Wyoming Court Security Commission

Record of Proceedings

Supreme Court Building, Room 237
Cheyenne, Wyoming
July 14, 2011

I. Call to Order

The Wyoming Court Security Commission public meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on July 14, 2011, 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:

Director Guy Cameron – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Representative Jon Botten – Wyoming House of Representatives
Justice William Hill – Wyoming Supreme Court
Chief Troy Lane – University of Wyoming Police Chief

(VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE)

Judge Jeffrey Donnell – 2nd Judicial Court, Laramie, WY

(VIA TELECONFERENCE)

Sheriff Jack "Skip" Hornecker – Fremont County Sheriff
Jeani Stone – Campbell County Attorney
Commissioner Mike Colling – Converse County Commission

Ex-Officio Commission Members:

Joann Odendahl – State Court Administrator/Supreme Court

Absent:

Senator Drew Perkins – Wyoming Senate
Judge Denise Nau – Laramie County Circuit Court

Also Attending:

Doug Gumm – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security
Amber Green – Wyoming Office of Homeland Security

Introductions:

Justice Hill introduced the new Commission members who include: Director Guy Cameron, the new Wyoming Office of Homeland Security; Representative Jon Botten, replacing Representative Brown; Chief Troy Lane, replacing Sheriff

Colson; Doug Gumm, replacing Keith Harris; and Amber Green, replacing Pam Nelson.

III. Appointment of Chair

Justice Hill opened up the floor for nominations to appoint a Commission Chair for the next one year term. Judge Donnell nominated that Justice Hill be the Chair. No other nominations were given. Justice Hill accepted the position of Chair with no further vote.

IV. Approval of July 14, 2010, Minutes

Judge Donnell moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2010, Wyoming Court Security Commission Public Meeting without any corrections or additions. Jeani Stone seconds. Motion carried.

V. Sub-Committee Updates

Chairman Justice Hill gave the new Commission members a brief overview of how the Court Security Commission was started, how the sub-committees were formed, and the purpose of each committee for better understanding of what the Commission's purpose is, and what it hopes to accomplish.

A. Equipment & Facilities (Sheriff Hornecker)

Sheriff Hornecker explained to the new Commission members that after the first Court Security Commission meeting, a survey was conducted in each county regarding the type of equipment needed in each courthouse as well as any infrastructure concerns. The commission then made strong recommendations to each county in regards to their needs from the information received from the survey. At this time there is nothing new to report. There are no new standards ready for presentation to the Commission in new business.

B. Training (Judge Nau)

Joann Odendahl explained, on behalf of Judge Mau in her absence, that the purpose of the Training Sub-committee was to determine what training the Peace Officers should be required to have in order to serve in the court room. Court Security Commission Standard 2010-3 was established to address these concerns. The standard requires that peace officers be P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certified and all P.O.S.T. certified courses will be given through WLEA (Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy). At this time there is nothing new to report. There are no new standards ready for presentation to the Commission in new business.

C. Protocol & Procedures (Justice Hill, Judge Donnell, Ms. Stone)

Judge Donnell explained that the sub-committee was tasked to address the scope of the infrastructure to be covered; whether it should be just the court room itself or the entire courthouse building. The other task that they were given is to determine

which agency should be responsible for staffing the court security. Standard 2010-2 was adopted to address these issues.

D. Local Management (No one currently assigned)
Chairman Justice Hill explained that the previous Court Security Officer, Kevin White, was traveling the different counties and visiting with them about their concerns and what the Court Security Commission could do to assist and support them in their management goals. Each county was supposed to come up with their own plan based on their specific needs, what is already in place, and what is already in the works. The next appointed Court Security Officer will have to pick up where Mr. White left off or start the process over. Due to the untimely nature of his death, it has not been determined if Mr. White had started a report on his visits but will be looked into and reported to the Commission.

VI. 2012 Legislative Agenda (Senator Perkins)

A. Contingency fund for "high profile cases"
Judge Donnell would like to proceed with pursing a $100,000.00 footnote to next year's budget for potential high profile cases in the state.

Chairman Justice Hill opened the item for Discussion. Chairman Justice Hill wanted to discuss who would make the official request for use of the funds, and whether it would be up to the Supreme Court to approve the use of the funds. Judge Donnell stated that the official request should come from the County Commissioners then it would be the Supreme Court's decision as to approve the request and the amount to be given. Joann Odendahl asked if it would be appropriate for the district judge that would be working on the case to sign off on the Commissioner's request before it goes to the Supreme Court. Judge Donnell agrees that would be appropriate. All members agree with the resolution to the issues discussed.

