

Colorado Rangers ("CLER") Board of Directors Meeting

10:00 AM, Friday, February 26 2021

CLER Headquarters
330 Park Avenue
Ft. Lupton, CO 80621

Attendance – Board of Directors: Senator Kent Lambert (via video teleconference), Chief John Fryar (via video teleconference), Marshall Larry Johns (via teleconference), and Chief Ronald Abramson (in person). Senator John Cooke's absence was excused as he was in session at the Colorado Senate.

Attendance – CLER Command Staff & Support Staff: Deputy Chief Robert Pabst (in person), Support Division Chief Robert Grey (via video teleconference), Troop Captain Idilio Moncivais (in person), Ranger Norm Townley (in person), and Board Secretary Ranger Carl Luppens (in person). Ranger Pauline Gurak was also at the meeting.

At 10:00 Chairman Lambert called the meeting to order and took roll. Directors Lambert, Johns and Fryar were in attendance via teleconference and Chief Abramson was in attendance in person. Chairman Lambert declared a quorum and the meeting began.

Chief Abramson moved for the approval of the minutes of the December 4, 2020 CLER Board of Director's meeting as presented, Chief Fryar seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted by unanimous consent.

Old Business:

Senator Lambert reiterated that the 2021 CLER budget was approved by written unanimous consent immediately after the December 4th meeting. Senator Lambert -then recognized Chief Abramson to provide a general welcome and meeting overview.

Chief Abramson introduced new director, Marshal Larry Johns, the Chief of the Nederland police department. Marshal Johns' relationship with the Rangers went back to the Colorado Mounted Rangers days and he and his town of Nederland use the Rangers quite often. Marshall Johns helps as a firearm instructor at the police training academy.

Chief Abramson requested nominations for the CLER board of directors chairman position for 2021. Senator Lambert was nominated to repeat. There were no other nominations; Chief Abramson moved and Chief Fryar seconded a motion for Senator Lambert to serve as chairman and the motion was passed unanimously.

Senator Lambert expressed gratitude for the vote of confidence and welcomed Marshal Johns.

Marshal Johns indicated his enthusiasm to further serve the public as a director of the Colorado Law Enforcement Shared Reserve (CLER) Board.

Chief Abramson commented that the Ranger routine and high volume work with Denver continues providing security for the National Western Coliseum homeless shelter and security and traffic control for the Pepsi Center COVID vaccination site.

It was reported that Senator Cooke was still at the Capitol since the Senate is in session, but would join us by teleconference if and as soon as he could.

Deputy Chief Robert Pabst provided a recruiting update. There are currently 40 applicants for the 22 positions in Academy #9 scheduled to start in the Summer of 2021. Senator Lambert thanked Deputy

Chief Pabst for maintaining a good recruiting program in a “hard” year and still attracting quality prospects with a sincere desire to serve.

Deputy Chief Pabst provided the Operations report for Division Chief Morgan. There are 65 people in the Rangers organization, 59 are sworn officers with 5 civilians working in background checking and one as the Ranger’s radio consultant.

K (Denver) and I (Colorado Springs) Troops have been combined into one troop under the direction of Captain Nick Voth.

For the coming Summer active season, continuing Denver work is to be expected and the Rangers are coordinating planning for Summer public events with Avon (July 3rd), Ft Lupton (Trapper Days) and Douglas County for the County Fair.

Two officers are working to provide on-going training for all the Rangers on the Colorado Revised Statutes as they apply to law enforcement. Division Chief Morgan is also restarting the “advanced training” program which is primarily riding along in the “second seat” with patrol officers from key partner agencies. This activity had been paused due to COVID concerns about putting additional officers into patrol cars with full-time police officers but this issue is being resolved. Working patrol shifts with Dillon PD is about to re-commence Severence, Nederland and Douglas County hopefully following close behind.

Rangers have provided 1,926 hours of duty service since the last board meeting in December.

