

# HAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Miller, South Dakota 57362-1371

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## Newsletter & Commission Report May 2017

### PERSONNEL

- Dan Thibault (Tee-bo) continues through the orientation program which last six months. I am his "field training officer" and we have covered a lot of ground but have much more to cover. I did an initial review after two months which I will file with the Auditor. I can also make a copy available to any commissioner who wants to review it. It reflects that Dan has accomplished a lot and has much more to do.
- Dan Thibault is currently scheduled to attend the academy in August.
- In the past, Cory Flor, was one of our back-up officers. He will remain this way until he decides to stop but it seems more likely that the new conservation officer, Jon Dunlap, would be one of our back-up officers joining Jim Keeter and Tala Nelson. **I would like permission to pursuit this.**
- Steve Flanagan has completed two months of law enforcement training. He will be there through May and return to work here in June. He reports that he is doing well with his program. No formal communication comes from LET anymore so I have no way of knowing how they see his progress. Upon Steve's completion of training he would be eligible for an additional \$0.50 per hour raise for attaining this level of skill and ability. **That would raise him from \$17.10 to \$17.60 per hour. If he graduates as expected, I will bring this before the commission on June 6 for formal action.**
- **I have a pending personnel issue which I want to discuss in Executive Session.**

### TRAINING:

- I attended several good sessions during the annual conference. One was on NICS checks for firearms purchases and background checks for those seeking weapons permits. As a result, we will have a new formal agreement for receiving that information through the DCI.
- I also attended a program on Civil Disobedience which translates to a review of the DAPL protests in North Dakota. There is suspicion that the Keystone XL pipeline may have protests associated with it. Some camps are already being laid out in counties along the route. The news did not fully depict the impact that these protests had on the local communities. Most focused on the potential for violence and the cost in funds spent. It did not fully review the emotional, social and psychological impacts on the people who lived in the area.
- I attended a program on dealing with people with disabilities. It was a short but good program on who to communicate with those who may not communicate well.
- Another session worth mention was the Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE). During the previous presidential administration they were hobbled with directives. Those directives were removed and ICE is back in the business of identifying those who should not be in the country anymore. The standard used to be, "They need to commit a serious (Felony level) crime first" and then be evaluated for action. Now the agency is working within the confines of existing legislation and becoming more active. **Please remember this not an issue of race, it is an issue of legal status.**
- Last Monday I attended a law enforcement presentation on legislation which was approved this session on how to deal with protests which occupy the right of ways. There was another

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presentation from the North Dakota officials as well as some discussion about what South Dakota can do to prepare. The group emphasized this type of protesting may be about pipelines, court decisions, CAFO and everything in between. We were asked to make sure you knew this issue is alive and worth talking about.

#### **EQUIPMENT:**

- The new vehicle is doing very well. No issues. It does get better fuel mileage than the other vehicles.
- I have started the process to have a prisoner partition cage installed in. CK Welding will do the work and attempt to recycle parts that we were given or had previously.

#### **GRANTS**

- **2016-2017 Highway Safety Grant:** I submitted the second quarter (Oct-Dec 2016) for reimbursement which is expected next month.
- **2017-2018 Highway Safety Grant:** I submitted the grant application. I need the board to comment on whether you approve this application and authorize Jim Jones
- **Bullet Proof Partnership Grant:** Not current open for applications.

#### **IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES:**

My **YEAR TO DATE** activity report is attached to this newsletter. This information is also uploaded to the sheriff's page on the Hand County Website. It can be reviewed at any time.