

**RILEY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
LAW BOARD MEETING
City Commission Meeting Room
1101 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS
May 15, 2017 12:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present: Craig Beardsley Mike Dodson
Usha Reddi Marvin Rodriguez (arrived at 12:01)
BeEtta Stoney Barry Wilkerson
Ben Wilson

Absent: Captain Kyle

Staff Present: Director Schoen Assistant Director Doehling
Captain Fink Captain Hegarty
Captain Hooper Captain Moldrup

- I. **Establish Quorum:** By Chairman Beardsley at 12:00 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Director Schoen.
- III. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Approve 2017 Expenditures
 - B. Juvenile Transport Reimbursement
 - C. County Inmate Medical, Facilities, Maintenance & Repairs Expenditures- (*Review*)
 - D. Riley County Jail Average Daily Inmate Population- (*Review*)
 - E. 1st Quarter Report Synopses & Reports- (*Review*)
 - a) 82.1.4 Crime Statistics
 - b) 61.1.1 Traffic & Accident Enforcement Analysis

Schoen referred to the 2017 Expenditures list. He explained that the full-time accountant for the Riley County Police Department (RCPD) had a minor medical issue that she had to take care of. In the interim, the part-time accountant for the department assisted with the preparation of the expenditure list for the Law Board Meeting. Schoen mentioned that there were a couple minor errors and items that were left off of the list. Provided to the Board was document to modify said vouchers with a revised total of \$356,622.98.

Dodson inquired about the apparent increase in the year-to-date figures provided in the Crime Statistics report. According to the report, the number of rape offenses went from 8 in 2016 to 16 in 2017. He wished to know if the numbers provided were for the entire county.

Schoen said yes.

Dodson sought clarification as to the department's definition of a cleared offense.

Schoen explained that there are a number of ways to clear a case under Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) standards. To turn the case over to the court for prosecution is just one example. The term “cleared” does not mean that there has been a conviction.

Dodson perceived the increase in reported rape offenses to be fairly significant and requested additional information from RCPD administration with respect to potential trends or reasons for the increase.

Schoen stated that there is no information to indicate that there is an individual or group of individuals responsible for the offenses. What can be distinguished are the types of behaviors that give rise to a lot of the incidents. In the case of rape offenses, many are alcohol related. He deferred to Captain Fink for additional comment.

Fink said that there are no trends to suggest that there is a serial crime taking place. A few of the rape offenses were self-generated by the RCPD detectives. Through a single investigation, detectives were able to identify additional victims, which would have otherwise gone unreported.

Dodson pointed out that in the Traffic & Accident Enforcement Analysis the leading cause of preventable accidents appeared to be driver inattention. He wished to know the department’s definition of a preventable accident.

Schoen responded that preventable accidents are broadly defined as those that are not weather or animal related. The accidents described in the report are those which presumably are preventable because they involve some type of driver error, misjudgment or miscalculation.

Dodson asked if mechanical failure would be considered a preventable accident.

Schoen said no. Though, one could argue that if the owner maintained his/her vehicle better the accident could be prevented. Realistically speaking, the department sees very few of those types of accidents.

Reddi expressed similar concerns as Dodson with regard to the increase in reported rape offenses. She asked RCPD to work with the Kansas State University Police Department to take a deeper look at not only the age of the victims, but time of day and location that the incidents occurred.

Schoen agreed to research the matter further and report back to the Board.

Wilkerson said that part of the issue is the definition of rape. Sexual intercourse with a child who is under the age of 14 also constitutes as rape. If the child is 14-16 years of age it is considered aggravated indecent liberties with a child. All reports of rape are sent to the County Attorney’s Office where both agencies review the case together. Not every jurisdiction does that. The police department has done a good job of thoroughly reviewing those cases to see what can be done.

Reddi said that the Traffic & Accident Enforcement Analysis suggests that the department is unable to pinpoint the preventable accident locations. She often hears about issues with motorists navigating roundabouts, especially near Bluemont. She expressed interest in obtaining the accident location data not only to inform the Board, but to better educate the public as well.

Schoen explained that the department is still suffering the ill effects of the turnover of the crime analyst. At the time the new analyst was hired, the decision was made to shift some of the workload back to the records section. The records section was able to supply much of the information, but not in the same format. He anticipates a better analysis of the preventable accident locations, time of day, and day of the week when the report for the second quarter is completed.

