

COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: August 27, 2010

Meeting called to order by Paul Babcock at 8:40 a.m. at the Lake Mills Conservation Club.

Members of the committee present were: All committee members were present.

Others present were: John Molinaro, Chief Deputy Parker, Sergeant Miller

Absent: None

Compliance with open meetings law: Chief Deputy Parker assured compliance with open meetings law.

Approve agenda: The agenda was approved as printed.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Pam Rogers, and seconded by Glen Borland that the June 25, 2010 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Tour of Lake Mills Conservation Club: Chief Deputy Parker said that the Sheriff was not in attendance today because he is at a Solid Waste Management meeting. He then went on to give a brief history of the Conservation Club. Lee Braatz, whose family started the club, is the president of the club at this time and it has been in existence since the mid 1930's. The board members have talked about dissolving the club and selling the property. It appears that the younger generation club members have not expressed much interest in assisting or taking over the responsibility to keep the club open. The older members have been making all the decisions and doing all the work up until this point and now want to pass on the duties. About a year ago, Mr. Braatz approached the Sheriff's Office about possibly purchasing the facility. At that time, he gave a price of \$175,000. Because of the budget in general, the prospect was pushed to the side at that time. About a month and a half ago, Mr. Braatz approached the Chief Deputy and the price came down to \$150,000. Chief Deputy Parker said that the acreage with the club is about 52.75 acres and the land and buildings were valued at about \$325,000 at the last assessment (possibly in 2008). The club also allows the city to dump their compost on land behind the old range. Currently the Sheriff's Office pays a rental fee to conduct training out at the club and because the club is non profit, they haven't been spending the money for anything but upkeep. Mr. Braatz has indicated that he would use those remaining account funds to put on a new roof, new siding and windows if the county purchases the property, and the club members would also like the ability to use the club for another two years. Pam Rogers asked what kind of training the Sheriff's Office did out there and if it was just range. Chief Deputy Parker said they did other training out there besides firearms training (such as DAAT, EVOC, SWAT, K-9, and Vehicle Contact). The facility would eventually be used for both physical training and classroom training. Because everything would be held at the one facility, it would eliminate the need for relocating to a different site for certain parts of the training, thus making the most of the time allotted. The Chief also said there is a statute that allows for the transference of an existing hunt/gun club to another entity as long as it is used for the same primary purpose. He went on to say that they have gone to several locations throughout the county to try and find an area for a range and have met with opposition each time. At this location, it is established and the neighbors are already used to it. In addition, he said that the Sheriff's Office would

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probably shoot less than the club does right now. Paul Babcock asked about the timeline as far as the club wanting to use the facility for another couple years and when the possible purchase would actually take place. Sergeant Miller answered that the club would want to continue with the trap range and the sporting clay range. Chief Deputy Parker said that the purchase, if approved, is where Phil would need to get involved in order to draw up some kind of land contract agreement since the club wants to use the facility for a couple years. During that time, the club wants to maintain everything and pay taxes. Pam Rogers asked if there was any storage capability there to satisfy the need for additional storage. Chief Deputy Parker answered that there was not storage space enough for large vehicles on the premises but they could certainly build something on the site in the future if the club was purchased. John Molinaro added that there are a lot of things to consider. He said there will be some funds available for capital investments due to the sale of Countryside. That money cannot be used for operations. He said they are getting a wish list and requests from just about every department and this possibly could be put on that list. Chief Deputy Parker said that was the intent if the funds would be available. The ability for other county departments to use the building and grounds for training or picnics/get togethers would also be a plus. In addition, the facility could be rented out for other agencies to train and other classroom training opportunities would also be available. Pam Rogers asked about the operational costs which were determined to be around \$150 per month. John Molinaro also asked whether the facility could be connected to the county's computer network. That would have to be checked into as far as an off-site connection. Dwayne Morris asked about training during winter and where it was taking place at this time. Sgt. Miller said they train at the conservation club, Concord Schoolhouse, St. Coletta, and some other sites. They could move all the winter training to the conservation club and the Chief added that winter month training is very good for the Sheriff's Office because they can do more of it on duty and not on overtime since many people don't take vacations in the winter. The Sheriff's Office may also still use some of the alternate facilities because they are not charged to use them; however, it does require that they move equipment around. The conservation club would allow for them to keep equipment there. Ammunition storage was also discussed and securing the premises. John Molinaro suggested getting some general information regarding costs to remodel, secure, etc. The grounds will also have to be maintained (grass mowed). John Molinaro voiced that he saw great potential in the site being located right off the interstate as far as being a training facility. Glen Borland said that in view of the need and with some of the other opportunities around the county as well as the fact that a range site will be impossible to find, this option should definitely be considered. Dwayne Morris added that how the facility is perceived would also be very important. A law enforcement firearms training center would be a good perception as well as the potential to be money saving in the future. Some discussion about land value and the price offered was brought up. As an offshoot to that, Chief Deputy Parker said that the Sheriff's Office would be looking for a plot of land to use for a garden next year to have Huber inmates take care of. It would provide fresh vegetables for their meals and an opportunity for them to get out and work at something.

A motion was made by Glen Borland to continue to pursue information regarding the purchase of the conservation club. George Jaeckel seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Babcock suggested that the committee continue with the rest of the meeting and take a tour of the grounds at the end. All of the committee members agreed.

