

## COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**DATE:** March 27, 2015

Meeting called to order by Dwayne Morris at 8:32 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Dwayne Morris, Amy Rinard, Al Counsell, Kirk Lund, Mike Wineke  
Others present were: Sheriff Milbrath, Chief Deputy Parker, Blair Ward, Corp. Counsel

Absent: None

**Compliance with open meetings law:** Blair Ward assured compliance.

**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 February 27, 2015 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried. (all-ayes)

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

- Chair Morris talked briefly about State Trooper Casper that was recently killed in the line of duty in Fond du Lac.
- Chief Deputy Parker noted that some of the Jefferson County Honor Guard members would be driving up to the service on Sunday. The funeral will be on Monday and is private. A very sad tragedy for the entire law enforcement community.

**Communications:**

- Sheriff Milbrath talked briefly about a civil suit brought on by an ex-inmate, Britton McKenzie, in regard to what he deems as maltreatment while incarcerated.
- The Sheriff added that he received a letter from someone who was traveling through the area and needed directions. Deputy Mike Meyers helped them with this and they were appreciative, stating how professional and polite he was.

**Review and recommend Law Enforcement Memorial Day Proclamation:**

- The proclamation was reviewed by the committee members. The proclamation designates the week set aside for the National Law Enforcement Memorial Day activities and also the specific date within that week that Jefferson County will observe L.E. Memorial Day. All the committee members are invited to attend the service.
- Mike Wineke made a motion to send the proclamation on to the County Board meeting in April. Amy Rinard seconded. Motion carried (all ayes).

**Update on counseling needs for inmates:**

- Sheriff Milbrath noted that a part-time social worker (through Human Services) has been working with inmates for many years.
- It originally was a cost-savings measure to bring her on board since the cost to have an inmate in a mental health facility can be \$800 to \$1,000 per day or higher.
- The number of inmates with mental health issues has increased over the years because many of the facilities available to them have closed or they now have to travel long

- distances to get to facilities. Thus, the jail is where most of them eventually end up.
- We are fortunate in the county to have a part-time counselor. Other possible options are not economically feasible at this time.
- The jail mental health counselor sees approximately 5 to 6 inmates when she is at the jail, improving their coping mechanisms to give them the skills to get through incarceration.
- The jail staff has also gone through NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness) training.
- Al Counsell wondered about how many of the inmates have mental illness issues?
- Can't give an absolute percentage but there are quite a few.
- The social worker is mostly in a triage mode and doesn't have enough time to be in a proactive mode. However, the jail does have quite a few programs to address some of the other issues (besides medical).
- Some inmates are able to go to appointments at their specific clinics as well and the jail also has outside groups that help with some things, including faith-based groups.
- Al Counsell asked how deep the county gets into counselling and whether this is continued after they are released as well as what assures they won't be coming back through the system?
- Sheriff Milbrath talked about the county's recidivism committee that is researching a lot of those elements. The OWI court is also looking into the recidivism rate for intoxicated drivers. In addition, the jail is trying to incorporate a way to track recidivism within the facility as well as creating other ways to combat it.
- Chief Deputy Parker said that Mr. Counsell is right, after inmates are released, many of them don't continue in the programs and usually don't stay gainfully employed.
- Sheriff Milbrath added that a lot of churches in Jefferson County are active in the jail ministry and offer inmates a church family after they are released as well.

#### **Grants - Update of ongoing or new grants:**

- There aren't a lot of grants out there right now. The Sheriff's Office is waiting for approval on a couple smaller grants.

#### **Report from the Sheriff:**

- The communications project process is still going on and they are doing some fine tuning of other things but it should be starting in the near future.
- The county and Gen Comm are in the final contract negotiation phase (payout stages).
- The RFP for the 911 system is being worked on and should be ready to send out soon.
- The jail camera system process is starting and the request for bids and specifications should be sent soon. The system will be paid for through jail assessment funds.
- The annual report should be out in about a month or so.
- The Sheriff's Office is down five deputies right now, two in the jail and three in patrol. The last three on the list the Civil Service Commission has interviewed will be coming in for command staff interviews, but additional backgrounds are being worked on from the test list for another round of interviews by the Civil Service Commission in late April. This new round will have several females as the jail has mandatory requirements for females and we will need to hire at least one in the near future.
- Chair Morris asked whether it was a foregone conclusion that Narcan cannot solve the fentanyl problem. Sheriff Milbrath said no, not necessarily, Narcan may be able to be used for that. Narcan will temporarily block the overdose but it is essential that the

victim is taken to the hospital right away for evaluation. Fentanyl is a time released pain medication that sometimes can be manipulated by people who obtain the drug illegally and end up overdosing on it. All of the Sheriff's Office deputies have been trained to use Narcan.

- The propane tank will be moved on April 20<sup>th</sup>. The ground is too soft for the crane to place it and a larger crane would likely do permanent damage to the blacktop out at the new highway shop so they are delaying it until the 20<sup>th</sup>. There is about 10-15% of the propane left in the tank and they are trying to use as much of it as possible before the rest is burned off and the tank is moved. The squads will be without propane for one to two weeks.
- Range training is coming up in April for the patrol division and at that time all the deputies will be given the new M&P 9's in exchange for their current M&P 40's. In May the jail division will do the same.

**Review monthly bills and financial items:** – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for January bills in the amount of \$116,721.98 and February bills in the amount of \$106,248.41. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by committee members.

**Report on budget:**

- A new format has been adopted for the report printout. The printout now shows the Sheriff's Office percentage of property taxes taken out of the levy and where it is going in the different units.
- The business unit covering the detectives, patrol and drug metro unit is at a \$176,000 surplus. Support Services is at a \$20,000 surplus. Dispatch is at a \$4,500 deficit.
- The jail is running at a \$28,000 deficit but, as a whole, the Sheriff's Office is coming in at a \$136,329.89 surplus at this point.
- At the end of the year these numbers could be much different as payments are only received for some things at certain times of the year. The jail is also at minimum staffing at this time. Sick time use has dropped a bit, however, so that is a good point.

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

**Jail assessment fund items:** One fund item was presented from the Literacy Council for the months of March and April in the amount of \$3,342.00. At the end of February, the Jail Assessment Fund is at \$239,037.62.

**Agenda Items:** None presented.

**Adjourn**

Next meeting date is April 24, 2015 (Emergency Management)

A motion made by Kirk Lund to adjourn at 9:49 a.m., was seconded by Amy Rinard. Motion carried. (all-ayes)

Motions Carried:   3   Lost:   0  .