

Board of Coroner Standards Meeting
University of Wyoming Extension Location
Casper, Wyoming
December 8, 2010
10:30 a.m.

A meeting of the Board of Coroners Standards was held in Casper, WY, on December 8, 2010. Chairman Eekhoff called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Blonigen, Natrona County DA
Marty Luna, Laramie Co Coroner
Patrick Allen, Pathologist
Mike Bryant, Funeral Director
Via conf phone: Tom Eekhoff, Chairman

MEMBERS ABSENT

Skip Hornecker, Fremont Co Sheriff
Dale Majhanovich, Sweetwater Co Coroner

STAFF PRESENT

Ken Nelson, Assistant Attorney General
Betty Haukap, POST Director

GUESTS

Paul Zamora, Carbon County Coroner
Wayne Reynolds, Natrona Co Deputy
Coroner
Connie Jacobson, Natrona Co Coroner
Jeff Lapp, Washakie Co Coroner
Allen John, Teton Co Coroner
Via conf phone: Keith Gingery, Legislator
Jim Whalen, Teton Co Sheriff

Old Business

Mr. Luna made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 20, 2010 Board meeting. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Luna made a motion to have Mrs. Haukap work with Mark Harris and Ken Nelson to draft legislation that would allow this board statutory authority to de-certify coroners and deputy coroners. A suggestion was made to have Mark Harris acquire a sponsor for the bill. Mr. Bryant second the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Gingery and Sheriff Whalen had not joined the meeting and the Board considered an email received from Mr. Gingery asking that the Board consider allowing the training requirements to correspond with the election cycle. Mr. Luna made a motion to leave the rules as they are. Mr. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business

Mr. Gingery and Sheriff Whalen joined the meeting via telephone conference call. Mr. Gingery asked the Board to consider amending their rules to delete the requirement for a deputy coroner to reside in Wyoming.

Mr. Nelson stated that there is no legal barrier according to statute.

Mr. Luna made a motion to have Mrs. Haukap and Mr. Nelson take the necessary steps and proceed to amend the Coroner Rules Chapter 2, Section 1(a)(ii) and delete the requirement

that deputy coroners must be a resident of Wyoming. Mr. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to have Mrs. Haukap and Mr. Nelson take the necessary steps and proceed with an emergency rule to amend the Coroner Rules Chapter 2, Section 1(a)(ii) and delete the requirement that deputy coroners must be a resident of Wyoming. Mr. Luna seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Gingery voiced his concern with the coroner education requirements running concurrent with the election cycle. Mr. Blonigen stated that there is a statute because there is a need for education and we need to abide by the statute and coroners are not an exception.

Mr. Luna made a motion to leave the rules as they are. Mr. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Mr. Bryant asked about open records and what is to be released. Those present explained that coroner records are public records, but third party records are not.

Mr. John asked for input about what to give to those who are training cadaver dogs. Those present explained that any piece of clothing that the decomposed body might have on at the time he/she is found could be given after clearing evidence, but no body parts are to be given for this purpose.

Mrs. Haukap stated that terms will expire on January 1, 2011 for all members serving on the Board of Coroners Standards. Mrs. Haukap has contacted all of the current members and advised them to submit applications for reappointment to Governor Elect Mead's Office as soon as possible.

Dr. Allen advised that he is retiring and has asked Dr. James Wilkerson to apply to take his place on the board.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Jacobson

Adjournment at 11:40.