

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

PO Box 13116 Phoenix, AZ 85002  
cestb.az.gov

cestb@azcapitolconsulting.com

602-343-6280

FAX 602-712-1252

Dennis Dowling, Vice  
Chair  
Justice Court  
Yavapai County

Matt Giordano  
AZPOST

Christine Shipley,  
Secretary  
Multihousing  
Association

### Minutes of Public Meeting – June 10, 2021

A public teleconference meeting of the Constables Ethics, Standards and Training Board (CESTB) was convened on June 10, 2021 at 9:02 a.m. CESTB Board members present via teleconference were: Chairman Constable Scott Blake, Vice Chair Judge Dennis Dowling, Melissa Buckley, Matt Giordano, Constable Mike Cobb and Valerie Beckett. Members absent included Christine Shipley. The following staff was present – Tracy Unmacht. Also present was Ben Norris, legal counsel from the AZ Attorney General's office. Members of the public attending included Patrice Goodman, Scott Davis, Constable Lennie McCloskey and Constable Nathan Wallace.

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

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

Corrections: None

Valerie Beckett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the May 13, 2021 CESTB meeting and Matt Giordano seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

**Financial Report:** Central Service Bureau has not yet sent the May financial report. Staff did report that CSB has been restructured and provided data showing large improvement to their overall processing time.

**Call to the Public: No public comments were received.**

#### **Presentation, Discussion & Possible Action on Constable Outside Training Grants:**

Applications were received from Navajo and Maricopa Counties, both to fund attendance to the National Constable & Marshalls Association Conference the total amount of \$5,450.17. The event is currently scheduled to take place in August in Texas. Funds available for this cycle are \$15,000. Board members submitted their scores for the record.

Chairman Blake pointed out that the application from Maricopa County was incomplete, noting they didn't submit documentation supporting eligibility and didn't include a list of all constables and deputy constables in the county. He also expressed concern that AZPOST has not signed off on the training. Mike Cobb stated that CESTB can and has approved other training that is not AZPOST training if requested, so the precedent has been set.

Mike Cobb made a motion to approve the application from Maricopa County in the amount requested of \$3,726.92 and Valerie Beckett seconded. Discussion: Staff clarified that while the applicant did not include a copy of the Board of Supervisors resolution establishing the writ fee, their application referenced the agenda item by Maricopa County authorizing the fee. Staff further clarified that while most counties do submit a copy of the resolution, the application manual does not specifically state it must be included, and the CESTB does have a copy of the document from Maricopa County on file. Staff also pointed out that the application listed the constables included in the proposal. Staff also read the portion of the application manual addressing eligible projects which is left to interpretation by the board. Mike Cobb pointed out we have approved previous grants for training that would simply benefit the constable's knowledge for their job. He also reviewed the minimum requirements listed in the application instructions and it is his belief they have included each one. The motion passed with a roll call vote 4-2 with Scott Blake and Dennis Dowling being the nay votes.

It should be noted that Dennis Dowling left the meeting at this point.

Chairman Blake introduced the application from Navajo County requesting \$1,723.25. Matt Giordano made a motion to approve funding in the amount requested and Melissa Buckley seconded. The motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0.

**Constable Complaints:**

Initial Screening of new Constable Complaints:

Complaint received 6-3-21 Rucker v Lester – Chairman Blake reviewed the complaint in which the complainant claims Constable Lester registered with AZPOST under a false court name. Whether true or not, this event took place more than four years ago, and by rule does not meet jurisdiction requirements. He also claims the training Constable Lester received through grant funding didn't benefit any other constables. Mike Cobb stated this topic has been addressed with the complainant previously. He also stated that Constable Lester has been involved in training other constables so they have benefited from the training he received contrary to the complainant's claims. Mike Cobb made a motion to dismiss the complaint and Matt Giordano seconded. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote 5-0.

**Executive Session for purposes of receiving legal advice on the possible impact of the new ARS 38-1161 on the CESTB**

Mike Cobb made a motion to enter Executive Session and Melissa Buckley seconded. Motion passed unanimously and the Board entered into Executive Session at 9:39 am.

Executive Session ended at 10:01 am and the regular board resumed.

Mike Cobb made a motion that the Board take the position that HB2462 does not apply to the CESTB and directs the chair and administrator receive clarification from the legislature. Melissa Buckley seconded. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0.

**FY22 Budget Approval**– Staff presented an updated FY22 budget. Matt Giordano made a motion to approve and Mike Cobb seconded. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0.

**Discussion & Possible Action on FY22 Board Meeting Schedule** Staff pointed out that our regular meeting day in November is Veteran's Day and suggested November 18<sup>th</sup> as an alternate date. Mike Cobb made a motion to approve the proposed meeting schedule with the suggested change to the November date and Matt Giordano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion & Possible Action on FY22 Grant Schedule** A draft schedule was presented. Scott Blake suggested splitting the Outside Training Grant funds into 2 cycles. Mike Cobb made a motion to approve the presented grant cycle schedule with the adjustment of splitting Outside Training into two cycles, each with funding available of \$7,500, one with application deadline of August 30 and the other on January 31. Matt Giordano seconded and the motion passed unanimously 5-0.

**Administrative Update**

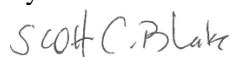
Staff will be working on FY21 closeout including financial reporting and complaint synopsis. Staff will also be getting FY22 schedules and grant applications set up on the website. Staff will work on updating the grant training materials and post on the website. Staff also offered to schedule a grant writing workshop.

**Adjournment:** Mike Cobb made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Melissa Buckley seconded. The motion passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

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

Constable Ethics, Standards and Training Board

By The Hon. Scott Blake



CESTB Chairman