor for the first offense for bringing an unauthorized deadly weapon into a courtroom and a felony for a second or subsequent offense of bringing an unauthorized deadly weapon into a courtroom. The last component of this bill provided a definition of a courtroom, which means a room in which a judge is presiding over a court of law.

VIII. New Business – Subcommittee to Develop Funding Criteria for Purposes of Enhancing the Security of Court Facilities with the greatest need

The members to participate on this subcommittee are: Chairman Guy Cameron, Judge Jeffrey Donnell, Jeani Stone, Lt. Mike Thompson, Joann Odendahl and Joe Hartigan. A meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible.

IX. Next Meeting

Chairman Cameron will contact the commission members regarding scheduling the next meeting in November 2013.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Cameron thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

NOTE: MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2013 MEETING HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED BY THE WYOMING COURT SECURITY COMMISSION. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WYOMING COURT SECURITY COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 2013.