

Colorado Rangers Board of Governors Meeting Minutes

Colorado Law Enforcement Shared Reserve ("CLER")

10:00 AM, Friday, December 13, 2024

CLER Headquarters

330 Park Avenue

Ft. Lupton, CO 80621

Attendance: Board of Governors: Chairman Lambert, Senator Cooke, Chief Fryar and Chief Hasler were in attendance via teleconference. Chief Abramson was in attendance in person at 330 Park Avenue and participating in the teleconference.

Attendance: CLER Command and Support Staff: Deputy Chief Robert Pabst, Administrative Section Captain Aaron Ruffalo, CLER Controller Ranger Norm Townley, CPA were in person and Emergency Management and Communications Officer Lt. Chad Clifford, Board Secretary Ranger Carl Luppens and General Counsel Ranger Mark Ringer, Esq. were attending via video teleconference. No members of the public were present.

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum: At 10:01 Chairman Lambert called the meeting to order. Roll was called by Secretary Luppens; all Governors were in attendance; Chairman Lambert declared a quorum and the meeting began.

Approval of Minutes of 20 September 2024: Chief Hasler moved to accept the minutes of the September 20, 2024 CLER Board of Governors Meeting as submitted and Senator Lambert seconded the motion to approve. Without revision or objection, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Welcome & Meeting Overview: Chairman Lambert asked Chief Abramson to provide an overview and if there were any additional agenda items or the need to rearrange the order of any items. Chief Abramson stated that the prior Summer, the traditional "busy season" for Ranger support of partner law enforcement partners and communities, was very busy, even busier than projected.

Chief Abramson asked to present the 2025 Budget for review first on the agenda to make sure all Governors could review it and vote to approve the budget before any of them might get called away.

Chief's Report: Chairman Lambert accepted the review of the 2025 Budget first and invited Chief Abramson to give his report.

2025 Budget: The Governors reviewed the proposed Budget noting that revenue had almost doubled from 2023 due, in large part, to a new charge for services structure for law enforcement partners giving the partners options for "stand by" availability at a reduced

fee, a standard plan of 18 shifts per year for \$6,000, and the ability to pay for additional services on a "per Ranger shift" basis.

In addition, a law enforcement training grant of approximately \$108,000 from the State of Colorado was received which offset a large portion of the Academy 10 expenses. The grant is allocated to offset academy training costs for a maximum of 10 new cadets.

Chief Fryar moved to approve the 2025 Budget, with \$266,830 in projected revenue and \$201,722 in projected expenses, and the Budget Resolution in the form provided, as submitted and Chief Hasler seconded the motion to approve. Without revision or objection, the 2025 CLER Budget and the Resolution adopting it was approved unanimously.

New Partners: Senator Cooke asked if the Rangers could adequately serve new partners since the manpower resources had been so fully utilized in prior years. Chief Abramson explained that he is very strategic taking on new partners, turns down more requests than he accepts, and selects new partners which would have service demands should fit within the Rangers existing workload and not overload already dates and areas of highest demand.

The City of Arvada has reached out and is extremely interested in Ranger assistance, not just for larger events, but also for patrol services.

He noted that CLER did gain 18 new Rangers in May from the Academy so that the total number of active Rangers is approximately 80.

Chief Abramson noted that CLER has another Reserve Police Officer Academy coming up in 2025 since the demand for our Police Officer Reserve services far exceeded current capabilities.

Annual Summit: The Rangers have an annual Summit meeting every year to which we bring the Rangers around the state together. It will be January 18th this year at the Highlands Ranch Law Enforcement Training Center. In the past the Summit has been in December. Holding the session in January this year, rather than an end of the year, is advantageous for several reasons. One of the key ones is that we can use some of the training hours that we conduct at the Summit as part of every Ranger's annual continuing education hours. In years past, we train in December, but all the required annual Continuing Education training hours are due to be reported to POST by December 1st, so Rangers do not get credit their year-end Summit training.

Legislation: Chief Abramson reiterated how important it will be to get CLER more formally recognized in the Colorado revised statutes to clear up any confusion or uncertainty and to make the Rangers eligible for an FBI ORI number allowing direct access to criminal data bases.

Senator Lambert, Senator Cooke, Ranger Lieutenant Representative Clifford and Chief Abramson had a meeting in late November to map out some of the best strategies for the 2025 legislative session and legislation is on track to be introduced when the legislative session opens in January.

Academy 11: Chief Abramson announced that the next Ranger Reserve Police Academy will be held at Arapahoe Community College. A class of 30 recruits is the stretch goal and would provide a beneficial advancement in manpower, but based on current recruiting trends the class size will likely be far smaller. David Bruce, the ACC police academy director has been very supportive offering all his instructors, and other Arapahoe Community College Police Academy resources, to the Rangers.

At 10:30 Senator Cooke left the Board of Governor's teleconference meeting to attend to other state business.

Mandatory Reporting: Senator Lambert wanted to make sure the Rangers understood the requirements and applications for Mandatory Reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect. CLER General Counsel Mark Ringer provided analysis, and a Memorandum dated November 29, 2024, explaining that all Colorado Peace Officers are required by C.R.S. 19-3-304(1)(a) to report known or suspected child abuse or neglect. As peace officers when on duty, Rangers are subject to the statutory reporting requirement but, if not on duty when observing the suspected child abuse or neglect, it is assumed that Rangers would view reporting as a moral imperative regardless of duty status.

Operations Review: Deputy Chief Robert Pabst reported that the Rangers provided 14,398 duty hours of service to the public in 2024.

Administrative Section & Financial Update:

2024 Year Financial Report: Chairman Lambert invited Ranger Norm Townley, the Ranger's Controller, to give the financial report.

Ranger Townley reported that the Rangers' financial position is outstanding. For the year almost ended, income was \$180,528 and expenses were \$227,993 with significant outstanding receivables expected to be paid anticipating to eliminate the cash accounting loss. This produced a net loss of \$47,465 on a "cash" accounting basis. The "loss" was due to some significant receivables not yet having been paid. The Rangers had \$275,309 in assets, which is all cash. CIRSA liability insurance is the single largest expense at \$112,468 per annum.

New Business, Open Discussion, Public Comment:

Chairman Lambert opened the floor to new business, open discussion, or public comments. There was none.

Schedule Next Meeting: Chairman Lambert then scheduled the next meeting for Friday May 16 at 10:00 AM in Ft. Lupton with a video conference attendance option for Board of Governors members.

Closing Comments: Chairman Lambert invited Chief Abramson to make his closing comments.

Chief Abramson said that, upon the graduation and swearing in of the next class of Rangers, CLER will be one of the 10 largest law enforcement agencies in Colorado with manpower anticipated to be over 100 officers. He reinforced that the Rangers are doing great things that are really significant and are making a big impact in our state.

Adjournment of Meeting: Chief Hasler moved to adjourn, Chief Fryar seconded the motion, and, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:04 AM MST.