Dodson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Wilson seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

IV. General Agenda:

F. Additions or Deletions: None.

G. Public Comment: John Exdell, Associate Professor, Kansas State University, addressed the Board on behalf of the Manhattan-Riley County Coalition for Equal Justice (CEJ). Exdell and the CEJ intended to make a formal presentation on the newest data from 2015 on racial disparities in marijuana arrests in Riley County; however, the data was not available. He requested that the topic be postponed until the regularly scheduled September Law Board Meeting at which members of the K-State Black Student Union may also attend. He provided members of the Board with copies of the 2014 report of racial disparity in arrests for marijuana possession.

Beardsley informed Exdell that the topic would be added to the September Law Board Meeting agenda. He asked that any documentation in preparation of the discussion be provided at least 7-10 days prior to the meeting so that it could be distributed to the entire Board.

Exdell agreed to provide the Board with the information prior to the September meeting.

H. Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #17 Comments: None.

I. Board Member Comments: Reddi commented that Captain Kyle attended a recent Flint Hills National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) meeting at which he provided data on the RCPD Mental Health Co-Responder Program. Though the police department only recently began collecting data for the program, she believes that it is working well. Those who attended the meeting appreciated the information that was provided.

Reddi, along with Riley County Commissioner Ben Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Linda Morse, RCPD Captain Kurt Moldrup, and Pawnee Mental Health Services Executive Director Robbin Cole visited the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center in Lawrence, KS. A Douglas County Commissioner was also present. The group discussed Douglas County's plan for a mental health crisis stabilization center in lieu of expanding their jail. Reddi stated that Douglas County has yet to identify a funding source and their plan is much more extensive than what would be considered locally. However, it was a good discussion.

Reddi stated that she had a great time playing ping pong with RCPD Public Information Officer Alexander Robinson at Varsity Donuts. It was interesting to see several members of the community, to include a second grader from the Manhattan Catholic School, at Varsity Donuts at 6:30 a.m. who knew the officer. She noted that this is the kind of community engagement that is very much appreciated.

Beardsley stated that at the April 17, 2017 Law Board Meeting the Board designated Monday, May 15th, 2017, as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of those police officers who, through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty. He asked the public to join him in a moment of silence to honor of the 6 officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in Riley County.

Schoen announced that on May 11, 2017 Captain Richard Fink was recognized for his service to crime victims during the Crime Victims' Rights Conference in Wichita. Captain Fink was presented with the Outstanding Criminal Justice Victim Service Award by Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt during the awards ceremony. Schoen said that Captain Fink understands the importance of believing victims and working hard to resolve their cases in a manner sensitive to their needs while still building excellent criminal cases. The nomination was supported by Riley County Attorney Barry Wilkerson who noted that under Captain Fink's leadership, the County Attorney's Office was able to obtain 25-to-life sentences without putting victims through the trauma of testifying at a trial.

J. Contract for Service Country Stampede L.L.C: Director Schoen briefed the Board on the proposed contract between the Riley County Law Enforcement Agency, Riley County Police Department, and Country Stampede, L.L.C. The contract proposes Country Stampede, L.L.C. reimburse RCPD for expenses to deploy manpower and equipment associated with providing security and traffic control at the event. He stated that the department has provided this service for a number of years. He recommended the Board authorize the Chair to sign the contract.

Dodson asked if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project will have an impact on the traffic pattern during Country Stampede.

Schoen said that the Corps of Engineers has discussed the project with Country Stampede. He was not certain what the traffic pattern will be or if it will change in time for the event. It is his belief that Country Stampede would have incorporated any significant changes to the traffic pattern into the contract.

Wilkerson moved to authorize Chairman Beardsley to sign the agreement between the Riley County Law Enforcement Agency, Riley County Police Department, and Country Stampede, L.L.C. Dodson seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

K. Partially Self-Funded Workers Compensation Plan Mid-Year Update: Jim Wilson, President and CEO, Assurance Partners of Salina, Kansas, provided the Board with a workers compensation plan mid-year update. Wilson discussed the work that has been done over the last five years in preparation for workplace safety improvements and a self-insured workers compensation program.

Jim Wilson reported reductions in claim count/activity, indemnity claim activity, claim cost, litigation activity, and claim reporting lag from 2015 to 2016. A comparison of the 2016/2017 guaranteed cost workers compensation premium summary to the 2016/2017 year-to-date self-insurance premium summary was provided. Wilson stated that if the year were to end today, compared to the guaranteed cost insurance plan, the department would have a total expense of \$136,488; a total savings of \$558,924. Wilson added that it would be naive to believe that the program will maintain at that level and he certainly does not expect it to. However, the program is off to a good start. He projected the annual cost of the self-insurance plan to be \$294,681 with an expected savings of approximately \$400,731 when compared to the guaranteed cost premiums.

