

LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: June 26, 2020

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Dwayne Morris at 8:30 a.m.

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

Others present were: Chief Deputy Jeff Parker, County Administrator Ben Wehmeier, Captain Travis Maze

Absent: none.

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

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

Public Comment: None.

Approval of the February 28, 2020 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Brandon White, and seconded by David Drayna that the February 28, 2020 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Approval of the May 22, 2020 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Brandon White, and seconded by David Drayna that the May 22, 2020 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Discussion on National Campaign “Eight Can’t Wait” – Use of Force standards:

- Chief Deputy Parker gave an explanation of the “Eight Can’t Wait” handout.
- Supervisor Roberts asked about School Resource Officers in the county’s schools; Chief Deputy Parker stated that within the schools in the Sheriff’s Office jurisdiction, there are no Deputies assigned currently.
- Supervisor Lund asked Chief Deputy Parker to explain the different training deputies receive to be able to handle a situation where difficult split decisions need to be made. Chief Parker explained the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office trains using the most authentic situations using “real-world” scenarios such as a person armed with a knife, and the deputy needed to use de-escalation techniques and as little force as possible to take the person into custody and get them the help they need.
- Supervisor Morris asked Chief Parker how the deputies overcome the temptation for racial profiling. Chief Parker stated that the Sheriff’s Office has not had a use-of-force complaint or a complaint relating to racial profiling in the past 30 years he has been employed with the Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff’s Office follows all policies and procedures to make sure the law is upheld.
- Chief Deputy Parker explained the good relationship the Sheriff’s Office has with the Human Services Department and the willingness to work with each other to assist citizens in need. WIMIC is a company that is assisting the Sheriff’s Office with doing a

complete overhaul of the policies to make sure that the policies meet the public's expectations as well as the expectations of the Sheriff's Office.

- Supervisor White asked if the "Eight Can't Wait" document will be published for the public to view. Chief Deputy Parker stated that he has an interview scheduled in the near future with a local paper to discuss this topic.
- Supervisor Drayna stated that after working for 28 years for the Sheriff's Office, he is very aware of the policies the Sheriff's Office has in place and knows they have been followed for many years. Supervisor Morris also stated that after receiving training for safety within the schools in active shooter situations, he is also aware of these policies as he has heard this language in these trainings.

Communications:

- Chief Deputy Parker read cards and letters the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office has received from the public recently.

Grants – Update of ongoing or new grants:

- The Sheriff's Office has been awarded a grant that will pay for 50% of a new fueling station for our squad's propane systems. The remaining 50% is being covered by a 2019 carryover amount for a project that is no longer required, so the cost of this needed installation will have a zero impact on the tax levy.
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and City of Jefferson Police Department were awarded a Traffic Grant in the amount of \$40,000 and is in effect.
- Chief Deputy Parker reported that Sheriff Milbrath has applied for a grant to cover the cost of a propane system for one of the new squads.

Report from the Sheriff:

- The Jefferson County Sheriff's office received a donation from the Sunset Bar and Grill for \$475.00 for the K-9 unit.
- Jefferson Piggly Wiggly reached out to the Sheriff's Office and is doing a "round-up" for the K-9 Unit.
- Chief Deputy Parker stated that the 2020 squad cars have arrived; for months we knew that they had been assembled but had no idea of the whereabouts of the vehicles. The COVID situation delayed shipping from the manufacture and vehicles sat idle on back lots waiting to be shipped out.
- The jail population remains around 90 inmates with some inmates continuing to be out on Electronic Monitoring.
- Revenues from the Jail have drastically been impacted by the streamlining of operations such as losing revenue from Huber fees, jail booking fees, and daily sentence fees.
- There have been no infections in the jail during the entire pandemic thus far, an incredible accomplishment.
- The Sheriff's Office continues the use of the Skytron UV disinfectant machine to cleanse jail cells, PPE, and squad cars when needed.
- Once Jefferson County returns to the in-person court hearings, the Sheriff's Office will setting up a portable booking operation outside of the courtroom to limit the amount of traffic entering the jail needlessly. Logistics are currently being worked on and will be announced once there is a plan in place.

- The deputy schedule will return to the normal work schedule of on 5 days, off 2 days, on 5 days, off 3 days beginning July 21.
- The Sheriff's Office has obtained PPE Equipment and does have an adequate stock on hand.
- Chief Deputy Parker gave a brief summary of the homicide and the current situation. The suspect has not been found, and continues to be a person of interest. The deputy who was involved is on administrative leave. The Sheriff's Office policy for a deputy to return to work after a critical incident occurs has two elements. The first is a P.O.S.T. team that assists deputies and individuals in critical incidents or who are having personal issues who are in need of peer support. The second element is using a doctor that works with the Sheriff's Office to have the deputy cleared to return to work.
- The Sheriff's Office is working on the 2021 budget and should have it done by the third week in July.
- The Sheriff's Office has had (4) retirements in the past 2 months (Deputy Tennes, Denucci, Hall and Sgt. Behselich). There have also been two deputy resignations.
- The Sheriff's Office hired (4) deputies, three of which are already Police certified and the other is already jail certified. We still have 2-3 position to fill that we are running a testing process for this week. We are giving preference to female candidates as those positions have been voided and we have a statutory requirement within the jail to fill with female staff.
- Dispatch is running a hiring process, they have 34 candidates that have applied for 1 full time position; we also hope to hire 1-2 candidates to become part time dispatchers to help alleviate some of the pressure of working overtime on the full-time staff.

Update on Communications Project:

- Ben Wehmeier stated that the project is in the design and review stages.
- There are 2-3 sites will need new towers that are being looked at for options.
- The hope is that by the end of 2020, installation will begin on the project and by 2021 the system will be ready to go.
- There are weekly meetings being held to ensure the company and the project stays on track.

Review monthly bills and financial items (April & May): – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for April 2020 bills in the amount of \$185,329.52 and May 2020 bills in the amount of \$132,961.15. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Report on the budget: At this time of year, the Sheriff's Office should be at 41.66% of the budget; the Sheriff's Office is currently operating at 40.6% of the budget, so they are almost at a break even. While the Jail division is over budget with their overtime, the Patrol division is under budget in their area. The Sheriff's Office has \$108,000 in outstanding bills due for Board billing from the state inmates being housed in the jail.

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

Discussion and Possible action on approving jail assessment fund purchases:

The Committee received a report on jail assessment fund expenditures totaling \$1,712.94. Payment was made to US Foods for the dishwasher monthly lease payment in the amount of \$135.95 for April and to Interstate Power Systems in the amount of \$1,576.99 for the annual inspection of the generator.

The jail assessment balance at the end of May is \$233,613.36.

Discussion on potential items for the July 24, 2020 meeting agenda: None.

Next meeting date: July 24, 2020. (Emergency Management)

Adjourn: A motion made by David Drayna to adjourn at 10:00 a.m., was seconded by Mary Roberts. Motion carried.