

Wyoming Court Security Commission
Minutes
April 17, 2015

The Wyoming Court Security Commission met on April 17, 2015. In attendance were Director of Homeland Security Guy Cameron, Chair, Justice William U. Hill, Judge Wes Roberts (by video), Judge Marv Tyler (by video), Representative Mark Baker (by video), Senator Leland Christensen, Sheriff Jack “Skip” Hornecker (by phone), and Sweetwater County Attorney Daniel Erramouspe (by video). Chief Justice Burke, Lily Sharpe, Joe Hartigan, Becky Craig, Doug Gumm and Ronda Munger also attended. Commission members Mike Thompson and Mike Colling were unavailable to attend.

Call the Meeting to Order

Director Guy Cameron called the meeting to order. He welcomed the newest members of the Commission – Senator Leland Christensen, Teton County (Senate District 17), Representative Mark Baker, Sweetwater County (House District 48), and Sweetwater County Attorney Daniel Erramouspe. Director Cameron gave a brief history of the Court Security Commission for the benefit of the new members. The Commission was established by the Wyoming Legislature in 2008, and operates under the supervision of the Wyoming Supreme Court. The Commission consists of 10 members, which were listed. The Commission is charged with establishing standards to protect life, property and the judicial process in the Wyoming court system. The standards adopted by the Commission are voluntary standards. The standards discuss equipment, facilities, architecture, and basic training requirements for peace officers. The standards also address protocols and procedures for operation of courts, as well as the establishment of local court security committees. The Commission meets at least two times a year and must report annually to the Governor, Chief Justice, Joint Judiciary interim committee and the Joint Appropriations committee.

The December 12, 2014 minutes were discussed. Two corrections were proposed and agreed upon. Senator Christensen moved and Justice Hill seconded a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update

Director Cameron gave an update on the court security assessments and grant funds. The Fremont and Sweetwater county projects are well underway and making good progress. Those court security funds were secured in the 2014 legislative session. During the 2015 legislative session, largely due to the efforts of Senator Perkins and Representative Kroeker, \$1,083,422 was appropriated for court security improvements in eight additional counties: Platte (\$84,429.00), Goshen (\$84,686.00), Niobrara (\$73,778.00), Albany (\$95,355.00), Big Horn (\$371,790.00), Crook (\$82,778.00), Park (\$82,760.00), and Weston (\$207,846.00). These funds were based on assessments that were done by

the National Center for State Courts. The assessments were funded by a grant from the State Justice Institute.

Director Cameron has been in contact with Bridget Hill, the Director of the State Loan and Investment Board (SLIB). Director Cameron suggested the next steps in this process would be to contact all eight counties, provide the application and direct the counties to the website for additional information, and offer any assistance that the counties may need in securing the court security funds from SLIB. Justice Hill moved and Senator Christensen seconded a motion to write letters to the Chair of the County Commissioners in all eight counties, provide the information, and carbon copy the chair of the local courts security committees, the judges and the legislators in the respective counties. Motion carried unanimously. The Commission discussed the fact that there can and should be some follow up with the eight counties, but the responsibility and authority to apply for and spend the funds granted by the legislature is between the counties and SLIB.

Incident Report

Director Cameron emphasized the importance of recording the events that happen in the courthouses around the state. The data that is collected can be a valuable tool in educating and substantiating the need for expenditures and resources to be allocated for court security. Joe Hartigan provided an update on standard 2014-01, incident reporting. The standard was adopted at the December 2014 meeting of the Commission, and Joe emailed the standard and a copy of the incident report form to the chairs of the local court security committees, as well as all judges, clerks and sheriffs. The incident report can be found on the Wyoming Supreme Court website. Joe also reported that he made a presentation to the Chief Clerks of the Circuit Courts regarding the incident report form. Joe reported that the number of incident reports received has already tripled since the new standard was adopted. The Commission had a lengthy discussion about what type of incidents should be memorialized in an incident report. The Commission discussed whether the incident report should be used as an intelligence gathering tool or whether it should only be used to capture actual incidents that occur in the courtroom. Senator Christensen cautioned the Commission that the data used for funding decisions needs to be completely understood by everyone involved so that the data is not devalued. Joe Hartigan, Sheriff Hornecker and Judge Roberts agreed to work on a one page informational sheet that would clarify what should be reported and what does not need to be reported. Sheriff Hornecker agreed to discuss the incident report with the other county sheriffs during an upcoming meeting, and Judge Roberts agreed to discuss the incident report at the circuit judges meeting in Jackson on May 6-8th.

Update on Standard 2009-01

Director Cameron reported that he attended the March 11, 2015 Board of Judicial Policy and Administration meeting. The discussion centered on standard 2009-01 which outlines the makeup of the local court security management committees. He reminded the Commission that last year the BJPA adopted and approved a resolution that conforms to Standard 2009-01, which states that one circuit judge and one district judge shall provide

representation on the local court security management committee in each county. Director Cameron reemphasized the importance of the local committees being actively engaged and being driven by strong leadership. At their December meeting, the District Judges' Conference adopted a resolution that the district judge in each county should chair the local court security committee. Director Cameron reported that the Board members discussed and agreed that the Board's resolution and the district judges' resolution do not conflict. No Commission action was taken on this topic.

Annual Report Template

Director Cameron reviewed the history of the local court security committees and the annual reports that are due from those committees on July 1st of each year. Director Cameron reiterated his belief that the strength of the efforts in court security lies within the efforts that are being carried out by the local court security committees. The local courts security committees are in the best position to identify the strengths and the weaknesses in their communities. In the past, the amount of information contained in the annual reports has varied. The Commission is working to improve the annual report template. Joe Hartigan presented a draft of a new annual report template, containing nine questions. The new template shifts away from the check list format and provides more opportunity for narratives. The Commission discussed two small changes to the new template. Representative Baker discussed a concern that he has about state oversight of the local court security committees and a lack of communication between the local committee and the Court Security Commission. He has additional concerns about the make-up and functionality of the local court security committees. Director Cameron believes that most of the local court security committees are functioning, but agrees that more can always be done. Director Cameron stated that he would reach out to the local court security committee in Sweetwater County. Senator Christensen moved and Justice Hill seconded a motion to adopt the new annual report template as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Additional Assessments

The Commission discussed the possibility of providing assessments of the remaining 14 courts to be done by the National Center. Judge Roberts moved and Justice Hill seconded a motion to seek additional funds from the State Justice Institute to provide assessments for the remaining county courthouses. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Court Security Commission will be in mid-July; after all of the local court security committee annual reports have been submitted. Judge Roberts mentioned that the formal opening of the new Riverton court complex will be on June 19th, at 1:00 p.m.

Commission Adjourned