

Wyoming Court Security Commission
Minutes
August 2, 2017

The Wyoming Court Security Commission met on August 2, 2017. In attendance were Director Guy Cameron, Chair, Justice Keith Kautz, Judge Wes Roberts, Judge Marv Tyler, Senator Leland Christensen, Daniel Erramouspe, Steve Woodson and Commissioner Mike Colling. Justice William U. Hill, Lily Sharpe, Joe Hartigan, Doug Gumm, Becky Craig, and Ronda Munger also attended.

Call the Meeting to Order – Director Cameron

Director Guy Cameron opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including the newest member Justice Keith Kautz, who replaced Justice Hill. Director Cameron made special remarks thanking Justice Hill for his service to the Court Security Commission and awarding him an excellence in leadership coin offered from the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security.

Director Cameron led a discussion of the March 22, 2017 minutes. Judge Roberts moved to approve the minutes as written and Judge Tyler seconded the motion. The Commission approved the March 22, 2017 minutes on a unanimous vote.

2015 Wyo.Sess.Laws 477-2015 Courthouse Security Assessments – Ronda Munger

Ronda Munger updated the Commission on the State Justice Institute Technical Grant for the original eight courthouse security assessments – the grant funds were provided to accomplish courthouse security assessments in Albany, Big Horn, Crook, Goshen, Niobrara, Park, Platte and Weston counties. The legislature appropriated just over one million dollars based on those assessments in the 2015 General Session. At this time, Goshen County, Albany County, and Crook County have accomplished their proposed security improvements. Niobrara County and Platte County are in the process of spending the monies appropriated by the legislature and awarded through a grant process by the State Loan and Investment Board (SLIB). Niobrara County has just under \$40,000 in funds that are still available. Platte County is on the SLIB agenda in August and will be requesting the remaining \$22,000 of its legislative appropriation. Park County has not applied for the court security funds appropriated under this legislation. Big Horn County and Weston County are currently out to bid on their individual court security improvements. The state funds for the original eight counties will revert in June of 2018.

Update 2016 State Justice Institute Technical Grant – Ronda Munger

In 2016, the Wyoming Supreme Court applied for an additional \$50,000 grant from the State Justice Institute to accomplish seven additional court security assessments. The assessments were accomplished in Carbon, Converse, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Sheridan, Uinta, and Washakie counties. Ronda Munger provided copies of an Overview of Courthouse Security Assessments to the Commission and discussed the fact that it is considered confidential and not available for public consumption. Each of the seven counties have individual reports that are more detailed, but those reports are also considered confidential for obvious reasons. The seven individual reports and the overall

summary were prepared by a team of security experts at the National Center for State Courts and were drafted as a result of onsite security assessments accomplished in August, September and October of 2016. Copies of the reports were provided to the state court judges in each of the counties. The observations and recommendations in each of the reports are prioritized into one of three categories according to the cost and time required to implement the recommendation. Total estimated costs for implementing the recommendations in the seven counties is projected to be between \$810,000 and \$1.2 million.

2018 Budget Session – Director Cameron

Director Cameron and Senator Christensen, as well as staff from the Supreme Court, met with Representative Bob Nicholas, Co-Chair of the Joint Appropriations Committee to discuss state funding possibilities for the 2018 Budget Session. The Legislature will be facing tough funding decisions due to decreased state revenues. Senator Christensen led a discussion about the challenges of funding for court security and the recognition of the fact that court security will be an ongoing need throughout the state. He recommended the Commission look to recurring funding sources so that it is not an annual request to the legislature. Although cognizant of the budgetary challenges facing the legislature in the upcoming session, the Commission agreed to move forward with a funding request for security improvements on behalf of the seven counties who just recently accomplished court security assessments. The Commission discussed the possibility of requesting the use of the 2018 reversion monies that were originally appropriated to the initial eight counties, but was not utilized. Lily Sharpe will draft some language accomplishing the funding request in the upcoming legislative session.

Annual Reports – Director Cameron

Director Cameron reminded the Commission of its September 1, 2017 statutory obligation to draft an annual report as required by the Wyoming Court Security Act, W.S. 5-11-101 et seq. The report will be submitted to the Chief Justice, Governor, Joint Appropriations Committee, and Joint Judiciary Committee. He explained that a large part of the annual report is comprised of the individual reports submitted each July 1st by the local court security management committees. To date, twenty-three of the twenty-four local committees have submitted reports. Ronda Munger stated that the quality of the reports being submitted by the local committees is improving. Director Cameron explained how the data in those reports is used to raise awareness of court security issues statewide. This year, the Commission requested copies of the standing orders for court security signed by judges and utilized in courthouses across the state. Judge Tyler suggested the collection of the orders. He explained that as he travels across the state to fulfill his judicial duties it is important to him and other judges to know what weapons orders are in place in each location. The Commission reviewed the eight active court weapons orders. Judge Tyler suggested the drafting of a weapons order template to be offered to the local security committees and local judges. The Commission agreed that this issue needs to be vetted and directed by the local judges and sheriffs. Judge Roberts shared information provided by the National Center for State Courts during a court security training seminar. Lily Sharpe summarized her experience working with the legislature on the issue of court security and the legal research that has been done to understand the authority prescribed by

the statutes to direct security issues in county buildings. The Commission decided to gather information about security policies and further discuss the issue at its next meeting.

Update Incident Reports (FY2017 Numbers) – Joe Hartigan

Joe Hartigan reported to the Commission on the incident reports as required by Standard 2014-1 and filed by each of the counties. As of July 1, 2017, there have been 150 incident reports submitted. Over this past fiscal year there were 73 incident reports submitted, which is a 66% increase from the 44 reports submitted in the prior fiscal year. The incidents reported during fiscal year 2017 include the following types of security events:

- 16 - verbal threat reports
- 13 – disorderly conduct reports
- 8 – medical emergency reports
- 7 – attempt to bring in weapon reports (2 were firearms)
- 4 – knives brought into courtroom reports
- 4 – written threat reports
- 4 – suspicious circumstance reports
- 3 – intoxicated party reports
- 2 – drugs / contraband reports
- 2 – physical assault reports
- 1 – (of each of the following) suspicious package report, Harassment report, Emergency fire report, Bench warrant arrest report, Intelligence report, Attempted prisoner escape report, Facility flooding report, Public indecency report, Self-inflicted injury report and a Property destruction report.

Although there has been a 66% increase in incident reporting, Joe does not believe that there has been an increase in security risks in Wyoming courthouses, but that the increase in reports filed is due to the increased awareness of the necessity to report security issues to the Commission.

Court Security Commission Annual Report – Ronda Munger

Ronda Munger assured Director Cameron that she will have a draft report for him to review by the middle of August.

Next Meeting – Director Cameron

Director Cameron thanked Director Woodson, Commissioner Colling, and Daniel Erramouspe for agreeing to serve additional three-year terms on the Commission. Director Cameron advised the Commission that a letter of appreciation was sent to Sheriff Honecker thanking him for his service. The Governor will be tasked with appointing another sheriff to replace him. The next meeting of the Court Security Commission will be held after the Legislative Session in 2018.

Commission Adjourned