

## COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**DATE:** March 28, 2014

Meeting called to order by Paul Babcock at 8:30 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Paul Babcock, George Jaeckel, Ed Morse, Pam Rogers

Others present were: John Molinaro, Chief Deputy Parker, Captain Scott, Phil Ristow

Absent: Dwayne Morris

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

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

**Approval of minutes:** A motion was made by George Jaeckel, and seconded by Pam Rogers that the February 28, 2014 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**Communications:** None

**Review / recommend Jefferson County Law Enforcement Memorial Day resolution:** The resolution was reviewed. Pam Rogers made a motion to send the resolution to the County Board for approval. Ed Morse seconded. Motion carried.

**Review / recommend revision to Civil Service Ordinance [Section 7(F)]:** Phil Ristow explained that the union collective bargaining process changed the probation period from 12 months to 18 months and the contract has been approved and signed so the Civil Service Ordinance needs to be amended to reflect this longer probationary period. This only pertains to the sworn staff in the Sheriff's Office and the Civil Service Commission also is only associated with the Sheriff's Office. Chief Deputy Parker gave a brief explanation about the circumstances that brought about this change.

Ed Morse made a motion to amend the Civil Service Ordinance reference the probationary period for new deputies. George Jaeckel seconded. Motion carried.

**Discuss / recommend selling one old motorcycle to purchase accessories for both new motorcycles:** The Sheriff's Office recently received the two budgeted motorcycles for 2014. Chief Deputy Parker spoke to County Administrator Ben Wehmeier regarding the two old motorcycles. One of the older ones the Sheriff's Office will keep for training. The other would possibly be slated for sale and the proceeds used for equipment and accessories for the two new motorcycles. The equipment could include lights, sirens, radar, mounting brackets, technology and a possible radio system. Tour packs from the older motorcycles won't fit on the new ones and there are other items that previously were included on the motorcycles that are now an extra purchase. No other funding is being requested. Chief Deputy Parker would like to gain approval from this committee and will also need to put this before the Finance Committee for final approval. A notice to other county departments would also be done. Phil Ristow said that the sale of the motorcycle does not need to have any other approval but the expenditure of the funds does. Some discussion came up about the

purchased motorcycles. In the past, the Sheriff's Office leased motorcycles; however, that program ended several years ago.

George Jaeckel made a motion to approve selling one of the old motorcycles and use the proceeds to buy equipment and/or accessories for the new motorcycles. Pam Rogers seconded. Motion carried.

**Grants – Update of ongoing or new grants:** The Wisconsin Department of Energy propane grant that the Sheriff's Office received last year officially ended on December 31, 2013. However, of the five systems that were projected to be installed, only three of them were able to be put in. The grant administrator graciously extended the end of the grant to March 31, 2014 and those last two systems have now been installed. The Sheriff's Office is only waiting for payment from the grant for the mechanic's wages from time spent installing the last two systems. After that is done, most of the funding from that grant will have been used. Another grant from the Wisconsin Propane Education and Research Council was also received last year (\$10,000) to put propane systems on two squads. Those also were installed. Altogether, seven Tahoes were converted to propane in the past year.

Chief Deputy Parker added that someone from the Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) stopped by yesterday and he was asked to take a look at Jefferson County again regarding some grant funding. Jefferson County has not been lucky enough over the past couple years to get fully funded grants (Click It or Ticket, OWI or speed enforcement, etc.). BOTS looks at a variety of things when allocating grant funds (such as traffic patterns, fatal accidents, etc.). The Sheriff's Office does participate in the programs even though we do not receive any grant funding for doing so. Participation also makes the Sheriff's Office eligible to attend the annual meeting where they often give away equipment (this year the Sheriff's Office received a laser unit).

**Report from the Sheriff:** Chief Deputy Parker, on behalf of the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Office, thanked Pam Rogers for all of her years of dedicated service to the County Board and the Law Enforcement Committee.

Personnel issues that have been the concern of late. Several deputies have left for other law enforcement employment and a couple to different employment. Another may possibly be leaving in a few weeks. It has created a staffing problem in the jail. A couple new deputies have been brought on board but they are in training which will last for many weeks. Although the Sheriff's Office can hire replacements, the eligibility list is a couple years old which is as long as they generally last. Recently detectives began conducting backgrounds on seven of the candidates on the current list and only one of the seven passed the background. In April sometime the advertisement will be coming out to create a new eligibility list. There will be a new requirement for candidates this time which will be a physical fitness/ability test (Cooper Test). Candidates will have to take this physical fitness test before they are able to take the exam. Next year the Law Enforcement Academy will also be adding this element to their academy criteria. Two officers from the Sheriff's Office are currently becoming certified to administer the Cooper Test. It is a process that can easily be added as part of the pre-employment criteria.

Another item involves the spray insulation down in the garage area that was put on when the new jail/Sheriff's Office was built in 1991. This insulation is now starting to fall off the ceiling and needs to be replaced. Someone came in last week to take a sample of the material to make sure it is safe. It will have to be removed from the ceiling and they are contemplating either using inmates (wearing facial respirators and protective clothing) or using a company that could vacuum the

product off and possibly spray with the same type of insulation used at the Annex building.

John Molinaro mentioned reading about the Ford SUV vehicle that has become the most popular vehicle for law enforcement use and whether the current propane systems would fit on them. Chief Deputy Parker responded that most vehicles have their own specifications and there probably is a system available for the vehicle. The next Tahoes that are purchased for the Sheriff's Office will have direct injection so modifications will need to be made or a new propane system will need to be purchased. Captain Scott said the Ford vehicle is a bit smaller than the Tahoe so he is not sure any of the equipment will fit in them. The new Tahoes next year will also be available in an all-wheel drive (or 4-wheel).

Chief Deputy Parker added that the price of propane has gone down. The recent purchase was at \$1.22 per gallon and a contract was also signed for April 1 through December 31 at a price of \$1.33 per gallon (40,000 gallons). With the tax rebate, the final cost will be under \$1.00 per gallon.

Recently there was an incident down in the jail where an inmate barricaded himself in the multi-purpose room and created about \$1,800 of damage. The CERT Team went in and deployed OC grenades and a sting ball grenade. They ultimately were able to control him with no injuries. The inmate was scheduled to go to prison the following week. Phil Ristow also mentioned the florescent light ballast that blew out in the Sheriff's Office last weekend which prompted a call to the fire department. No fire, but some smoke and a burnt smell.

**Review monthly bills and financial items:** – The committee approved the monthly recap report for February bills in the amount of \$119,116.06. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

**Report on budget:** Chief Deputy Parker said the Sheriff's Office is doing pretty well in all areas of the budget except for the jail. In the month of March, there were 76½ overtime shifts (not hours). An additional 27½ shifts were covered by patrol deputies with another 20 or so more covered by swinging deputies in the jail. They are very short-staffed down there. Two deputies were in jail school, two are in training, and there are a couple vacancies down there as well. Discussion regarding the amount of overtime paid versus hiring was brought up.

**Review monthly jail and patrol activity reports:** No reports were available for review.

**Jail assessment fund items:** General fund items for the month totaling \$4,967.62. The bid for a new dishwasher in the kitchen at \$14,854.44 and the nurse's conference expense at about \$3,500 which is the first step in accreditation for the jail (reduces liability).

## **Adjourn**

Next meeting date is Friday, April 25, 2014 (Emergency Management)

A motion made by George Jaeckel to adjourn at 9:21 a.m., was seconded by Pam Rogers. Motion carried.

Motions Carried:   4   Lost:   0  .

Signed \_\_\_\_\_