

Wyoming Court Security Commission

Record of Proceedings

Supreme Court Building, Room 237

Cheyenne, Wyoming

July 30, 2014

I. Call to Order

The Wyoming Court Security Commission public meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m., July 30, 2014, by Chairman Guy Cameron at the Supreme Court Building, Room 237, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

II. Roll Call and Introductions of new Commission Members – Chairman Guy Cameron

In Attendance:

Commission Members:

Director Guy Cameron – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Justice William Hill – Wyoming Supreme Court

Commissioner Mike Colling – Converse County Commissioner

(VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE)

Judge Wesley Roberts, 9th Judicial District Circuit Court, Fremont County

Judge Marvin Tyler, District Court, 9th Judicial District, Sublette County

(VIA TELECONFERENCE)

Sheriff Skip Hornecker – Fremont County Sheriff

Absent:

Senator Drew Perkins – Wyoming Senate

Representative Kendell Kroeker – Wyoming House of Representatives

Lt. Mike Thompson – Casper Police Department

Ex-Officio Commission Members:

Joann Odendahl – State Court Administrator, Wyoming Supreme Court

Joe Hartigan – Court Security Officer, Wyoming Supreme Court

Also Attending:

Chief Justice James Burke – Wyoming Supreme Court
Judge Randal Arp – Circuit Court, 8th Judicial District
Judge John Perry – District Court, 6th Judicial District (Teleconference)
Dave Harris – Director, Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy
Bern Haggerty – Deputy County Attorney, Laramie County
Eydie Trautwein – Children’s Justice Project Coordinator,
Wyoming Supreme Court
Pam Eisenach – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Doug Gumm – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

III. Election of Commission Officers

Justice Hill made a motion to nominate Guy Cameron as Chairman of the Commission. Commissioner Colling seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Colling made a motion to nominate Sheriff Skip Hornecker as Co-Chairman of the Commission. Justice Hill seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of December 5, 2013 Minutes

Chairman Cameron entertained a motion to approve the Wyoming Court Security Commission Meeting Minutes of December 5, 2013. Justice Hill made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Colling seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

V. 2014 Legislative Overview – Chairman Guy Cameron

Chairman Cameron shared with new members of the commission background information regarding the 2014 Legislative Overview. Chief Justice Kite and the Supreme Court Justices took an active role in enhancing court security. Chief Justice Kite made it a priority to get educational information on court security to all branches of government. The Supreme Court developed a video entitled, “Wyoming Court Security-A Matter of Time.” This video addressed violence in courtrooms and courthouses. The Court Security Commission was asked to prepare a model for court security funding. As a result of those discussions and research, Senate File 14 was introduced as a court security funding bill. This bill was an application process where a local community would contribute 50% funding and it would be matched through

the Wyoming State Land and Investment Board. This bill provided \$10M in seed money and would allow a court security committee at the local level to work with their county commissioners to apply for funding. The funding was for security equipment and construction for court security initiatives.

Senate File 14 passed the majority of the process through the Wyoming State Legislature, but at the end of the process the funding was stripped from the bill and the structure of the bill died in the House of Representatives.

There were successes for court security from the 2014 Wyoming Legislature. Section 328 of House Bill 001 appropriated \$6M out of the general fund for purposes of court security that must be matched at the local level. This bill helped assist courts in Sweetwater County and Fremont County for application. This legislation, working with the State Lands and Investment Board, provided funding based on certain criteria: 1) Imposition of local taxes; 2) Demonstration of previous financial commitment to court security initiatives; 3) Adoption of a complete operational plan for court security in accordance with court security commission standards; 4) Demonstration for need for facilities, including additional judicial resources as determined by the supreme court's weighted caseload studies; 5) Recent and serious security breaches or issues which cannot be adequately addressed by available county funds or resources.

The Wyoming Supreme Court received two State Justice Institute Technical Assistance Grants to assess security in several courts and improve court security in Wyoming. One grant was for court security assessments of courtrooms and judicial chambers in Albany, Platte, Goshen, Niobrara, Weston and Crook Counties. To the extent funds are available, assessments will also occur in Big Horn and Park Counties. The team from the National Center for State Courts is scheduled for on-site visits in Laramie on August 11th; Wheatland on August 12th; Torrington on August 13th and in Lusk on August 14th. In addition, on-site court security assessments are scheduled in Newcastle on September 22nd; Sundance on September 23rd; Basin on September 25th and Cody on September 26th.

The second grant received from the National Center for State Courts will provide training opportunities that would focus on local court security committees, involve the courtroom staff, as well as law enforcement that provide security in those courtrooms. It allows for the opportunity in three locations to provide that training.

VI. Court Security Grant Funding – Eydie Trautwein, Wyoming Supreme Court

Eydie Trautwein reported that the Wyoming Supreme Court has negotiated with the National Center for State Courts to assess all eight courtrooms. Big Horn County and Park County will be added to the list for assessments. The total project budget for the court security assessment grant is \$75,000. The Wyoming Supreme Court must provide \$5,000 in cash match and \$20,000 in-kind match.

