

Caldwell Housing Authority
August 28, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING
At YMCA

Board Members Present: Sid Freeman, Patricia Benedict, Phares Book, and Estella Zamora

Staff Members Present: Mike Dittenber and Cheri Hess

In Order of Business:

1. Roll call and call to order:

Patricia Benedict called the meeting to order at 7:00am.

2. Presentation / Discussion with Sheriff Kieran Donahue

Following introductions and greetings, the Sheriff Donahue spoke to the Board about several issues facing the Canyon County Sheriff's Office. He spoke for an hour about the following issues:

- Current staffing issues and the loss of personnel through both resignations and termination;
- On-going federal consent order at the county detention center and the requirements to adhere to rules currently monitored by the ACLU;
- How contrary to the media, the SILD program was never suspended, just reduced in size because of the need to staff the jail;
- Explained the sentencing process and how a person sentenced to jail is under the direct supervision of the sheriff until the sentence is satisfied;
- C-O-L-D program as proposed by CHA is something the Sheriff's Office has no say in and that a new program would be at the sole discretion of the Judiciary;
- How the current jail is so old that some of the issues on the consent order can never be addressed because of the age of the facility, and that only new construction will completely address the old issues;
- Because of limited isolation cells in the jail and the necessity for housing people in general population, there are higher risks for inmate violence and reduced officer safety;
- Current staffing ratios are at critical limits, and the courtroom expansion will require more deputies than the department has;
- As an elected officer of the county, the sheriff has the responsibility to look out for what is in the best interest of the county, and having an adequately staffed department will go a long way to overcoming many of the issues;
- Of all the departments in the county, the Sheriff's Office is the greatest liability to the citizens of the county, and as such, has the greatest responsibility to the citizens to do the right thing for the citizens; and
- Organizations like CHA (community partners to the Sheriff's Office) need to make their voices known to the Canyon County Commissioners, and hoped again, CHA didn't get caught on the wrong side of the issue.

Director's Comments

- Sid Freeman commented that many organizations that use SILD workers probably include (or at least consider) SILD laborers when putting their annual budget together.
- Estella was concerned (as it appeared) that CHA was used as leverage for something else and hoped that was not the case. CHA does a service to the community/society by providing a place for the workers to do their SILD.
- Phares thanked the Sheriff for coming and sharing his information.

3. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:50am.

Certified:



President, Board of Directors

Caldwell Housing Authority

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Executive Director

Caldwell, Idaho