

## COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**DATE:** May 23, 2014

Meeting called to order by Jim Schroeder at 8:30 a.m. Members of the committee present were:

Dwayne Morris, Amy Rinard, Al Counsell, Mike Wineke, Kirk Lund

Others present were: Jim Schroeder, Chief Deputy Parker, Captain Wallace, Ben Wehmeier, Phil Ristow

Absent: None

**Compliance with open meetings law:** Ben Wehmeier assured compliance.

**Election of Officers:** Amy Rinard nominated Dwayne Morris for committee chair and Al Counsell seconded. Dwayne Morris accepted the nomination and with no other nominations from the floor, a unanimous ballot was cast. Mike Wineke nominated Amy Rinard for vice chair, who accepted the nomination, and Dwayne Morris seconded. With no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast. Amy Rinard nominated Al Counsell for Secretary and he accepted the nomination. Kirk Lund seconded and with no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast.

Chief Deputy Parker welcomed all of the new committee members.

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

**Approval of minutes:** A motion was made by Al Counsell, and seconded by Amy Rinard that the March 28, 2014 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**Communications:** None

**Update on Sullivan / Rome tower inspection:** Chief Deputy Parker talked about the process to narrow band last year, the towers located in Jefferson County (Ixonía, Johnson Creek, Jefferson, Waterloo and Palmyra) and that the Sheriff's Office has about 94% coverage right now in the county. By law, the county needs to adequately cover close to 97%. The problem area is Rome and Sullivan. That area is not receiving calls consistently. A tower located at Highway / Pioneer Road which was previously owned and was abandoned by Charter has been taken over by the landowner. The Sheriff's Office would like to contract with him to put some equipment on it for coverage in the Rome / Sullivan area. This would solve the communication issues in that problem area. However, the tower needs to be inspected before a contract can be signed. The bid for inspection of the tower is \$5,000. Ben Wehmeier added that the equipment for the tower has already been put in the budget so when the inspection is done and the contract is finalized, it is ready to go. The county will need to put up a small building to house the electrical and other components for the equipment placed on the tower. The landowner has been very helpful and willing to get the process going. At this time it looks like rental costs for using the tower should be very reasonable as the landowner has been very cooperative..

**Update on Palmyra tower negotiations:** Phil Ristow gave a brief history of the tower site near Palmyra which was erected around 1980. The tower belongs to the county but is on land owned by

the Bible camp and on a perpetual easement. In 1991 the footprint was expanded by 150 feet so another building could be put up for equipment from the FBI. At that time it was found that one of the legs of the tower was placed off the original footprint. At that time, the county leased the footprint from the Bible Camp for \$400 per year on a 20-year lease. One of the individuals on the Bible Camp board was not particularly happy with that arrangement so after the 20 years were up, he thought the county should be paying them more for leasing the footprint to the tune of about \$6,000 per year. Because the county owns the tower and the amount they were asking for was exorbitant, negotiations have been going on (and off) with the Bible Camp for the last couple years and the county has not paid them anything during that time. There have been threats to evict the county with replies that the strategy wouldn't get them very far. The county has contemplated condemning the footprint but felt there must be something they could work out. Unfortunately, the individual that began the discussion from the Bible Camp board passed away on Easter. After that time, another one of the board members contacted the Sheriff with the purpose of getting some kind of resolution to this at a more reasonable cost and those negotiations are under way.

**Discussion / recommendation regarding additional storage / building for Sheriff's Office:**

Chief Deputy Parker talked about the Annex building (formerly owned by AT&T) that houses the task force and the specialty unit vehicles (Dive, SWAT, snowmobiles, ATVs, boat, Zodiac, etc.). Evidence is also stored out there, including vehicles that have been involved in accidents. This evidence needs to be secure and uncompromised. Space in the bay area of the building has become very limited. A couple years ago, money was added to the budget to put up an additional storage building but that funding was diverted for other uses, one being the repair last year of the existing building which had multiple issues. Chief Deputy Parker talked about possibly using one of the existing buildings at the Highway Shop for a while when their new facility is built. A large storage building located next to the Parks Department building on Industrial Drive has also come up for sale. Mr. Foskett owns the building which has several large bay doors (semi size) and his asking price is about \$235,000. Other options were also explored but the price to rent them was prohibitive. This discussion is just to inform the committee and let the members know there is a need for additional storage space to store the specialty equipment that needs to be secure and kept out of the elements..

Ben Wehmeier added that they are looking at all the options and are preparing a capital prognosis plan for the next five years. There are many requests for additional funding just in the first year. Talks will be ongoing about what is needed and priorities for the short term and long term will be determined and explored.

