

**RILEY COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
LAW BOARD MEETING
Ogden Community Center
220 Willow Street
Ogden, KS
July 15, 2019 12:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Members Present: Craig Beardsley Mike Dodson
Linda Morse Marvin Rodriguez
Robert Ward Barry Wilkerson

Absent: Captain Josh Kyle BeEtta Stoney

Staff Present: Director Dennis Butler Assistant Director Kurt Moldrup
Captain Rich Fink Captain Erin Freidline
Captain Tim Hegarty Captain Derek Woods

Recorder: Nichole Glessner

- I. **Establish Quorum:** By Chairman Dodson at 12:00 p.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Director Butler led the Riley County Law Enforcement Agency (Law Board) in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. Approve June 17, 2019 Law Board Meeting Minutes
 - B. Approve 2019 Expenditures/Credits
 - C. Juvenile Transport Reimbursement
 - D. County Inmate Medical, Facilities, Maintenance & Repairs Expenditures- (*Review*)
 - E. Riley County Jail Average Daily Inmate Population- (*Review*)
 - F. Monthly Crime Report & Trends – (*Moved to General Agenda for Briefing*)

Previously provided to the recorder of the meeting were corrections to the June 17, 2019 Law Board Meeting minutes. The minutes now reflect accurate attendance and vote count with BeEtta Stoney present and Marvin Rodriguez absent from the meeting.

Rodriguez moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Morse seconded the motion. Chairman Dodson polled the board and the motion passed with Wilkerson, Rodriguez, Morse, Ward, Beardsley, and Dodson voting in favor, and no one voting against. The motion passed 6-0.

Morse requested a report from administration in August regarding the relocation of the Country Stampede and its impact on the Riley County Police Department (RCPD) both financially and in terms of personnel.

- IV. **General Agenda:**

G. Additions or Deletions: None.

H. Public Comment: None.

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

J. Board Member Comments: Beardsley commented on the 2020 budget development process and commended RCPD staff for clearly identifying the needs of the police department. He stated that moving forward with planning for future budgets there will be years where there will not be increases like that which was seen this year. Aside from the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA), he encouraged the department and the Law Board to do what they can to maintain current budget levels.

Director Butler informed the board that he has been attending many government body meetings to include meetings held by the primary funding sources for the police department (city and county). He explained that part of that approach is to become better educated on the capability of the commissions to provide future funding and to understand competing demands not only in regard to community projects, but also those within the city and county's respective departments. By attending these meetings he has gained a better sense of where the RCPD fits into the overall funding picture.

Chairman Dodson provided a brief history and update on the RCPD range project. He informed the board that the county recently purchased 170 acres of land situated adjacent to the 90 acres of land that is currently being leased for the RCPD range. The next phase will include the site planning process and eventual purchase/installation of necessary equipment to make the range operational. Dodson asked Director Butler to provide him with the targeting system costs (as detailed in the original Memorandum of Understanding with Fort Riley) so that he may share it with the rest of the board.

Director Butler agreed to provide the information requested by Chairman Dodson. He added that planning staff has been in touch with the police department and initiated discussions to start the site planning process with respect to where the facility and equipment will be oriented. It is his assumption that there will be a public hearing on the site planning process. He encouraged the public to remain engaged during that process so that they can provide input.

Morse stated that it is important for the Law Board to be informed as significant progress is made.

Director Butler suggested and Chairman Dodson agreed to have the department provide routine updates to the board during the monthly meetings as part of the General Agenda.

K. Monthly Crime Report & Trends: Chairman Dodson requested the Monthly Crime Report for the month of June be added as part of the General Agenda for discussion. Director Butler provided a comparison of Part 1 Crime for the first six months of the year. He explained that when comparing June 2019 to the five year average for the same time period, Part 1 total crime is down 7.9%. Part 1 total crime is projected to be 8.7% higher than 2018 and 10.3% higher than the five year average. This is predominately due to several spikes in aggravated assaults in 2019, a spike in general larceny in January 2019 and a steady upward trend in motor vehicle thefts since 2014.

Director Butler explained that that in 2014 the community experienced an unusually low year with respect to Part 1 crime. When viewing crime as a community, it is important to look at the longer trend. The RCPD typically uses a five year analysis. If 2014 were eliminated from the trend, and 2013 were added, the five year trend would not seem as high.

Director Butler stated that one trend that is higher, regardless of whether 2014 data is included in the analysis, is the crime of aggravated assault. Data shows that approximately 75% of those reported crimes occur between people know who know each other. In other words, the assailant is known by the victim. Many of those cases also involve domestic violence. Other than through education, crimes that involve people who are in a relationship and are not stranger crimes are challenging for law enforcement to address.

Chairman Dodson asked if there are any tips that can be provided to the public to avoid becoming victims of vehicle theft.

