

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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Association

Minutes of Public Meeting – May 14, 2020

A public teleconference meeting of the Constables Ethics, Standards and Training Board (CESTB) was convened on May 14, 2020 at 9:04 a.m. CESTB Board members present via teleconference were: Chairman Scott Blake, Sheriff Adam Shepherd, Constable Mike Cobb, Christine Shipley, Valerie Beckett, and Melissa Buckley. Vice Chair Judge Dennis Dowling joined the meeting at 9:15. There were no CESTB Board members absent. The following staff was present – Tracy Unmacht. Members of the public attending included Maricopa County Constable Administrator Patrice Goodman Constable Oscar Vasquez and Constable Randall.

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

Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Corrections: None

Sheriff Shepherd made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the April 9, 2020 CESTB meeting and Executive Session. Melissa Buckley seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Financial Report: Staff reported income remains up over budget projections. Current cash flow shows a projected cash balance at the end of the fiscal year of \$531,074. Constable Cobb made a motion to accept the April 2020 financial report and Valerie Beckett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Constable Complaints:

CNA250-2020 Vasquez – Chairman Blake reviewed the complaint and constable response. He indicated his concern about 3rd party complaint submissions. He also stated the residents affected by the actions of Constable Vasquez refused to speak about the issue. Constable Vasquez expressed remorse for his actions in his response. At the April meeting the board had voted to hire an investigator, however, consensus was this is no longer necessary. Constable Cobb made a motion to issue a letter of reprimand to Constable Vasquez and Sheriff Shepherd seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote 6-0 with Judge Dowling abstaining.

Initial Screening of new Constable Complaints:

Complaint received 4/22/20 Garrett v Constable Lester – Chairman Blake introduced the complaint in which the complainant, who was not present to witness the constable's actions, claimed her mother was being evicted against the Governor's Executive Order (EO). Constable Cobb pointed out that the EO left leeway in how the courts and constables were to handle evictions, and accordingly Constable Lester did not violate the Order. Constable Cobb made a motion to dismiss the complaint. Sheriff Shepherd seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote 7-0.

Complaint received 5/6/20 Sohrabi v Constable Rademaker – Chairman Blake introduced the complaint in which the complainant claimed Constable Rademaker refused to complete an eviction due to COVID-19, and they claim this violated the Governor's Executive Order (EO). As was previously discussed, the EO left leeway in how the courts and constables were to handle evictions, and accordingly Constable Rademaker did not violate the Order. Constable Cobb made a motion to dismiss the complaint. Sheriff Shepherd seconded. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote 7-0.

Chairman Blake stated he has been in contact with the Governor's office requesting they revise the EO to avoid future confusion on the matter.

Grant Applications for Constable Training:

One application was received from the AZ Constables Association for Organizational Training Grant requesting total funding in the amount of \$117,708.30. The training will take place in July in Flagstaff. Funds available for this cycle are \$125,000. Board members submitted their scores for the record. Sheriff Shepherd made a motion to approve the application as submitted and Judge Dowling seconded. Motion passed unanimously 6-0 with Chairman Blake abstaining.

Grant Applications for Constable Training:

Three (3) applications were received for constable Equipment grants requesting total funding in the amount of \$22,155.23. They included \$4,166.37 requested by Apache County for Ballistic Vests, \$8,756.57 requested by Maricopa County for Ballistic Vests, and \$9,232.29 requested by Navajo County for a trailer, tow packages and decals. Funds available for this cycle are \$55,000. Board members submitted their scores for the record. Melissa Buckley made a motion to fund all applications in the amounts requested. Valerie Beckett seconded and the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

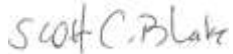
The CESTB received a request from Gila County to extend the contract period for previously approved grant CNA20-405 for the purchase of a vehicle. The county had selected the Ford Motor company to provide the vehicle, however due to COVID-19; they have temporarily ceased production of vehicles so the county does not know when they will be able to purchase the vehicle. Judge Dowling made a motion to extend the CNA20-405 grant contract through December 31, 2020 and Valerie Beckett seconded. The motion passed unanimously 7-0.

Administrative Update

Staff is working on the FY21 Grant Schedule and requested a timeframe for the new cycle for Defensive Tactics training. Chairman Blake indicated the ACA would discuss and report back. Staff also discussed the need to make a decision about conducting the July meeting in conjunction with the constable training event to be held in Flagstaff. Attendance by constables the last several times was low. Consensus was to try again, with an alternate timeframe for the meeting that might promote better attendance. The board agreed on Tuesday, July 21 4:00 – 5:00. Staff will reach out to board members to determine who will need hotel reservations.

Adjournment: Constable Cobb made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sheriff Shepherd seconded. The motion passed unanimously 7-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Dated this 11th day of June, 2020
Constable Ethics, Standards and Training Board



By: The Hon. Scott Blake, Chairman