Senator Lambert asked if the C.R.S. (“legal”) training was focused on new laws regulating police activities or a review of existing statutes?

Deputy Chief Pabst replied that both aspects were being instructed, new laws and existing laws. Since Rangers, as Reserve officers, typically work 10% of the hours of full time police officers, additional efforts will be made to keep critical legal issues “top of mind”. This will be accomplished by monthly self study programs coupled with reviews and quizzes at monthly troop meetings.

Support Division Chief Gray reported via the telephone that the Rangers have the benefit of choosing from a large number of qualified candidates and that he was spending a large portion of his time reviewing applications, experience, background information and psychological evaluations to select 22 cadets from the 40 screened applicants.

There have been certain slow downs finalizing Ranger Academy #9 with the Flatrock Training Center, there is a new commander, but issues have been resolved and the contract for training is being circulated for execution.

Flatrock proposed that, instead of the prior arrangement where Adams County/Flatrock personnel provided instruction in conjunction with qualified Rangers, the classes either be taught with exclusively Flatrock staff or exclusively Ranger officers with no possibility for combined instruction. Since the Rangers do not have the capacity to teach all subjects the only viable alternative is to go with the full Flatrock instructor alternative except for Chief Abramson teaching the first class, the “Authority of Reserve Police Officers”.

Senator Lambert inquired as to the duration of the new academy contract and Division Chief Gray indicated that the contract is only for Academy 9 which is this year’s sole academy and that he is considering all options but that there is not adequate time to develop alternative options for 2021.

Support Division Chief Gray reported that law enforcement insurance rates have “skyrocketed” everywhere and that the Rangers are implementing a comprehensive program to manage risk for CIRSA and other potential insurers. New training programs will work with Rule 28 mandates.

Senator Lambert asked if the successful conclusion of the Ranger's three year probationary period would reduce liability insurance rates? Chief Gray responded that our successful track record with no claims in three years was helpful but that rates would still increase.

Chief Gray then gave the financial report . \$120,117 is in the checking and savings accounts, and \$160,311 is in the Training Academy account. Total assets are \$ 260,428. There were no questions.

Senator Lambert asked if any significant legal work had been performed by General Counsel Wills? Chief Abramson stated that only routine legal work like reviewing the Flatrock Academy contract.

New Business:

Chief Abramson discussed consideration of the appropriate size for the Rangers mentioning that recently the number of Rangers has fluctuated from 60 to 80 officers and, with potentially 20 new officers coming from Academy 9 and possibly 8 new Rangers who were previously P.O.S.T. certified, the Rangers will be beyond the historical maximum and that 90 Rangers creates a \$140,000 liability insurance premium. There will only be approximately \$45,000 remaining in trainig funds at the end of this year which is not enough to run another academy without replenishment.

Marshal Johns asked if any of the Rangers partner agencies charge vendors for law enforcement support at events they profit from? Are we giving away too much free labor? He mentioned that Nederland started charging vendors a \$500 honorarium that has grown in some cases to \$1,500 for an event.

Chief Abramson said that only a few towns charge, many of the events are sponsored by the municipality. He explained that charging on an hourly basis for Ranger service would create an administrative burden that we could not support. The Rangers are essentially self supporting with annual fixed fees from partners except for training.

Chief Fryar emphasized that most Ranger events, like Trapper Days, were City events where vending was secondary.

Senator Lambert suggested consideration of a Colorado Ranger Foundation with vendor support? Bumper stickers? A trademarked logo? "Passing the hat" at events? Other funding ideas?

Public Comments:

There were no public questions or comments.

Schedule for Next Meeting:

The next Board of Director's Meeting was tentatively scheduled for Friday May 21, 2021 at 10:00, in Fort Lupton with video teleconference participation possible for board members.

Closing Comments:

Senator Lambert thanked everyone, especially Marshal Johns.

Adjournment of Meeting

Chief Fryar moved and Marshal Johns seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was adjourned at 10:50 by unanimous consent.