

**Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting**

**Virtually via Microsoft Teams**

**May 11, 2023, from Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**Committee Members:** Justice John Fenn, Judge Craig Jones, Senator Tara Nethercott, Representative Art Washut, Deputy Director George Nykun, Commissioner Mike Colling, Prosecutor Daniel Erramouspe, Sheriff Scott Matheny, Director Ronnie Jones, and Supreme Court Security Officer Joe Hartigan.

**Agenda Items**

**Call to Order**

Justice John Fenn

Justice Fenn welcomed and introduced the new members of the Commission – Judge Craig Jones replaced Judge Wes Roberts and Director Ronnie Jones replaced Director Forest Williams. Minutes were circulated. There were no corrections, changes, or discussions relating to the proposed August 18, 2022, minutes. Minutes were approved.

**Incident Reports Summary**

Joe Hartigan

Joe Hartigan reported to the Commission that there have been a total 464 incident reports since the implementation of the report standard. He also reported:

Incident Reports by Year:

2015 – 51  
2016 – 50  
2017 – 87  
2018 – 37  
2019 – 51  
2020 – 28  
2021 – 39  
2022 – 85  
2023 – 36

Reports since last meeting in August 2022 - 77

Type of reports since last meeting:

Disorderly Conduct – 22  
Medical Emergency – 9  
Verbal Threat – 9  
Written threat – 3  
Drugs / contraband – 1

	<p>Attempt to bring in firearm – 1</p> <p>Other – 32 (to include the following type of incidents: Arrest/Remand to custody, panic alarm activation, intoxicated party, policy violation/electronics, panic alarm failure, unsecured door, use of force, protection order violation, knife on a person, safety hazard, building security breach, an unauthorized person in a secure area, lost security key, contempt, suspicious circumstance, fire alarm, intelligence information).</p> <p>Counties submitting reports since the last meeting:</p> <p>Albany – 2  Converse – 1  Fremont – 3  Goshen – 1  Laramie – 6  Natrona – 26  Sweetwater – 1  Uinta – 36</p>
<p><b>Joint Judiciary Meeting</b>  Justice Fenn</p>	<p>Justice Fenn met with the Joint Judiciary (JJC) in Sheridan on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The information discussed was well received by the JJC: Proposed legislation involving language in Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 6-5-305(a), a better definition of Sheriff's security duties, and personal information protections. The JJC also discussed additional manpower and training for county sheriffs and home security systems for judges.</p> <p>Representative Washut confirmed the information was well received, however, he cautioned the Commission that unfunded mandates for the counties and carving out special classes of individuals could receive pushback from the committee.</p> <p>Senator Nethercott advised that the timing of any request for appropriation is critical. If funds are to be requested, it would be beneficial to contact the County Commissioners Association and get a plan formulated. She informed the Commission that currently there are other situations where there is joint funding (county/state) for programs throughout the state. The first meeting of the Joint Appropriations Committee will be in July.</p>

	<p>Sweetwater County Attorney Dan Erramouspe hopes that any discussions regarding courtroom security will include the other individuals involved in the justice process: attorneys, litigants, staff, etc. He recommended reaching out to the local bar members to raise awareness about security issues in the courthouses.</p>
<p><b>Commission Work - Statewide</b> Justice Fenn</p>	<p>Justice Fenn informed the Commission about the trips he and other commission members have taken around the state since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheriffs’ Meeting in Casper – December 2022</li> <li>• Court Security Training at the Law Enforcement Academy – March 2023</li> <li>• Court Security Meeting in Gillette – April 2023</li> <li>• Tour of Jackson Courthouse – May 2023</li> </ul> <p>The following trips are currently scheduled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Albany County – June 2023</li> <li>• Johnson County – June 2023</li> <li>• Niobrara County – July 2023</li> </ul> <p>Sheriff Matheny confirmed that the travel around the state by the Commission has lit a fire under the county sheriffs. He agreed a lot of positive things are happening because of the efforts of the Commission.</p>
<p><b>Training for Judges</b> Justice Fenn</p>	<p>Justice Fenn provided the Commission with a summary of the spring judicial conferences. Judge Julie Kocurek and John Muffler provided training for judges on personal security and home security. The training was well received by the judges. Wyoming Office of Homeland Security provided the funding for the training.</p> <p>George Nyken told the Commission that there were \$186,00 of court security grants funded through the Office of Homeland Security in the 2023 grant cycle and that more courts and sheriffs should apply in 2024.</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p>The Commission discussed up-and-coming topics for the future: the use of a judicial survey; an improved incident</p>

	reporting system, to include quarterly reports for judges and sheriffs; firearms training; security assessments; and active shooter training.
<b>Adjourned</b>	12:58 p.m.
<b>Actions Taken:</b>	
1.	The Commission approved the meeting minutes from August 18, 2023.
<b>To Do List:</b>	
1.	Justice Fenn will call Senator Nethercott and Representative Washut to discuss possible legislative changes and a funding approach for courthouse security.
2.	Justice Fenn and Joe Hartigan will gather information about the funding of additional sheriff's deputies in Natrona County.
3.	Dan Erramouspe and Judge Jones will reach out to the Sweetwater County bar members.
4.	Justice Fenn will contact Jerimiah Rieman, Executive Director of the County Commissioners Association.
5.	Judge Jones will provide Justice Fenn with information on the active shooter training conducted at the Sweetwater County Justice Center.