

Wyoming Court Security Commission
Minutes
April 13, 2016

The Wyoming Court Security Commission met on April 13, 2016. In attendance were Director Guy Cameron, Chair, Justice William U. Hill, Judge Wes Roberts, Judge Marv Tyler, Representative Mark Baker, and Mike Colling. Joe Hartigan, Scott Ramsey, Noel Mueller and Ronda Munger also attended.

Call the Meeting to Order

Director Guy Cameron welcomed everyone and began the meeting by a review of the July 15, 2015 minutes. Corrections were discussed to the minutes. Justice Hill moved and Commissioner Colling seconded a motion to adopt the minutes as amended. The Commission approved the July 15, 2016 minutes as amended on a unanimous vote.

CCJ/COSCA and the WGA

Ronda Munger informed the Commission that there has been a request made by the Wyoming Supreme Court and Governor Matt Mead for Wyoming Office of Homeland Security to provide additional security service for two conferences in July of 2016 in Jackson, Wyoming. The first conference will be the Western Governor's Conference, which will be held in mid-June at the Snow King Resort. The second conference will be the Conference of Chief Justices and the Conference of State Court Administrators, which will be held in mid-July at the Snow King Resort. Wyoming Office of Homeland Security will provide security services, including Preventative Radiological & Nuclear Detection (PRMD) support. There is an initial meeting in Jackson the last week in April to discuss all of the particulars.

Incident Report

In 2014, the Commission adopted Court Security Standard 2014-1, which addresses incident reporting. The goal of this standard was to collect valuable data on security issues in the local courthouses. The Commission's plan for the data was to strengthen communication of court security issues around the state. Incident reporting allows for recognition and identification of deficiencies in court security as a result of the reporting. Joe Hartigan provided the Commission with a general overview of the incidents that were reported over the past year. To date, there have been 61 incident reports. Those reports come from 13 different counties. Joe will work on communicating with the 10 counties that did not report any incidents to make sure that they are not underreporting. Joe has communicated will be sending out emails to all local committees to remind them of the annual report which is due July 1st. Director Cameron complimented Joe for his work in increasing the volume and quality of the communications the Commission receives from the local court security committees. Judge Roberts suggested we continued to assure the local law enforcement that the incident reporting mechanism is in no way a negative reflection on the job they do, but instead should be seen as a tool to improve the already top-notch security services they provide.

Additional Courthouse Assessments and Report on SLIB Funds

Ronda Munger gave an update on the courthouse security funds that were awarded by the Legislature in the 2015 Legislative Session. There were eight counties that were provided an opportunity to apply for funds appropriated to the State Loan and Investment Board to be used for courthouse security improvements. The following information was provided to the Commission:

Goshen County – Applied for and received grant funds in the amount of \$84,686, with matching funds in the amount of \$9,409. They have used the funds to update locks and install key cards, among other things. They have ordered a new door, which was easily forced open and will be reinforcing the clerks' areas with ballistic material. Additional cameras will also be purchased and installed.

Albany County – Applied for and received grant funds in the amount of \$93,355, with matching funds in the amount of 15,000. They purchased and installed an X-Ray machine. They will also be installing additional cameras in various areas around the courthouse.

Crook County – Crook County applied for and received grant funds in the amount of \$82,778, with matching funds in the amount of \$9,197. New locks/changes to key-cards have been accomplished. The ballistic material has been installed under the bench and new doors have been installed in the judges' chambers. Cameras have been installed, and they are waiting to have the software installed on the court staff computers to allow viewing of the cameras.

Niobrara County – Niobrara County applied for and received grant funds in the amount of \$34,381, with matching funds in the amount of \$8,197. They intend to use the grant funds to install panic buttons, ballistic material for the courtroom and the clerks' offices, security cameras, and the remodeling of an existing wall. Niobrara County may submit an additional request to SLIB for funds. Niobrara County has already paid the full match, so additional money from the county will not be necessary.

Platte County – Platte County applied for and received grant funds in the amount of \$54,552, with matching funds in the amount of \$9,381. The grants funds will be spent on the addition of two emergency release doors, installing key card access to nine doors, installation of six cameras with three computer/monitors for viewing, and plating doors with glass. The key card access and the cameras are currently being installed and should be up and running in about 3 weeks. They will also be putting Kevlar under the bench, but that is yet to be scheduled.

Big Horn County – Big Horn County is in the process of drafting their grant application. The local court security committee met on April 19th to discuss improvements to be made with grant funds. They are still in the fact gathering stage and will submit a proposal to SLIB in the near future. There is a discussion with the county attorney about what would be the best approach to the remodel. They are scheduled to meet again in May.

Weston County – Weston County is in the process of drafting their grant application. The County has the matching funds and is committed to making improvements. At present time, the plan is to move the circuit court into the basement of the courthouse, with some additional improvements on the upper floor to accommodate a payment window and circuit court trials.

Park County – The Judges in Park County have endorsed the National Center for State Court’s recommendations for courthouse security improvements, and now are waiting to hear if the County Commissioners are willing to provide the matching funds to move the project forward.

The funding for these grants must be spent by June 30, 2018. Ronda reported that the Wyoming Supreme Court applied for another State Justice Institute Technical Grant to accomplish additional courthouse security assessments. The Court expects to know whether they have received the grant by mid-May. If the application is successful, Carbon County, Converse County, Hot Springs County, Lincoln County, Sheridan County, Uinta County, and Washakie County will receive courthouse security assessments.

Director Cameron provided an update on the Fremont County and Sweetwater County projects. The Fremont County Justice Center has been completed. Sweetwater County is in the process of building a justice center that will combine both of the circuit courts that currently exist in Sweetwater County; it will also house the county prosecutor’s office and the public defender all at the county jail.

Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection Training

Director Cameron introduced Scott Ramsey from the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security and Noel Mueller the PRND State and Local Liaison. Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Mueller provided the Commission training and information about the Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection Program (PRND). The PRND program is aimed at preventing the use of radiological and nuclear material before it can be used against us. The program is being developed to systematically support and advance local, regional, state and national homeland security strategies to protect citizens from unauthorized use of radiological and nuclear materials. Director Cameron, through his work at the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, has established a PRND Program manager to lead the Wyoming PRND program coordination and sustainment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Court Security Commission will be August 3, 2016.

Commission Adjourned