

COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: February 26, 2010

Meeting called to order by Paul Babcock at 8:30 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Paul Babcock, Glen Borland, Pam Rogers, George Jaeckel, Dwayne Morris
Others present were: Sheriff Milbrath, Gary Petre, Sharon Schmeling, Captain Scott, Phil Ristow

Absent: Chief Deputy Parker

The group gave a warm welcome to new member, Dwayne Morris.

Compliance with open meetings law: Gary Petre assured compliance with open meetings law.

Approve agenda: The agenda was approved as published.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Pam Rogers, and seconded by George Jaeckel that the December 17, 2009 minutes be approved as printed. Dwayne Morris abstained from the vote as he was not a member of the committee at that time. Motion carried.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Community Development Block Grant – Fair Housing Month Proclamation:

Phil Ristow said that one of the Community Development Block grants has a component to it regarding fair housing. As a part of involvement in the grant, the county supports fair housing. So, a resolution declaring April as Fair Housing Month has been introduced. Pam Rogers moved to approve the resolution and move it forward to the full county board for consideration. Glen Borland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

U.W. Whitewater award to Donna Haugom, Emergency Management Director:

Sheriff Milbrath said that Donna goes to U.W. Whitewater to present Emergency Management programs several times a year. She is always available for information and works with both the occupational and environmental parts of the university. The university honored her with a plaque to show their appreciation for all that she does for them. Paul Babcock asked that this item be added to the next Emergency Management meeting with the committee (April).

Request for department allocated MIS funds:

Sheriff Milbrath said that this request is for the Countryside computer budget funding. The Sheriff's Office is looking to purchase Toughbook computers for squad cars. Gary Petre added that he had a couple conversations with Chief Deputy Parker about this. He said what the Sheriff's Office would like to do is go to the Finance Committee after the sale is closed for Countryside and request (some of) their allocated budgetary computer funds to purchase the Toughbooks. Countryside's budget amount for computers is about \$50,000.00. The six Toughbooks that the Sheriff's Office is looking to purchase would cost approximately \$28,000.00. Chief Deputy Parker wanted the committee to be aware ahead of time that they would be going before the Finance

Committee after the sale is closed to request that the budget be amended regarding Countryside's allocated computer funds. Some discussion about the cost of the Toughbooks (about \$6,000 per unit) was brought up. The Toughbooks are extremely ruggedized versions of a laptop that (in this case) are mounted in the squads. These computers can take the vibrations and banging around that your normal laptops can't. In addition, they contain more memory to run all of the programs that are needed. Discussion about the Badger Tracs program came up (citation program). The program allows citations to be downloaded instead of a paper version that is entered manually. It also allows for multiple citations or warnings without a lot of effort, it will download driver information multiple times onto forms.

Pam Rogers made a motion for committee approval to refer the Sheriff's Office's request for some of Countryside's budgeted computer funding to the Finance Committee after the sale is final. Dwayne Morris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Report from the Sheriff:

Sheriff Milbrath commented on the recent jail inspection. He said the inspection results were very good and there were no code violations. Tim Anderson (health inspector) also recently did an inspection of the jail kitchen and everything went very well there as well. He had very positive comments and gave high marks to the kitchen. The kitchen is qualified to do catering, and does provide meals for some occasions at this time.

Gene Selke, one of the Sheriff's Office part-time deputies, retired today. Detective Sergeant Larry Lee also just retired. His position is vacant and will remain that way for a while. A question was raised about whether the Sheriff's Office promotes from within and the Sheriff answered that yes, they do. The promotional process contains certain requirements including a test, interviews, and a mandatory number of years of service. The Sheriff's Office also is currently working on an assessment center program for the promotional process which will be different than the current system.

The Sheriff said they also have been working on the evaluation structure and have been moving to a more performance-based system. The audit done by Northwestern gave us an idea as to what is needed and how to do some things differently/better. The system is called the Van Meter Principal and has been around for awhile but is gaining some popularity because of its performance-based program. The Sheriff's Office is doing it longhand right now because the computer program can't give the elements needed at this time. The deputies are evaluated on self-initiated activities in their free patrol time. The time taken up in specific complaints is not included. The Sheriff gave an example of the effectiveness of the program using citation amounts (only because citations are the easiest benchmark to measure) as compared to past numbers. As another part of the program they have trimmed the use of sick time by the jail deputies as well and this will be applied throughout the Sheriff's Office soon.

In answer to a question posed by Paul Babcock, Sheriff Milbrath explained the complaint procedure if a citizen has a concern with one of the deputies. They are taken very seriously and investigated thoroughly.

Sharon Schmeling thanked and commended the Sheriff's Office for the initiatives they have been taking during this tough budget time. She said the Sheriff's Office has taken a bad situation and turned it into positives. The Sheriff said they have been challenging themselves to do things better

as well as trying to take an innovative approach.

Review monthly bills and financial items: – The committee approved the monthly recap report for December bills in the amount of \$855,683.38. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members. Dwayne Morris asked some questions about the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures which were answered by the Sheriff. Paul Babcock also asked about the phone revenue from jail inmate use which fluctuates with the inmate population.

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

Jail assessment fund items: General fund items for the month. An additional item was in regard to replacing the freezer (\$4,789.00) in the jail kitchen. The expenditure to try and fix it again as opposed to purchasing a new one was negligible. In addition, the juvenile cells in the jail need to be remodeled to make them ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliant (\$20,705.00). This item was put out for bid. The last item contains all the general items for the month that are expended in the jail (\$13,615.02).

Sharon Schmeling made a last remark concerning the jail inspection report. She highlighted the comment by the inspector concerning the jail mental health services that have been decreased and why that is an issue of concern. Those services were cut due to the budget. She said the Sheriff's Office has been successful in handling the mental health issues really well which reduces the incidences of inmates having to go to other facilities for help (Mendota). The Sheriff added that they have been working with U.W. Whitewater graduate students to help with these services and take up some of the time lost and will be commending them for their help. He also said they have been acknowledging all of the other community support the Sheriff's Office has been receiving as well.

Next meeting date is March 26, 2010.

A motion made by Pam Rogers to adjourn at 10:04 a.m., was seconded by George Jaeckel. Motion carried.

Motions Carried: 4 Lost: 0 .

Signed _____