

**TOWN OF RYE**  
**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**September 13, 2023**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Marty Rahl called the Regular Monthly Board Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall at 2067 Main Street in Rye, Colorado. Those in attendance were as follows: Marty Rahl, Mayor; Sheila Henderson, Mayor Protem; Markus Buck, Trustee; Chelsie Kersey, Trustee; Sandra Steele, Trustee; Patrick Ryan, Trustee; Jocelyn Ensley, Town Clerk; Sheriff Dave Lucero; Christopher Martinez, Resident. Those absent were: Kathy MacCormack, Trustee.

**Regular Meeting**

Mayor Rahl welcomed Sheriff Dave Lucero to the Town of Rye and thanked him for coming to speak with the Board of Trustees and community.

Sheriff Dave Lucero opened his presentation stating that he recently held a meeting in Colorado City where many residents came and participated and stated that he is never too busy to meet with the community and he will continue to hold meetings and help answer any questions the community has. He provided a "real time" view of the call screen on his computer which shows current calls being made through dispatch and assigned to local deputies. He then provided a geographical map of the "real time" dispatched calls and all locations of on duty, active/unactive deputies. He stated that at the meeting in Colorado City there was a lot of feedback from residents that there aren't any deputies present within the Greenhorn Valley community. After that meeting, he felt compelled to run a report that showed all calls, reports, and deputy activity in the Southern District that specifically covers Beulah, Colorado City and Rye. The report provided evidence of a deputy within the Southern District 24 hours a day and verified that at least one deputy will continue to cover the Southern District 24 hours a day on top of local deputies in the area that are available for emergency situations when and/or if needed. Sheriff Lucero explained that Pueblo County is the backup Emergency Operations Center for the State, behind Denver, and that in the case that Denver could not handle or cover an emergency situation they are prepared to handle any State emergency situation if ever activated. This includes direct contact with the Pentagon but reiterated that this is only in the case that Denver "pulls the switch" and activates Pueblo County to take over. Sheriff Lucero stated that he has been in law enforcement for over 24 years starting in Lamar and 18 years total in the sheriff's office. Sheriff Lucero then presented a customized report pulled specifically within the Town of Rye incorporated boundaries. He discussed the calls and reports that have come in between January 2023-June 2023 and stated that June 2023 had the peak criminal activity calls for the year for calls relating anywhere from traffic reports to domestic incidents. He reviewed 10 traffic complaints that had been reported from January 2023- June 2023. The Board explained that speeding is one of the most heavily discussed issues by Town residents and that they were surprised that more calls have not been reported. Sheriff Lucero emphasized that all residents need to feel empowered to call for all suspicious activity and traffic complaints, because without the reporting he is unable to receive the data that is needed for the Pueblo Sheriff's Department to analyze. He stated examples of citizen reporting that helped lead to deputies being able to charge individuals for

crimes that had been committed and that without citizens reporting the activity, it could have taken longer to catch these criminals. He then went on to explain that the Town of Rye is relatively safe compared to other local communities and shared a report showing only 2 Assault charges in the Town in 2022 and 2 Assault charges in the Town in 2023. He then stated that there is a nationwide staffing shortage and that locally he believes this comes down to the legislature that has been passed in the State. He then stated that his campaign promise was to bring back a dedicated traffic control unit to Pueblo County, which due to the staffing shortage has proved to be difficult. His solution in the meantime has been to deputize 8 Pueblo County Officers and give them the authority to help cover these additional traffic control stops. He hopes to eventually be able to fulfill his promise and provide a full-time, full traffic control unit. Sheriff Lucero went on to say that the new jail is underway and is expected to be completed within the next 18 months to 2 years. Sheriff Lucero then pivoted the conversation to speak about safety concerns surrounding District 70 Schools. He logged into a program that is available on all deputy MDC's (Mobile Data Computers) and at all OP Center's and proceeded to show the Board live feeds of Rye Elementary School cameras including the entire outdoor premises, all classrooms, all hallways, all entrances/exits, lunchrooms, gym, all offices, etc. This gives law enforcement the advantage of having a "Big Brother" eye in the case of an emergency or in circumstances that they need to review criminal activity in schools. He reiterated that these camera systems are installed in all District 70 schools including Rye Elementary, Craver Middle School and Rye High School. Sheriff Lucero then showed a report on what it would cost the Town to have one stationed deputy in the Town 24 hours a day, the cost exceeded \$83,000 per year. He stated with the data he has showing relatively low confirmed criminal activity he does not believe that kind of support is needed at this time but with reports generated monthly showing all calls/reports and criminal activity he is able to dispatch additional deputies if and when it ever becomes a need as well as providing additional information to the community through social media to notify locals of criminal activity and crime alerts. Mayor Rahl informed Sheriff Lucero of the recent conversations surrounding Colorado City and the Development of a 20-year build out proposal to the community that includes a new Sheriff's station. The Sheriff stated that while they have kept the office in Colorado City for emergency purposes, such as a homicide where they would need to bring someone in for questioning, the need for brick-and-mortar offices is not needed in the area due to deputies being able to perform all of their work from their vehicles. Sheila Henderson asked about the possibility of installing traffic cameras for ticketing speeders in the area. Sheriff Lucero stated that it is unfortunately not a reliable source of ticketing unless the area is considered highly trafficked with high accident ratings. He stated that if residents call in to report traffic incidents such as speeding and provide details such as the make, model, and license plate of the vehicle as well as the name of the driver, if available, they can help perform a citizen arrest that results in these drivers being ticketed but it does require the caller to sign the ticket and show up to the court date. Sheila Henderson asked if due to being close to both Rye Elementary and Rye High School would it be possible to request the entire boundary of the Town of Rye be considered a School Zone so that speed limits can be lowered, and higher ticket fees can be assessed. Sheriff Lucero stated that would be a question for CDOT. Sheriff Lucero closed out his presentation stating that if anyone in the Town of Rye is interested in the reports or information, he provided in the meeting to contact him directly and he will provide it to them.

### **Audience Participation**