

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE:** May 22, 2020

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Ben Wehmeier at 8:30 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Members of the committee present were: Kirk Lund (via Zoom), Dwayne Morris, David Drayna, Brandon White, Mary Roberts (via Zoom)

Others present were: Sheriff Paul Milbrath, County Administrator Ben Wehmeier, Anita Martin (via Zoom), Peggy Glassford (via Zoom)

Absent: none.

**Certification of Compliance with open meetings law:** Ben Wehmeier certified compliance with the open meetings law.

**Election of Committee Officers:** Kirk Lund nominated Dwayne Morris for Chairperson, and was seconded by Brandon White. As there were no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast. Brandon White nominated David Drayna for Vice Chairperson and Mary Roberts seconded. With no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast. Dwayne Morris nominated Kirk Lund for secretary and Brandon White seconded. With no other nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast.

**Approval of the agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

**Public Comment:** Anita Martin brought up a recent meeting that was had with Lake Mills EMS. It was stated that ambulances in the area were getting low on funds to keep their PPE needs fulfilled. County Administrator Ben Wehmeier explained the process the Emergency Management Department is taking to ensure that area departments and agencies have the needed PPE to perform their duties. Every Thursday, Emergency Management sends out a survey to all EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement, medical & long term care facilities, and the Medical Examiners Office to get an update on their PPE needs and distributes to the best of their ability.

**Approval of the February 28, 2020 meeting minutes:** A motion was made by Dwayne Morris, and seconded by Kirk Lund that the February 28, 2020 minutes approval be postponed until next month. Motion carried.

**General update from Medical Examiner Nichol Tesch:** Nichol Tesch introduced herself to the new committee members and gave a general update on her office. She stated that Covid is not affecting the Medical Examiner's office very much. Most positive cases are going out of county for treatment. The Sheriff's Office is allowing the Medical Examiner's Office to do exams in the underground garage to keep the staff safe. Tesch stated that the number of deaths due to overdoses have remained the same. She also stated the crypt has been placed at Potters' Field for the indigents to be buried.

**Communications:**

- Two letters were sent to the Sheriff's Office thanking the deputies for their services.
- State inmates are becoming more thankful that they are being housed at the County Jail instead of within the State Prison system as they are not at high risk of being infected here as they would be and have expressed their gratitude.

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

- Sheriff stated the Sheriff's Office has applied for a \$40,800 grant to purchase a Skytron unit which is primarily used to sanitize the jail cells. It has also been used to sanitize squad cars and PPE. The unit uses UV light to decontaminate up to hospital level cleanliness.
- Sheriff is currently writing a grant for a new propane dispensing station for \$20,000. The system will cost an additional \$8,000 out of pocket.
- Sheriff is also writing a grant for a new propane system for the 2020 Ford squad.

**Report from the Sheriff:**

- Huber inmates have been put on GPS tracking devices to keep the traffic in and out of the jail to a minimum during the pandemic.
- Jail and Patrol Deputies have temporarily switched to a 7-on-7-off to minimize their contact with each other.
- Inmates are currently being screened for Covid in the Sallyport before they are entered into the jail. There is then a step-down process when they are booked in to ensure they do not begin having symptoms and potentially infect others. Once they have been in the jail for 14 days, they are then put into the general population.
- Local businesses and citizens have donated PPE to the Sheriff's Office.
- There are two part-time dispatchers and one full-time dispatcher in training.
- Whitewater will be hosting an event for Covid testing that the Sheriff's Office will provide security for.
- The Sheriff's Office received a \$500 from the Wisconsin Club towards the K-9 unit.

**Update on Communications Project:**

- Two towers will need to be replaced as they are in disrepair.
- There will be a detailed design review in June with Fire Services & EMS, Law Enforcement, Administration, and Communications Supervisor Todd Lindert.

**Review monthly bills and financial items (January, February, & March):** - The committee approved the monthly recap reports for January 2020 bills in the amount of \$207,420.32, February 2020 bills in the amount of \$175,078.95, & March 2020 bills in the amount of \$199,521.04. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

**Report on the budget:** The Sheriff's Office ended 2019 \$261,000 under budget. This was in large part due to revenue from State Board billing from housing state inmates coming in \$214,000 over budget. For 2020, the Sheriff's Office is \$292,000 at the end of March. Currently, revenues are under budget, but the State Board billing is behind in payments yet so this will help the budget.

**Review monthly jail and patrol activity reports:** Jail and patrol activity reports were made available for review.

**Discussion and Possible action on approving jail assessment fund purchases:**

The Committee received a report on jail assessment fund expenditures totaling \$5,807.85. Payment was made to US Foods for the dishwasher monthly lease payment in the amount of \$407.85 for January, February and March and the Jefferson County Literacy Council in the amount of \$5,400 for jail inmate instruction for January, February, and March.

The jail assessment balance at the end of March is \$212,919.77.

**Discussion on potential items for the June 26, 2020 meeting agenda:** None.

**Next meeting date:** June 26, 2020.

**Adjourn:** A motion made by David Drayna to adjourn at 10:10 a.m., was seconded by Brandon White. Motion carried.