

Wyoming Board of Coroner Standards
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2010
Wyoming Law Enforcement Academy, Douglas, WY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Eekhoff at 10:05 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Eekhoff, Campbell Co Coroner
Mike Blonigen, DA Natrona County
Skip Hornecker, Fremont Co Sheriff
Dale Majhanovich, Sweetwater Co Coroner
Mike Bryant, Worland, WY
Pat Allen, Pathologist, Loveland, CO

Brian Brooks, WLEA
Ed McAuslan, Fremont Co Coroner
Connie Jacobson, Natrona Co Coroner
Paul Zamora, Carbon Co Coroner
Catherine Valentine, Fremont Co
Wayne Reynolds, Natrona Co
Del Atwood, Big Horn Co Coroner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Marty Luna, Laramie County

GUESTS

ATTORNEY GENERAL STAFF

Betty Haukap, POST Director
Ken Nelson, Assistant Attorney General

Approval of minutes from 4/8/2009 and 12/8/09

Mr. Hornecker made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2009 and the December 8, 2009 Board meetings as presented. Mr. Bryant seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

All in attendance introduced themselves and a quorum was established.

POST Discussion – Betty Haukap

Cindy Hottel, transferred deputy coroner employment from Weston County to Natrona County, Weston County Coroner Tracy Hunt will not submit a Change In Status Form. Mr. Nelson will contact Tracy and ask him to submit the form.

WLEA Coroner Basic Course Curriculum change:

Mr. Brooks stated that Mike Moore, with the Wyoming Chemical Testing Division, requested a one hour time slot for Wyoming Chemical Testing during the coroner basic course. Mr. Hornecker made a motion to approve the 2011 coroner basic course curriculum as presented which includes decreasing gunshot/blunt & sharp injuries by 1 hour and adding 1 hour for chemical testing. Mr. Majhanovich seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. This approved curriculum will be submitted to the POST Commission, in September, for their approval.

Mr. McAuslan submitted a curriculum and requested certification of a field exercise training in archaeology for 20 hours of POST credit. The course will be taught by Danny Walker, PhD, Assistant

Wyoming State Archaeologist. Mr. Blonigen made a motion to approve the course which would allow coroners to receive 20 hours of POST credit upon completion of the course. Mr. Hornecker seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

A discussion took place about exploring the possibility of the Board of Coroners Standards having the statutory authority to revoke and suspend coroner certifications. Director Haukap advised that neither the POST Commission nor the Board of Coroners have the statutory authority to revoke or suspend coroner certifications. It would require a statute change.

Mr. Hornecker asked if the Coroner Association would draft legislation that would allow the Board to decertify a coroner or deputy coroner the same as peace officers. Director Haukap asked that the association work with Mr. Nelson, her, and the Board in this effort. Mr. Zamora said this topic will be discussed at the association meeting in Laramie in September.

Director Haukap advised that Bob Campbell did not receive his required continuing education requirements by the time his coroner certification was up for renewal and his coroner certification was not renewed. She received a letter from Keith Gingery, Teton County Civil Attorney advising that the Teton County Board of County Commissioners is allowing Mr. Campbell additional time to obtain his required training hours to become current on his certification and he asked the Board to consider looking at changing the rules to correspond with the election cycle. (ie. making a certification good for 4 years to correspond with the next election cycle).

Chairman Eekhoff stated that the Board does not have the authority to grant extensions to allow a person additional time to obtain required continuing education and asked that the Coroner Association look into this matter.

Mr. Blonigen made a motion to ask Mr. Nelson to draft a letter to Teton County concerning Mr. Campbell's status. Mr. Hornecker seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Zamora asked about a mutual aid agreement between counties and can a coroner or deputy work in more than one county. All agreed that a coroner or deputy coroner can work under a mutual aid agreement in more than one county.

Mr. Blonigan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward McCauslan