

representative to see if he/she knew of anyone who would be willing to apply and serve in that capacity.

Valerius briefly discussed the concerns law enforcement may have following the presidential election. Republican nominee for U.S. President Donald Trump has incited a lot of people which Valerius believes might be an issue nationwide.

Boyd and McCulloh thanked Valerius for his comments.

Brian Johnson- President, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #17: Mr. Johnson explained that it is a difficult time to be a law enforcement officer. Increasingly, law enforcement officers find themselves under the microscope, and rightfully so. It is a profession in which there needs to be public accountability and absolute transparency. Members of the Riley County Police Department do not find that to be objectionable and in fact, they welcome it. Nonetheless, it does make the job more difficult.

There are a number of employees in the Department who stand up and excel despite the challenges of the profession. In November, the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) will once again sponsor the “Hair for the Holidays” event. With approval from Director Schoen, sworn and non-sworn personnel will be allowed to forgo shaving for the month of November in exchange for a \$100.00 donation to the Cops ‘N Kids program. The Cops ‘N Kids program supports lower income families in Manhattan and Riley County. Each December employees of the police department take children, who would not otherwise be able to afford holiday presents, shopping. Johnson wished to publically thank Director Schoen and the Law Board for supporting the noteworthy cause. It is a great program that reinforces the positive relationship that the Department has with the community.

I. Board Member Comments: Reddi commented that police officers with the Riley County Police Department do an incredible job not just in Manhattan, but in Ogden as well. There has been an increase in traffic enforcement in Ogden, especially in school zones. The Ogden Site Council, of which she is a member, has a tremendous amount of respect for the officers and feels that they are doing an exceptional job.

Reddi stated that she recently attended a National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Conference. One of the topics discussed was the Stepping Up Initiative which is a national effort to divert people with mental illness from jails and into treatment. Three hundred and four counties in the nation have signed on to the initiative and only four counties in Kansas: Douglass County, Johnson County, Pottawatomie County, and Riley County. Reddi said that she is proud that Riley County is a part of it and she looks forward to what it will bring to the community.

Reddi reminded the public that October 18, 2016 is the last day to register to vote. On October 19, 2016 advanced voting begins and registered voters can vote by mail or in person before Election Day November 8th. She directed the public to go to the Riley County elections website to view the polling areas and voting hours.

J. 2016 Police Vehicle Purchase: The Riley County Police Department utilizes the City of Manhattan’s Vehicle Replacement Index (VRI) rating scale for vehicles. The Department has examined the current fleet to determine which are in need of replacement according to the VRI. Doehling explained that the original recommendation was to purchase 7 vehicles now and 1 at the end of the year if unexpended funds allow. He modified the recommendation and sought Law Board approval to purchase a total of 8 vehicles (5 Ford Interceptor Sedans, 2 Ford Interceptor Utility

vehicles and 1 Dodge Charger Police Sedan); 6 of the vehicles to be purchased immediately with remaining funds in the budget line and 2 at the end of the year. The Department will return to the Board in December to seek authorization to purchase the remaining 2 vehicles with year-end funds.

Reddi wanted to know if forfeiture money could be used to purchase police vehicles.

Doehling stated his position that forfeiture or seizure funds could not be used to purchase standard fleet vehicles such as front line patrol units or staff vehicles. It could be used to purchase specialty vehicles for undercover operations and things of that nature. However, RCPD typically attempts to identify other sources of funding for those types of vehicles. Rather than use money to purchase the vehicle the Department oftentimes uses a quality forfeited vehicle until it is no longer useful at which time it is sold.

Reddi asked if the Department has ever used seizure funds to purchase a specialty vehicle.

Doehling responded that the Department's tactical vehicle was purchased with seizure funds approximately 7-8 years ago. In addition, the Department has used seizure money to buy program or rental vehicles for the Special Investigative Unit (SIU).

McCulloh wanted to know if there are any advantages to buying the same vehicle make and model.

Doehling said that there aren't advantages as far as repairs and maintenance are concerned. The advantage is that hopefully year to year the major manufacturer of the vehicle will maintain a body style and size so that the equipment (e.g., cages, push bumper, etc.) can be transferred from one vehicle to another.

McCulloh asked what it costs to outfit a new vehicle.

Doehling said that it depends. If the Department purchases new equipment it can cost \$3,000 to \$5,000 per vehicle.

Wilkerson moved to approve the vehicle purchases as requested. McCulloh seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-0.

K. Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant: Supplement Mental Health Crisis Response Professionals: The Kansas Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (KCJCC) has announced that the Riley County Police Department will receive a 2017 grant award in the amount of \$60,500 through the Federal Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). Assistant Director Doehling explained that at the time RCPD made application of the funds, two options were provided. The first option was for \$80,666.40 with the intention that, if awarded, it would be used to fund a full year salary and benefits for one mental health crisis response professional. The second option was for \$40,333.20 to fund the position for six months. The state decided to award RCPD \$60,500 which falls in the middle of the two options.

Doehling spoke with Pawnee Mental Health Services Executive Director Robbin Waldner Cole and Emergency Services Director Jeremy Boyle who agreed that the JAG funds could be used to staff one mental health crisis response professional for a period of nine months. It was their recommendation that the first mental health professional begin January 1, 2017 utilizing money from the 2017 RCPD

budget and City of Manhattan's alcohol tax dollars, with the second mental health professional to begin April 1, 2017 utilizing JAG funds.

Doehling sought Law Board approval to accept the grant award in the amount of \$60,500 through the JAG Program.

Wilkerson moved to approve the Department's acceptance of the grant award. Wells seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-0.

L. Self-Funded Workers Compensation Plan Update: During the latter part of September, the Riley County Police Department, with support from the City and County, made the request to the State of Kansas to pursue a partially self-funded workers compensation program. The Department has since received a certificate from the State of Kansas Department of Labor Division of Workers Compensation certifying that the Riley County Law Enforcement Agency and Riley County Police Department has complied with the necessary regulations pertaining to the Workers Compensation Act and may begin the self-funded workers compensation program effective October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

M. Operation ARC (Accident Reduction Citations) & KSU Focus Group Results: Captain Kyle provided the Law Board with a presentation on Operation Accident Reduction Citations (**see attached**). Operation Accident Reduction Citations (ARC) is based on the principles of procedural justice which focuses on legitimacy and the concept of fairness in interactions between law enforcement and the community. Riley County Police Department administration contacted Kansas State University (KSU) Associate Professor of Sociology Dr. Sue Williams and her team to conduct a limited focus group study to determine what the public considers important from a traffic safety standpoint.

Kyle explained that the idea behind procedural justice is to give the community a voice and include them in the decision making process with the ultimate goal to reduce accidents through voluntary compliance. Rather than come up with a new program and convince the public it is what they need, the Department and KSU asked the public what they thought and built a traffic initiative around the input that was provided. The focus group study revealed that overall people feel that Manhattan is a safe community. In addition, the traffic safety priorities of those surveyed matched very closely with that of RCPD, which include individuals driving under the influence, inattentive driving, cellphone use, speeding, failure to stop at red lights, and tailgating.

Kyle explained that Operation ARC not an initiative designed to get officers to write as many tickets as possible. It is not about competition between officers or rewarding officers for the number of citations they write. It is a traffic safety initiative that focuses officers on the behaviors that are known to cause accidents, specifically the abovementioned traffic safety priorities.

Kyle added that communication is a large part of procedural justice. What the officers say to the public during traffic stops is important. Therefore, officers will be provided a bulleted script to follow which explains the traffic initiative, why the individual was stopped, etc. By communicating these elements it is hoped that the Department will receive voluntary compliance. It also increases the likelihood that people will see the police and the law as legitimate.

Kyle stated that not all of it was good news. When one conducts research one has to be prepared for negative input. While most individuals in the focus groups felt that overall the police were doing a

good job and treating them well, some of the focus groups, especially the African American focus group, communicated a few concerns and shared negative stories that they had. What was not clear in the research was whether or not these individuals were speaking about police in general or RCPD specifically. Further, it is not clear if the incidents they spoke of happened ten minutes ago or ten years ago. However, even with the negative comments the individuals understood that the police department has a tough job to do and they felt the officers did a good job overall.

Kyle explained that Operation ARC will be conducted January-March 2017. In April 2017 KSU will begin their research process. It is anticipated that it will be approximately one year before their full report will be completed.

Reddi thanked the Department and KSU for conducting the survey. It is important for a law enforcement agency to be introspective.

McCulloh explained that there was a lot of push back from the public when Operation Impact was initiated around Aggieville some time ago. She feels that Operation ARC might be more palatable to the public if the officers provide additional explanation during the traffic stop.

Boyd concurred with McCulloh. Operation ARC is an initiative that will instill professionalism in the police department and hopefully convey that professionalism to the public.

N. Executive Session: At 1:07 p.m. McCulloh moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel matters and attorney client privilege not to exceed 20 minutes. Wells seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-0.

At 1:27 p.m. the open meeting reconvened.

O. Affirmation or Revocation of Discipline: Wilkerson moved to affirm the Director's disciplinary actions. McCulloh seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, motion carried 5-0.

P. Adjournment: The October 17, 2016 Law Board Meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.