

Scott Blake, Chair  
Constable  
Maricopa County

Valerie Beckett  
County Administrator  
Maricopa County

Melissa Buckley  
Public Member

Mike Cobb  
Constable  
Mohave County



STATE OF ARIZONA

## CONSTABLE ETHICS, STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD

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Christine Shipley,  
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### Minutes of Public Meeting – March 11, 2021

A public teleconference meeting of the Constables Ethics, Standards and Training Board (CESTB) was convened on March 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. CESTB Board members present via teleconference were: Chairman Constable Scott Blake, Vice Chair Judge Dennis Dowling, Valerie Beckett, Melissa Buckley, Sheriff Adam Shepherd and Constable Mike Cobb. Members absent included Christine Shipley. The following staff was present – Tracy Unmacht. Members of the public attending included Samantha Childs, Constable Doug Clark, Patrice Goodman, Scott Davis, Michael Madden.

A quorum was reached and the following matters were discussed and decided at the meeting:

#### **Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

Corrections: None

Mike Cobb made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the February 11, 2021 CESTB meeting and Adam Shepherd seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

**Financial Report:** Staff reviewed income, expenses, cash flow and grant spending summary. Revenue continues to be down. Cash flow projections reflect the lower monthly average revenue. Mike Cobb made a motion to approve the financial report and Melissa Buckley seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

#### **Call to the Public:**

Samantha Childs – stated her purpose for filing the complaint is to point out that evictees should be provided with more information about resources. This would help create a calmer situation for people under duress during an eviction. Constable Doug Clark spoke on agenda item F - reopening the Outside Training Grant. He urged the Board to utilize those funds for additional equipment grants or training within the state of Arizona.

#### **Grant Applications for Organizational Firearms Training:**

One application was received from the AZ Constables Association (ACA) requesting funding in the amount of \$34,881.39. The ACA is requesting 50% advance funding in the amount of \$17,440.70. Total funding available this cycle is \$75,000. Scores were received and tabulated for the record. Adam Shepherd made a motion to approve the application as submitted and Dennis Dowling seconded. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0.

#### **Reopen Outside Training Grant Cycle**

The Outside Training Grant Cycle earlier in the year received no applications due to COVID-related cancellations or postponements of a number of outside training opportunities. Mike Cobb reported there are now training meetings being offered and made a motion to reopen this grant cycle with the original funding cap of \$15,000 and an application deadline just prior to the June board meeting. Dennis Dowling seconded. Discussion ensued regarding parameters of who should be able to receive this type of training. Conclusion was this would be part of the grant approval process itself. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-1 with Scott Blake being the dissenting vote.

#### **Constable Complaints:**

CNA265-2021 Clark – Staff reported that the complainant submitted a 4<sup>th</sup> video into evidence less than 48 hours before this meeting. Procedurally, if the Board wishes to consider this new evidence, the Constable must be afforded an additional 45 days to respond to it and this hearing rescheduled.

Mike Cobb made a motion to proceed with the hearing as scheduled without the late evidence and that if either party is not happy with the outcome they could appeal. Staff clarified our rules do not contain any provisions for a complainant to appeal a decision.

Mike Cobb withdrew the motion.

Dennis Dowling asked the complainant if she wanted to delay the hearing process so the new evidence could be evaluated or proceed with the hearing today without it. She responded she wanted all evidence presented and requested today's hearing be delayed.

Dennis Dowling made a motion to accept this and any other late evidence, noting the evidence submission deadline has already passed, so any additional evidence must be submitted by end of business today to avoid any more delays. The new evidence will be sent to the constable for his response, and the hearing re-scheduled after the 45-day response period. Adam Shepherd seconded. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-2 with Scott Blake and Melissa Buckley dissenting.

Initial Screening of new Constable Complaints:

Complaint received 02-09-21 Romero v Vasquez. Board members reviewed the complaint. It was noted an attachment was missing from the information provided to the Board. Staff clarified the attachment was a court document indicating no CDC declaration so plaintiff motion to compel enforcement was granted. Dennis Dowling made a motion to move forward with the complaint investigation and Scott Blake seconded. During discussion Mike Cobb requested we follow up with complainant to determine if the writ was served. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote 6-0.

#### **Constable Second Job Issue:**

Chairman Blake discussion a situation where a constable has an opportunity to have a second job and is asking the CESTB to write a letter stating that it is a common practice for constables to have additional employment and we don't see any conflict of interest. Mike Cobb clarified that rules are already in place allowing constables to have other employment. The only activity not allowed is to conduct private service. Mike stated a letter from the CESTB is not needed. Dennis Dowling agreed, adding it is an acceptable practice as long as it does not negatively impact their performance as a constable. No action was taken.

#### **Preliminary FY22 Budget Review**

Staff present a draft budget based on average revenue to date during FY20, as well as known/anticipated contracted administrative expenses and grant funding amounts the same as previous years. The final budget will need to be approved at the June meeting. Staff will present an updated draft each month leading up to the final approval.

#### **Administrative Update**

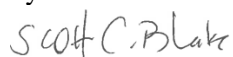
Letters to the Governor regarding our management vendor and Senator Engle regarding SB1662 have been sent. Staff has received training records from the January constables training conference and will be working on getting the hours recorded. Staff also continues digitizing physical files and adding historical information to the website.

**Adjournment:** Constable Cobb made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sheriff Shepherd seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021

Constable Ethics, Standards and Training Board

By The Hon. Scott Blake



CESTB Chairman