Report on 2011 Sheriff's Office budget: Chief Deputy Parker said he met a few days ago with the Finance Committee to go over the preliminary report of the Sheriff's Office budget. He said there were some challenges this year. One of them was health care. Although the county had a 0%

increase on health care, he said quite a few deputies went from single to family coverage this year which added about \$94,000 to the budget. Another challenge was squad car replacement. The Sheriff's Office put off the replacement of detective vehicles for a couple years but now has to replace two of them plus an additional patrol squad. As of this morning the Chief said he was still \$112,000 over budget. The biggest factor was bringing the jail revenue in line with the budget. The Sheriff's Office lost about \$258,000 in revenue expectations for next year's budget. Huber fees are down because Huber inmates can't find work, inmates are unable to pay daily fees and the population is down a lot from last year, and other agencies (U.S. Marshal's Service and the state) are boarding out less. The Sheriff's Office patrol division has become much more cognizant of on-duty time and what is being accomplished by deputies during their shifts. The Chief said that he will be transferring the two detective vehicles and one patrol vehicle to the wish list. He also is staggering the four positions that will need to be filled next year (one detective sergeant, one captain, two deputies). On a very positive note, this year the Sheriff's Office is operating at or below budget in all accounts. Some discussion about the time spent on budget during the year came up and whether hiring someone else to do the budget would be beneficial. Chief Deputy Parker gave kudos to the Sheriff's Office bookkeeper who does an excellent job. He said that the budget is an integral part of his job and he needs to have knowledge of every account if questions arise.

Flood Mitigation grant final funding approval: Donna Haugom was not able to attend the meeting due to a conflict with another meeting; however, she sent a summary of the status of grant funding to purchase damaged properties from the 2008 flooding. She passed on information that on Friday, Aug. 20th she received notice that Jefferson County would be getting a little over \$2.1 million for acquisition/demolition and over \$21,000 for management from the Hazard Mitigation Grant to continue purchasing and demolishing properties that were damaged in the 2008 flooding. They will use those funds to purchase 7 properties substantially damaged over 50% and 10 properties substantially damaged less than 50%.

The total funding to Jefferson County from the Flood Mitigation Grant is \$8,168,549.00 with another \$2 million from the Community Development Block Grant for the purchase and demolition of 46 properties. To date, 21 of the 46 properties have been acquired with 19 of them having been demolished or are in the process of being demolished. Total funding spent so far is about \$4,278,000.00. Donna added that she has received word from the state that this is the largest project that they have ever worked on. Please feel free to contact her if you have any questions.

John Molinaro said that Donna did an excellent job with this. He said they had a very difficult time with it because the funding was tied up. They spent a lot of time with legislators to get the money freed up.

Status of Office of Energy Independence and Disparate Jurisdiction grants: Chief Deputy Parker said that the resolution for the Disparate Jurisdiction grant just went through the County Board and he apologized that there was not much advance notice for it. The grant funding is in conjunction with Watertown Police Department and no one realized that the grant was for a possible four-year period until Watertown received notice that they needed to get the paperwork in for another fund cycle. So, as a result, the Sheriff's Office will receive another \$6,000 for this grant period. Next year he hopes to contact OJA to see if the grant is still available and get the process started earlier.

The Chief went on to say that the Sheriff's Office is still working on the propane grant (\$134,000.00) from the Office of Energy Independence. We thought the grant was in place and

were told to go ahead and start purchasing propane systems; however, this week we had a visit from the national co-director of the Clean Cities Program (Linda Blustein). She came in to look at the squads and fueling station. Unfortunately, the Chief said that shortly before Linda came, he found out that the systems we were looking at were not EPA certified which is a requirement of the grant. He added that there are other systems out there that are EPA certified. Everyone is working together to get the grant requirements met.

Report from the Sheriff: Recently the Sheriff's Office had a deputy terminate his employment for personal reasons as the result of an incident under investigation involving sexual harassment that would have resulted in termination if he had not resigned. This was the deputy's fourth such offense, three of which were against inmates. There is federal law (PREA) governing the treatment of inmates which came into play. In addition, on Wednesday there was an arbitration hearing for another deputy that was looking at a 10-day suspension involving the deputy being disrespectful to a sergeant and being argumentative with co-workers in an area that inmates could hear. The Chief felt the arbitration went well and there are a couple things left to be done before the arbitrator's decision.

One other item the Chief will be working on with the D.A.'s office is citation amounts. He is wondering why the revenues are decreasing for citations when the deputies are writing approximately the same number of tickets each year. Is there a standard operation practice to reduce citation fines by a certain percent? If so, the Chief would like to know so that he can adjust his budget accordingly.

Review monthly bills and financial items: – The committee approved the monthly recap report for June bills in the amount of \$497,293.63. July bills totaled \$863,174.98. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Review monthly jail and patrol activity reports: Jail and patrol activity reports were reviewed.

Jail assessment fund items: General fund items for the months of June and July in the amount of \$7,235.00. Another item is replacing three food carts for the jail meals at a cost of \$14,905.00

Next meeting date is September 24, 2010.

A motion made by Pam Rogers to adjourn at 9:45 a.m., was seconded by George Jaeckel. Motion carried.

Motions Carried: _____ Lost: _____.

Signed _____