L. Fort Riley Shooting Range Interlocal Agreement: Commissioner Wilson informed the Law Board that the Board of Riley County Commissioners approved and signed the Interlocal Agreement for use of the Fort Riley Range 27 by RCPD. The next step will be to obtain the necessary signatures and forward the agreement to the Kansas Attorney General who has 90 days to provide input and approve it.

Schoen proffered as a suggestion that should the Board elect to approve the agreement, he and Chairman Beardsley could sign the document today. The County could then forward the agreement to Fort Riley for signature.

Dodson moved to authorize Chairman Beardsley to sign the agreement for use of Range 27 on Fort Riley by the Riley County Police Department. Wilkerson seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

M. Mental Health Co-Responder Interim Report: Jessica Blasi, Mental Health Co-Responder, shared with the Board her observations of the program since she was hired on March 7, 2017. Since March 29, 2017, Blasi has been actively responding to calls for service, conducting follow-up telephone calls and home visits with persons with mental illness. To date, she has responded to approximately 40 crisis calls and 30 outreach calls.

Blasi explained that in addition to responding to persons in mental illness or drug and alcohol crisis she conducts in-field mental health screenings, provides services for those incarcerated in the Riley County Jail, offers referrals to those who need additional services, and educates RCPD officers and staff on how to identify mental illness and signs of self-care failure. She added that through safety planning, she is able to divert persons from state hospital visits and only hospitalize those who truly need immediate crisis intervention.

Blasi was pleased to see how the police officers treat individuals who struggle with mental health. She stated that she truly enjoys the position because it allows her to work alongside police officers and collaborate with her crisis team and the hospital to provide clients with proper care.

Reddi commented on the Mental Health Co-Responder Interim Report that was included in the Law Board packet. According to the report, 75% of persons contacted by the co-responder were not receiving any mental health services. Reddi asked Blasi if she refers the person to other areas for service.

Blasi stated that she first provides those who are not receiving services with a packet of information. If the individual requires financial assistance or needs medications filled she will refer them to Shepherd's Crossing. She works closely not only with Pawnee Mental Health Services but also Kansas Adult Protective Services to provide care.

The aforementioned report cited that since July 2016, 9 individuals in the community generated 86 calls for service for RCPD due to mental health-related issues. Three people were responsible for 51 of those calls. Dodson inquired about the total number of calls for service received that are not mental health related.

Hegarty stated that the department receives approximately 60,000-70,000 calls for service per year.

N. Approve 2018 Budget for Publication: At the April 17, 2017 Law Board Meeting members of the Board were provided copies of RCPD 2018 Budget Narrative and Proposed Budget Draft 2 for consideration. During the meeting, Assistant Director Doehling reviewed the budget narrative and explained each of the line items. The budget was again discussed at the May 8, 2017 Special Law Board Meeting at which time the Board was offered the opportunity to ask questions and provide input. Now comes the May 15, 2017 Law Board Meeting at which the Board must approve a budget of expenditures for publication prior to the mandatory public hearing.

Schoen explained that at the May 8, 2017 Special Law Board Meeting a consensus was reached among the Board to consider a 0.8% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for all personnel, the expansion of shift differential pay to all employees who regularly work a shift that starts or ends during, or encompasses the hours of 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., the expansion of education pay in the amount of \$200.00 a month for those who qualify, and funding to contract with Pawnee Mental Health Services for two Mental Health Co-Responders. These options, contained in Proposed Budget Draft 3, represent a 1.824% increase over the 2017 approved budget when the 2016 carryover is applied.

Reddi asked that the department make future Law Board Meeting materials viewable to the public on the main screen so that they can follow along with the discussions.

Wilkerson moved to approve RCPD Budget Draft 3 for publication. Rodriguez seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

O. Executive Session: At 1:09 p.m. Wilkerson moved to go into Executive Session until 1:29 p.m. for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel matters. Rodriguez seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

At 1:35 p.m. the open meeting reconvened.

Wilkerson moved to return to Executive Session until 1:45 p.m. for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel matters. Dodson seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

At 1:45 p.m. the open meeting reconvened.

P. Adjournment: Wilkerson moved to adjourn the meeting. Rodriguez seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

The May 15, 2017 Law Board Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.