

## COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

**COMMITTEE:** LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** August 23, 2013

Meeting called to order by Paul Babcock at 8:30 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Paul Babcock, Ed Morse, George Jaeckel, Pam Rogers, Dwayne Morris  
Others present were: Sheriff Milbrath, Chief Deputy Parker, John Molinaro, Phil Ristow, Ben Wehmeier, Captain Scott

Absent: None

**Compliance with open meetings law:** John Molinaro assured compliance.

**Approve agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

**Approval of minutes:** A motion was made by Pam Rogers, and seconded by George Jaeckel that the July 26, 2013 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** John Kannard, District 21 County Board Supervisor, and Randy McHugh from the Sullivan Fire Department were present. John Kannard talked about narrow banding and the problems it has created. There are pager issues in the Rome/Sullivan area and half of the fire and EMS people are not receiving pages. Some people have bought external antennas (Mr. McHugh). Will the hand held radios work any better? Chief Deputy Parker responded saying they have addressed this issue in the past (Sullivan Fire/EMS meeting which included GenComm). He recently walked out to the site of a tower just outside Sullivan (Highway 18/Pioneer Road) and took some pictures of the site to start having some dialog with the cable company that owns the tower (but is not using it). Funding has been included in the 2014 budget to address this issue. The state requires that the Sheriff's Office have 96.75% coverage in the county. That requirement is met; however, almost all of the area that has limited coverage is in the Sullivan/Rome area. The coverage needs to be addressed by putting equipment on a tower. Mr. McHugh said they are using cell phones to send text messages and have had to go back to an old-fashioned call tree when paged. Sheriff Milbrath said that GenComm has gone out and checked the signal (line of sight) at the tower that he has been working on for the last two months (to find out who actually owned it). It looks like equipment on that tower would solve the problem as well as enhance the coverage in Palmyra. As a response to a question by Mr. Babcock regarding funding in next year's budget, Chief Deputy Parker said that there was a fix in the budget but the tower is vacated right now and some dialog with the cable company that owns it and the property owner needs to be done first. The tower looks to be in good shape and doesn't have any structural fatigue. Mr. Molinaro wanted to make it clear that the budget has not been approved yet and there are many capital improvements in it of which about half will be approved. Chief Deputy Parker said that the Sheriff's Office is making it very clear that this is an issue of public safety that has to be addressed. If it is not, we will continue to have fire and EMS services compromised in a portion of the county and who may not be able to respond to a critical incident. Sheriff Milbrath said the tower project should be turned over to Corp Counsel within the next week or so as the other parties should have reached some sort of agreement by then. The Corp Counsel will then be able to deal directly with the property owner and not both. Phil Ristow said that as of a week ago Charter Cable was going to be making an agreement with the property owner. He added that if you don't have to build a tower, life gets a lot simpler.

**Communications:** None.

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Minutes by: Terry Wyse

**Communications issues in the Sullivan / Rome area:** This topic was covered during the public input portion of the agenda.

**Convene in closed session pursuant to §19.85(1)(e) and (g) to discuss union negotiations, acquisition of real estate interests and possible litigation:** Dwayne Morris made a motion to convene in closed session. Pam Rogers seconded. Motion carried. Roll call was taken with all members of the committee present.

**Reconvene to open session to consider action on the subjects discussed in closed session:** Pam Rogers made a motion to reconvene in open session and George Jaeckel seconded. Motion carried. No other discussion or action was taken on the items discussed in closed session.

**Review and possible action regarding annex building alternate recommendations:** Chief Deputy Parker remarked that this was to expedite the process a bit. The bid for the project came in about \$4,400 over so that amount would have to be approved as part of the base package. Additionally some other project bids were introduced; one for drainage around the building in the amount of \$47,200, an \$11,000+ bid for windows, and \$3,800 for reinforcement around the evidence room area. The Finance Committee approved the amount for the reinforcement of the evidence area but determined they would like input from the committee regarding the other two items. Mr. Molinaro said that it was partially his involvement to bring these items to the committee. The committees should feel that they are involved in decisions of this type. George Jaeckel said that he would approve going ahead with the additional items (drainage and windows) but did have some comments regarding the escalating price of this project. He indicated that the cost is half again as much as projected last year and they may have been able to build a whole new building for the cost. John Molinaro also indicated that he had the same thoughts; however, the cost of a new building was projected over \$1 million. Chief Deputy Parker added that last fall when he attended a Finance Committee meeting he had a basic estimate of the cost from GMA, barring any major issues they may find later. At that time, GMA also gave an estimate of about \$1.5 million to tear down the current structure and build new. Mr. Wehmeier added that what drove the cost up besides the additional things such as the drainage, windows and reinforcement of the evidence room was the vermiculite in the bricks that contained some asbestos (and water). George Jaeckel said that he was one of the board members at that time that thought the money set aside for a storage building at the Annex building site should be used for this project because you don't build new when the old is deteriorating and can be saved. George Jaeckel moved to approve the alternate items that the Finance Committee has already approved. Dwayne Morris seconded. Motion carried.