The Regional Court Security Training Grant contract with the National Center for State Grants is \$30,000. The National Center will be providing three regional trainings, locations are to be determined. The Supreme Court must provide \$3,000 in cash match and \$12,000 in-kind match. The total project budget is \$45,000. A project start date has not been scheduled.

The Supreme Court was able to get additional technical assistance money from the National Center for State Courts to bring in two court security experts. Judge Bill Dressel will make a presentation at the Wyoming State Bar Association Meeting in Cheyenne on September 9th. Judge Kevin Burke will make a presentation at the Wyoming Association of County Officials in Lander at the end of September.

Joann Odendahl, Wyoming Supreme Court Administrator, indicated to the commission members that these assessments are only for the security in the courtroom, which includes only the courtroom and chambers. These assessments do not include the courthouse as a whole.

VII. Update on Court Security Issues around the State

Chairman Cameron summarized for the commission the Court Security Standards. These four standards deal with the right equipment incorporated in a courtroom, planning initiatives in emergency operation plans, training and reports from the local court security committees. These Court Security Standards are recommendations for local court security committees.

Doug Gumm, Critical Infrastructure Coordinator for the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, reported great progress has been made in receiving annual reports from the local court security committees. Three years ago, only three reports were received. In 2013, 12 county reports were submitted. As July 30, 2014, annual reports have been received from all 23 counties.

Joe Hartigan, Wyoming Supreme Court Security Officer, reported to the commission that last year a checklist was developed and sent to all 23 court security committees. This checklist was used as an assessment tool for each county to use and was adapted from the Court Security Commission Standards. Comments received from the committees indicated that the greatest need for their counties was funding and manpower for court security.

Mr. Hartigan suggested to the commission, that it would be helpful if the local judge on the county court security committee be designated the chairman of the committee. Mr. Hartigan also suggested Security Incident Reporting be established in the state. It was agreed that the Wyoming Supreme Court will develop a Security Incident Report Form and present it at the Circuit Judges Conference and the District Judges Conference for their comments.

In addition to the court security training offered at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, the Advanced Law Enforcement Readiness Training Company will present a training opportunity scheduled for August 19th through August 21st. This three-day court security training will be held in Cheyenne at the Sheriff's Office.

Dave Harris, Director of the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, reported that court security training was offered beginning in March 2008. Seven courses have been offered, 84 officers (primarily sheriff officers) have attended the course representing 23 agencies throughout the State of Wyoming. The next class for court security training at the Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy is tentatively scheduled for February 9th through February 13th, 2015.

VIII. High Profile Cases – Joann Odendahl, State Court Administrator

Supreme Court Administrator Odendahl summarized court security for high profile cases for the new members of the commission. During the last biennium, the Supreme Court received \$100,000 from the legislature to set aside for security for high profile cases. These particular funds are in the Board of Judicial Policy Administration Budget. A judge has the opportunity to contact their local sheriff's department and county commissioners to make sure adequate security is provided for the judge, the jury, the courtroom and the courthouse environment. These funds are available so the necessary needs were met and there is no financial burden to the county. The process of requesting these funds for high profile cases can be found on the Wyoming Supreme Court's website.

IX. New Business – Satellite Courtroom Security – Bern Haggerty, Laramie County Attorney's Office, Deputy County Attorney

Deputy County Attorney Bern Haggerty thanked the commission for inviting him to discuss Satellite Courtroom Security. Every district court in the state is authorized to conduct hearings for emergency mental health detention and involuntary hospitalization of mentally ill persons. These conference rooms are adjacent to the Behavioral Health Unit at a local hospital. Mr. Haggerty inquired whether the Wyoming Court

Security Commission, or the local court security committee, is responsible for safety security protocols for satellite courtrooms for emergency mental health hearings. Mr. Haggerty noted that he is confident that the Laramie County District Court, in consultation with our local committee and security coordinator, as well as hospital staff, can provide adequate security for these hearings. The concern is that the statewide Security Standards have not been developed with these satellite courtrooms in mind and he would like to learn how other counties provide for security in their satellite courtrooms. Mr. Haggerty is requesting the Wyoming Court Security Commission consider conducting a satellite courtroom security survey to find out how each county configures, equips and staffs its mental health courtrooms. Supreme Court Administrator Joann Odendahl will work with Bern Haggerty to develop a survey on security in satellite courtrooms and then distribute the survey to circuit and district judges for their comments.

X. Annual Report

The Court Security Commission Annual Report is due to the Wyoming State Legislature on September 1, 2014. The Wyoming Supreme Court Administration Office and the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security will work together to prepare the annual report.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Cameron thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Justice Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Colling seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

NOTE: MINUTES OF THE JULY 30, 2014 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 2014.