

COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: August 22, 2014

Meeting called to order by Dwayne Morris at 8:30 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Dwayne Morris, Amy Rinard, Al Counsell, Kirk Lund, Mike Wineke
Others present were: Sheriff Paul Milbrath, Chief Deputy Jeff Parker, County Administrator Ben Wehmeier

Absent: None

Compliance with open meetings law: Ben Wehmeier assured compliance.

Approve agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Amy Rinard, and seconded by Kirk Lund that the July 25, 2014 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Communications: None (see Report from the Sheriff)

Report regarding Jail Nurse Visioning Study – Kathy Eisenmann, U.W. Extension: Kathy was unable to make the meeting today so this item is tabled until next month. An explanation of the visioning study followed.

- A committee was formed with the jail nurses, the jail captain, some jail staff and the Health Dept. director to put together this visioning plan.
- They looked at what health care in the jail looks like today, what they can do to make it better, what plans are in place for the future and what certifications they need or want.
- They also formulated a mission statement and guidelines
- The completed document will be shared with the committee next month.

Chief Deputy Parker talked about the health care provider in the jail, Advanced Correctional Healthcare (ACH)

- ACH provides a doctor, policies, and the majority of prescription drugs.
- Budgetary cost for ACH will be \$141,000 next year
- ACH provides \$3,000 per month toward hospital stays

Additional discussion was had about mental health care in the jail. Jefferson County has been praised for its approach to mental health although it is not as much time as everyone would like right now.

- The jail's social worker, Jennifer, does not have enough time to do in-depth work with inmates but she does talk with them and teaches them coping skills.
- She has saved the county a lot of money due to less mental health commitments into facilities (which are very expensive).
- Possibly reducing one secretarial position in the jail to part-time will allow some extra funding to have Jennifer for more hours in the jail setting.

Update on Sullivan / Rome tower: Sheriff Milbrath said they are still having some issues with the radios in general and are working on the tower sequencing to get them lined up.

- They also have done some things for redundancy and issues with lightning strikes. Deep cycle marine batteries are being used for power if lightning strikes or for any other issue regarding a power outage.
- The Sullivan tower lease has been signed and equipment will be installed on it within about 90 days.
- Brush needs to be cleared out for a roadway to the tower and a building needs to be put up to house the equipment.
- Chief Deputy Parker went on record complimenting the diligent work that the Sheriff's Office communications supervisor has done with the Sullivan tower project. The supervisor has received some unpleasant e-mails from fire chiefs in the area who are questioning the Sheriff's Office dedication to getting this done as well as the supervisor's ability to perform his job duties. Unfortunately it takes time to get things done, especially in government. This tower site also incurred a lot of time just trying to find out who owned it, not to mention the lack of identification on the tower which led to a necessary inspection. Bottom line is that the process is progressing as fast as it can happen.

Grants – Update of ongoing or new grants: Sheriff Milbrath reported receiving an Enbridge grant for Emergency Management to purchase an emergency radio compatible with WISCOM. The grant was in the amount of \$850.00 and he added that there is some additional funding available for the remainder of the cost of the radio.

- Sheriff Milbrath has applied for a Kwik Trip grant and is waiting for notification.
- Will also write a Walmart Community Grant soon
- In addition, an application for a Propane Education Research Council (PERC) grant will be submitted which will be used toward purchasing a couple propane systems next year if the grant is received.
- Chief Deputy Parker added that the traffic grant for patrolling Highway 26 is still running as well.

Report from the Sheriff: the Sheriff's Office is losing a deputy to Dane County and another is retiring in early October. The jail will continue to be short staffed.

Occasionally the Sheriff's Office receives letters from the public praising the efforts of deputies. Recently a couple were received for Deputies Gosh and Meyer.

The union grievance regarding the sergeants in the jail being used to cover staffing requirements instead of posting overtime went to arbitration this month. Currently overtime known over 48 hours in advance is posted, anything less than 48 hours is offered to the most senior first and down the line. If no one takes the shift, the least senior deputy is ordered in. It has created a situation where the young, newly hired deputies are burning out as they would be the ones ordered in to cover overtime. As part of the arbitration, the Sheriff has the ability to pull a sergeant to cover a shift if a deputy does not want overtime.

Chief Deputy Parker mentioned that the recent trial of Tim Madson found him guilty of Felony Misconduct in Office. His sentencing has been moved from October 1st to later in the month. It will be held in Waukesha. The trial week was very hard on the staff and victim impact statements could also be read at sentencing.

Review monthly bills and financial items: – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for June bills in the amount of \$115,210.19 and July bills in the amount of \$150,342.65. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Report on budget:

- Expenditures/revenues at the end of July should be around the 58.33% range.
- All of the business units totaled are at about 63%
- The Jail Division is coming in at 65.62%, the kitchen is at 61.15.
- All other units' expenditures are below 58.33%. The 2001 business unit (patrol, detectives, etc.) is 57.26%; Support Services Division is 54%, Dispatch, 47.63% and the Drug Task Force, 55.99%.

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 \$5,823.79 for maintenance, supplies, repairs, camera system repairs and two months of Literacy Council services (GED).

Agenda items: Chair Dwayne Morris asked for some items to be included on next month's agenda. They include: Deputy performance evaluations/assessments; how the Sheriff's Office coaches deputies to be proactive-FTO; other Sheriff's Office activities that deputies attend to on duty (such as park patrol, etc.); and the relationship between the Sheriff's Office, the D.A.'s office and the judges/courts.

The Sheriff's Office truly appreciates that the committee is willing to learn how the Sheriff's Office works and what they do.

Some discussion also came up regarding the MRAP vehicle the Sheriff's Office recently acquired. There has been a lot of debate recently about local law enforcement obtaining these military vehicles. However, the cost to acquire this vehicle was much less than trying to purchase another SWAT type unit to replace the current one that needs extensive repair. The Sheriff's Office will be having the vehicle painted and decaled and is looking for someone to donate that or other donors to help with the cost. In addition, Army training personnel will be coming to go over and train the SWAT team on the operation and features of the unit.

Adjourn

Next meeting date is September 26, 2014

A motion made by Kirk Lund to adjourn at 10:38 a.m., was seconded by Amy Rinard. Motion carried.

Motions Carried: 2 Lost: 0 .

Signed _____