Judge Donnell motions to pursue the contingency fund. Commissioner Colling seconds. Motion carried.

B. Open carry of firearms within court houses
Judge Donnell would like to see the Commission work towards getting preventative measures in place regarding the new law allowing the open carrying of firearms in public buildings, particularly courthouses.

Chairman Justice Hill opened the item for discussion. Chairman Justice Hill asked how we should proceed with this issue. Judge Donnell suggests that it be brought up to the Judicial Committee. Chairman Justice Hill agreed that the Judicial Committee would be an appropriate route but the Commission first needs to have a united front with other agencies that are affected by the new law such as the court systems, law enforcement agencies, the county commissioners and board of Trustees from the

University of Wyoming. Representative Botten agrees that having a united front will be a key component in getting the proposal recognized by the legislature, as this next session will be a budget session. He agrees that it is an important topic that needs addressed and suggests that the bill start in the Senate as he feels it will not go far if started in the house. Joann Odendahl asks if the suggested protective measures could be an amendment to the current statute or if it would need to be a new bill. Chairman Justice Hill said that it could be an amendment. Director Cameron stated that he spoke to Senator Ross regarding the issue. Senator Ross stated that since the legislature will be meeting for a budget session this year that it will be hard to get the issue addressed in the session. Director Cameron feels that Senator Ross could carry some weight since he was part of the legislature that helped form the Commission. He will speak to Senator Ross again and see if he can get the issue on his agenda. Joann Odendahl also suggests that Senator Perkins may be able to have some persuasion since he is a member of the Commission. Judge Donnell agrees and suggests that he and Director Cameron set up a conference call with both Senators sometime within the next week. Director Cameron agreed this would be a good start. Sheriff Hornecker stated that the Sheriff's would support the issue. Commission Colling stated that the Commissioners would like to see the issue addressed and will support it. Joann suggests that the issue be put on the agenda for the WAM and WACO meetings in September. Sheriff Hornecker and Commission Colling agree. Chief Troy Lane will bring up the issue and seek support from the university's board of trustees.

Chairman Justice Hill feels there is no need to make a motion regarding the issue and asks if there are any objections to moving forward. No objections. Issue will carry.

C. Implementation of adopted Court Security Commission Standards
Judge Donnell would like the Commission to seek support from the legislature to give the Commission authority to implement the adopted standards in the county court systems.

Chairman Justice Hill opened the item for discussion. Judge Donnell feels that if the Commission is not given authority to implement the adopted standards then the purpose of the formation of the Commission will not carry forward. Chairman Justice Hill agrees that in order for the Commission to be successful then some type of authority needs to be give. Director Cameron suggests that when he and Judge Donnell speak with Senator Ross and Senator Perkins that it would be a good time to get all three of the topics discussed on the legislative agenda. Judge Donnell agrees. Chairman Justice Hill agrees. Joann Odendahl suggests that Judge Donnell come up with talking points to be discussed with the Senators and distribute them to the commission. Judge Donnell agrees to this request. Director Cameron stated that he would forward legislative concerns of the commission to the Governor's Office.

Chairman Justice Hill feels that there is no need to make a motion regarding the issue and asks if there are any objections to moving forward. No objections. Issue will carry.

VII. New Items for Discussion

Chairman Justice Hill opens discussion for other issues or topics.

Director Cameron wanted to bring up the underlying issue of lack of funding for equipment within the court systems. He explained that through the Homeland Security Grant each county is given funding and approved equipment can be purchased with these funds. However, it is up to each county to determine the priority of how their funds are spent. Sheriff Hornecker stated that Fremont County hopes to utilize their funding for the equipment they need within the next couple of years. He feels that other counties will start doing the same now that the WyoLink equipment needs are more or less met.

VIII. Annual Report – Due September 1, 2011

Joann Odendahl stated that she will work with Amber Green to get the annual report ready to be mailed out within the next couple of weeks. She stated that this year's report will not be very detailed since there are no new standards.

IX. Next Meeting

Joann Odendahl suggests that the next meeting be held in early October since the Commission is hoping to get the open carry of firearms on the legislative agenda. Chairman Justice Hill agrees that this will allow enough time to get the issue discussed with the respective parties and hopefully gain support. Joann Odendahl said that she will look at dates then email the Commission the selected date and time of the next meeting.

X. Adjournment

Chairman Justice Hill declared adjournment at 11:25 a.m., July 14, 2011.