Director Butler explained that vehicle theft is not unique to Manhattan. He has found that in Kansas, more people have a habit of leaving keys in their vehicles which makes it a target and easier to steal. Individuals interested in stealing vehicles oftentimes walk down the street and check car doors. If they find one that is unlocked, they will take what they can out of the vehicle. If they find keys, they are likely to take the vehicle. The RCPD always encourages people to take their vehicle's keys, close and lock all windows and doors, and never leave valuables or guns in their vehicles, especially if they can be seen from outside the vehicle.

Chairman Dodson asked if the department has seen any specific trends (e.g., speeding, burglaries) in the north county area.

Captain Fink stated that in the past, the department received specific complaints. However, those have since been addressed. He commented that there are no specific trends to report for that area at this time.

Director Butler stated his belief that crime is underreported in rural areas. In addition to the four officers permanently assigned to the north county area, the decision was made to devote an additional staff person (sergeant) to that area. The sergeant will work with the officers to identify issues, develop strategies, work with the citizens to address concerns, and hopefully encourage people to report crimes when they occur.

Ward stated that there were recent discussions regarding media organizations identifying victims of crime in news articles. He asked if that is a significant issue for citizens in the northern part of the county.

Director Butler explained that when he first arrived at the RCPD, he found it unusual that victims' names were being included in the daily crime reports provided to the media. Though he thought it unusual, he did not change the process. It was his assumption that it was the community standard. The more time he spent learning the community and speaking with citizens and police officers, especially in rural areas, the more he learned how much citizens do not like having victim names printed in the

newspaper. In some cases, the victim refused to report the crime because they did not want to become the topic of community gossip or speculation about a variety of things involved with the case.

Director Butler said that after conducting additional research on the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) and consulting with command staff, a meeting with local media personnel was held. All local media organizations were invited and encouraged to attend. Those who attended the meeting were not opposed to the change to RCPD policy to no longer release victim names as part of the daily media report. He noted that not all media representatives attended the meeting.

Director Butler added that once the change was officially made, the department received pushback from one media organization. Butler informed the board that the department is on solid ground legally. The media can still obtain the victims names, but the department is going to continue to monitor the issue and follow the law. That does not always prevent a victim's name from being released. The department is simply no longer going to voluntarily include the information in the daily media report.

L. Law Board & RCPD Command Staff Retreats: Director Butler explained that he and Chairman Dodson met with Mr. John Divine, Owner and Consultant of The Leadership Firm out of Salina, Kansas, which provides professional training and coaching to organizations. Butler stated that he has worked with Mr. Divine in the past and discussed the possibility of him visiting Riley County to meet with members of the RCPD command staff and Law Board. The meetings have not yet been scheduled. However, it is Mr. Divine's recommendation that two retreats be scheduled; one with members of command staff and one with the Law Board.

Director Butler stated that the primary focus of the Law Board Retreat will be to discuss the role of the Law Board and issues/concerns they may have as the governing body that oversees the operations of the police department. Butler noted that because the governing body is subject to KORA, the meeting will be open to the public. Anyone may attend the Law Board Retreat, but the facilitator will not entertain questions or comments from members of the audience.

Director Butler stressed that the decision to consult with Mr. Divine was not because he believes there is something wrong or broken within the police department or Law Board. He simply believes there is always room for improvement. He added that Mr. Divine does a masterful job at getting difficult issues on the table for discussion without anyone becoming defensive and feeling bad during the process. The department will inform the Law Board and members of the media when the Special Law Board Meeting/Retreat has been scheduled.

Chairman Dodson noted that there are structural inaccuracies in the K.S.A. 19 series and it is not completely clear to citizens what the mission, objectives and goals are of the Law Board. During the RCPD director selection process, the committee had expectations, reviewed the mission of the RCPD, and discussed what some of the goals and objectives might be. He stated that there was a lot of material that came out of that process that could be synthesized into what the Law Board sees as their mission going forward.

Morse reminded Chairman Dodson that she and Ward were not on the Law Board during the director selection process. If the materials are to be used during discussions with Mr. Divine, she asked that they be shared with her and Ward.

Chairman Dodson agreed to make the information available to Morse and Ward.

M. Executive Session: At 12:30 p.m. Wilkerson moved to recess into Executive Session until 12:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel matters. Ward seconded the motion. Chairman Dodson polled the board and the motion passed with Wilkerson, Rodriguez, Morse, Ward, Beardsley, and Dodson voting in favor, and no one voting against. The motion passed 6-0.

At 12:40 p.m. the open meeting reconvened.

N. Affirmation or Revocation of Discipline: Wilkerson moved to affirm the director's disciplinary actions. Beardsley seconded the motion. Chairman Dodson polled the board and the motion passed with Wilkerson, Rodriguez, Morse, Ward, Beardsley, and Dodson voting in favor, and no one voting against. The motion passed 6-0.

O. Adjournment: Wilkerson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ward seconded the motion. Chairman Dodson polled the board and the motion passed with Wilkerson, Rodriguez, Morse, Ward, Beardsley, and Dodson voting in favor, and no one voting against. The motion passed 6-0. The July 15, 2019 Law Board Meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.