**Explanation of sergeant position reclassification:** Every year, each employee group has the opportunity to re-classify their position by filling out a job description and qualification form (JDQ). Primarily this is based on how the job has changed since the last time it was reviewed. HR will evaluate the forms and send them to Carlson Dettmann for review and will provide feedback and/or recommendations to HR and the county administrator about the classification of the position – whether it is satisfactory as it is or if it should be changed. The sergeants are at a pay grade 10 and are not in the union. The deputies can still negotiate for their raises, however the sergeants cannot. Thus, the sergeants could get into an area known as compression – where a top paying detective could make more than the sergeant in charge of the division. While pay should not be the primary motivation to seek a promotion, it is definitely one of the reward factors in taking on the additional responsibility. Compression will make it harder to get deputies to engage in promotional processes as they feel they will not get paid more for added responsibilities. At this point the JDQ was filed by all the sergeants (6 in patrol, 6 in the jail, 2 detective sergeants and one in support services) to

HR and it has been sent to Carlson Dettmann as well. Ben Wehmeier added that after the wage study the HR committee directed that a review should be made with the county administrator, Carlson Dettmann and the HR director to determine if there is a compression issue. There are a lot of factors involved in the evaluation of the position. Fiscal impact has also been determined depending on the scenario. Hopefully a fair assessment of the position will establish whether there is an issue or not and establish fair and equal treatment for employees. Phil Ristow added that the other wrinkle in the Act 10 legislation is in regard to WRS payments that all other employees have had to make for the last three years which has excluded law enforcement/management staff. It makes it difficult to find a balance. Chief Deputy Parker summarized the discussion by saying the law enforcement union contract has negotiated to start paying a certain percentage into their WRS beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>; however, at the same time they will be receiving a pay raise that will offset most of that contribution while the sergeants and captains will pay but will not be receiving the raise as they are not in the union. Before Act 10, the sergeants/captains would likely have received the same terms and benefits as the union employees. Phil Ristow added that some of the sergeants and/or captains will receive a step increase that may offset some of the WRS contribution, but there will be some that are at the top of the scale that will not receive any step increase and will still be paying the WRS contribution. Mike Wineke added that there are other departments that are also watching this process as they have some of the compression issues as well.

**Grants – Update of ongoing or new grants:** Chief Deputy Parker began by saying the Sheriff looks at all opportunities to find grants no matter the amount. The patrol division is working with the Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) in conjunction with Rock County and the Village of Johnson Creek on a \$44,000 grant for patrolling the Highway 26 corridor. Many grants will require some sort of matching funds and will also have a percentage of funding that can be put toward purchasing equipment. Over the years, the Sheriff has worked on grants for purchasing propane systems and has been very successful in obtaining funding.

Updates will be given at each meeting for any grants that the Sheriff's Office has obtained.

**Report from the Sheriff:** The Sheriff's Office has lost a few officers. A couple have gone to other police departments (Menomonee Falls), a couple have retired and a couple have left for IT positions with other companies. Two new officers are currently in the 12-week FTO (field training) program. Another two deputies have been hired, one started this week and the other will begin right after the first of June. The second night of testing for a deputy eligibility list was on Wednesday. When the test results are received, a series of backgrounds will begin on the top 20-25 candidates. Those that pass the backgrounds will be scheduled for an interview with the Civil Service Commission to develop an eligibility list. Generally these eligibility lists last about two years before they are too outdated and have to be done again.

Yesterday the Sheriff's Office had a very large package delivered. The Sheriff's Office recently went through the 1033 Military Surplus program in Waunakee to obtain an MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected) vehicle for use as a SWAT vehicle. This unit is a military surplus vehicle which has been made available to law enforcement agencies at no cost except for the cost of shipping it to Wisconsin. Several other law enforcement agencies in the state have also received these units. For many years, the SWAT team has used a refurbished Brinks truck. However, the Brinks vehicle now is in need of some expensive repairs and the MRAP will be the eventual replacement for this vehicle.

**Review monthly bills and financial items:** – The committee approved the monthly recap reports

for March bills in the amount of \$129,648.38 and for April bills at \$100,859.82. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members. The availability of ammunition was discussed at some length.

**Report on budget:** Each month has a goal of 8.33% of the budget being used. At the end of April the total budget used or gained as revenue should be close to about 33.33%. Some anomalies will exist for certain areas of the budget. Other areas will compensate for some of this and it generally will somewhat even itself out over the year. An extended discussion regarding the sworn status of the jail deputies followed the report from the Chief regarding overtime in the jail which is higher than usual right now because of the shortage of staff. However, that is mostly offset right now because wages and benefits for the deputies that have resigned or retired are not being paid.

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

**Jail assessment fund items:** The jail assessment fund is made up of a fee that is added to each citation that is written in Jefferson County. This fund is to be used for upkeep of the jail and services (including contract medical services) for the inmates. Each month there are items that are paid by jail assessment monies. This month the general fund items for the month of April totals \$1,290.45. This includes cleaning supplies, inmate supplies, repair work by central maintenance, and educational items. Another item for the purchase of a laptop and software for the jail program director to enhance inmate services in the amount of \$1,389.64 was also approved. At the end of April, the Jail Assessment fund totaled \$270,804.72.

### **Adjourn**

Next meeting date is Friday, June 27, 2014 and will be held at the Training Facility in Lake Mills. The address is: W7082 CTH V, Lake Mills, WI

A motion made by Amy Rinard to adjourn at 10:27 a.m., was seconded by Kirk Lund. Motion carried.

Motions Carried:   2   Lost:   0  .

Signed \_\_\_\_\_