**Grants – Status of ongoing or new grants:** Sheriff Milbrath said on Tuesday the Sheriff's Office received a secondary grant from Enbridge for \$250.00. Emergency Management and the Dispatch Center can also apply for Enbridge grants. The Sheriff's Office also received the Project Lifesaver grant. The training process will begin soon and the Sheriff's Office is working with Human Services to identify those dementia and Autism individuals that qualify for the program. Another grant the Sheriff said he would apply for is the Trans Canada Grant which is another pipeline grant. John Molinaro asked that the Sheriff itemize the grants that they have received within the next couple months to let the public (and county board) know how much work is put into these grants to help save money in the budget. Although not technically a grant, Sheriff Milbrath added that he just received a couple donations for the K-9 unit totaling \$125.00. Public donations have really supported the K-9 unit through the years.

**Report from the Sheriff:** One of the working K-9's at the Sheriff's Office had to be put down last week. The dog developed some serious medical conditions that couldn't be treated successfully. The deputy/handler is now without a dog for a couple months. He was in the process of acquiring a new canine but wasn't quite ready to retire the old one yet. Sheriff Milbrath said they are putting out more traffic enforcement to get speeds down. A Heroin Summit is currently in the planning stage as this is a big problem here. The Sheriff also added that traffic fatalities in the county were down to six last year and at the same time there were five confirmed Heroin deaths during 2012. So far this year he knows of three Heroin overdose deaths. There are no social or economic trends for Heroin use, it's widespread. Human Services also is working with the Sheriff's Office and is looking for funding opportunities to combat this epidemic. Sheriff Milbrath commented on the proposed 70 mph speed limit on certain roadways. He felt the bill would likely pass (Mr. Molinaro said the governor and some senators are now against it) and the higher speed would not necessarily cause more accidents but the results would be more severe in those cases. Some discussion was had regarding making 1<sup>st</sup> offense OWI a misdemeanor. Wisconsin has stiffer penalties for 1<sup>st</sup> offense than most. The D.A. is not in favor of it and their resources are minimal. Sheriff Milbrath also showed the committee one of the placemats that he ordered (non tax levy) and will be giving to local restaurants. They contain messages regarding speeding and distracted driving.

Chief Deputy Parker said the patrol division has a deputy who has been working with the schools regarding active shooter training. He has been overwhelmed with requests right now since the schools will be starting up soon, and is working with them to develop plans and safety practices for an active shooter event. Construction on the main entrance for the courthouse is continuing. The Annex Building project will begin on September 4<sup>th</sup> and end around the third week in November. He said Findorf has been very pleasant to work with. Two new hires have been hired, one female and one male. The body dig in Janesville regarding the Weckler girl's disappearance in 1947 produced no results. Leads will continue to be followed. The dive team was recently deployed in the Crawfish River for recovery of a possible drowning victim who's body was ultimately found.

**Review monthly bills and financial items:** – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for June bills in the amount of \$176,593.37. July bills totaled \$83,038.21. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members. Chief Deputy Parker reviewed the budget figures so far this year. The main Sheriff's Office and annex is at 55.72%, Support services at 53.3%, Communications at 53.98%, the Jail Division is at 60.58% and the jail kitchen is over budget because of bulk purchases. The average overall is 58.21%. Target percentage for this time of year is 58.33%. Propane price right now is a bit high for contracting.

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

**Jail assessment fund items:** General fund items for the month totaling \$4,734.85 (includes general maintenance, literacy, etc.). Another item for protective posts around the new freezer that is in the garage in the amount of \$1,006.44.

Next meeting date is Friday, September 27, 2013

A motion made by George Jaeckel to adjourn at 9:58 a.m., was seconded by Ed Morse. Motion carried.

Motions Carried:   5   Lost:   0  .

Signed \_\_\_\_\_