

Wyoming Court Security Commission

Record of Proceedings

Supreme Court Building, Room 237

Cheyenne, Wyoming

August 15, 2012

I. Call to Order

The Wyoming Court Security Commission public meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., August 15, 2012, by Justice William Hill at the Supreme Court Building, Room 237, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

II. Roll Call and Introductions – Justice William Hill

In Attendance:

Commission Members:

Justice William Hill – Wyoming Supreme Court
Director Guy Cameron – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Judge Denise Nau – Laramie County Circuit Court
Representative Jon Botten – Wyoming House of Representatives
Commissioner Mike Colling – Converse County Commission
Joe Hartigan – Supreme Court Security Officer
Joann Odendahl – State Court Administrator/Supreme Court

(VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE)

Judge Jeffrey Donnell – Second Judicial Court, Laramie, WY
Judge Wesley A. Roberts – Circuit of the Ninth Judicial District, Fremont County
Sheriff Jack “Skip” Hornecker – Fremont County Sheriff

(VIA TELECONFERENCE)

Chief Justice Kite – Wyoming Supreme Court
Senator Drew Perkins – Wyoming Senate
Jeani Stone – Campbell County Attorney

Also Attending:

Joseph C. Moore – U.S. Marshal for the District of Wyoming
Ryan Thompson – Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal for the District of Wyoming
Pam Eisenach – Executive Assistant, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Introductions:

Justice William Hill introduced U.S. Marshal Joseph C. Moore and Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Ryan Thompson. Director Guy Cameron introduced Pam Eisenach who is the Executive Assistant for Wyoming Homeland Security.

III. Approval of October 5, 2011 Minutes

Justice Hill entertained a motion to approve the Court Security Commission Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2011. Judge Donnell made a motion to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Colling. The motion was voted on and carried.

IV. Governor's Appointment of the POST Commission Representative to the Court Security Commission

Justice Hill reported that Chief Lane 's position as a member from this Commission is still vacant, but it is anticipated that Governor Mead will appoint a representative to this position in September.

V. Fremont County – Riverton Courtroom Incident

Sheriff Hornecker gave detailed information about the gunshot incident at the Fremont County – Riverton Circuit Court. The bullet penetrated the exterior wall and struck an interior partition in the Riverton Circuit Courtroom. Emergency measures were taken immediately to protect the courtroom. Three steel conex walls were placed around this metal Butler-style building.

Judge Roberts also presented information regarding the incident and discussed possible short-term and long-term solutions for the Fremont County Circuit Court. Judge Roberts noted it is the responsibility of the Fremont County Commissioners to provide a suitable and safe environment for the Circuit Court. Judge Roberts indicated that the lack of funding is the issue.

Chief Justice Kite noted that this item will be on the agenda for the Board of Judicial Policy and Administration meeting next month. Chief Justice Kite suggested that a sub-committee of the Wyoming Court Security Commission, in conjunction with Sheriff Hornecker and Judge Roberts, meet with Fremont County Officials to discuss these safety concerns.

Marshal Moore indicated to the Commission that the U.S. Marshal Service will provide assistance to the Court Security Commission in whatever capacity they can.

Justice Hill indicated that the Wyoming Court Security Commission will send a delegation to participate in meetings with Fremont County officials. Justice Hill stressed that Chief Justice Kite, the U.S. Marshal Service and the Wyoming Court Security Commission will help Fremont County Circuit Court with their courthouse security concerns.

VI. Update Regarding House Bill 70 Prohibiting Carrying of Firearms into Specified Buildings/Open Carry Legislation

Representative Botten reported House Bill 70, Wyoming Court Security Act of 2012 went through several drafts. The Bill did pass by two-thirds on the first reading, but the Bill failed at third reading. Discussion followed with regard as to what to do next and the possibility of taking different action seeking other legal options.

VII. Review of Policy (draft) when Securing Funds to Cover the Cost of Security in High Profile Cases

Joann Odendahl reported the Commission was successful in receiving \$100,000 for court security in high-profile cases. Joann suggested that in order to keep track of where the money needs to be spent, a policy be put in place on how the funds will be appropriated. Representative Botten suggested there be a definition of a high-profile case. Justice Hill will work on high profile case language and send an e-mail to the Commission members for comments.

VIII. Other Court Security Issues around the State

Joe Hartigan, Supreme Court Security Officer, reported detailed information about security issues he observed while touring State Courthouse Buildings. He indicated that funding for security equipment and security manpower is a major concern. Joe indicated that Senator Franken from Minnesota has introduced a Bill, S. 2076, H.R. 6185, which makes it easier for state and local courts to get training for law enforcement officers, security equipment and grants to improve courthouse security .

IX. Annual Report – Due September 1, 2012

Joann Odendahl stated she will work with Pam Eisenach to complete the annual report which is due September 1, 2012. Judge Roberts and Sheriff Hornecker will have an overview on the Riverton Courtroom incident to be included in the annual report. Joann indicated that she will e-mail the Commission the link to an electronic copy of the annual report which will be posted on the Wyoming Homeland Security Website.

X. Sub-Committee Members to meet with Fremont County Commissioners

Justice Hill noted that the sub-committee from the Wyoming Court Security Commission to meet with the Fremont County Commissioners will be: Justice Hill, Judge Donnell, Commissioner Colling, Sheriff Hornecker, Director Cameron, Court Security Officer Hartigan and U.S. Marshal Moore.

XI. Next Meeting

Joann Odendahl noted that the Wyoming Court Security Act requires the Wyoming Court Security Commission to meet two times each year. Joann suggested that the next meeting be held the second week of November. Joann will send an e-mail to the Commission members regarding scheduling the next meeting.

XII. Adjournment

Justice Hill thanked everyone who attended the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 2012.