

LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: August 27, 2021

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Dwayne Morris at 8:33 a.m.

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

Others present were: Sheriff Paul Milbrath, Chief Deputy Jeff Parker, Corporation Counsel J. Blair Ward, County Administrator Ben Wehmeier, Communications Supervisor Todd Lindert, Jail Captain Margareta Gray, Assistant Corporation Counsel Yelena Zarwell, Assistant Corporation Counsel Whitney DeVoe, Supervisor Anita Martin

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 amended to move #10 – Update on Communications Project to after #4 – Approval of the Agenda and was then approved.

Update on Communications Project:

- Communications Supervisor Todd Lindert reported that the project is on track for the most part. WE Energies is working through some staffing issues but is working on some applications. Recently the consultants were taken on a tour of the tower sites.
- There will be factory acceptance testing done today where General Communications will be performing scenario testing.
- The shelter in Palmyra has been delivered; the shelter in Cambridge should be delivered today; Concord tower site was poured yesterday.
- Bertram built a 250' tower at the Concord site and it is planned to be used as a receiver site for the signals. It will enhance the radio coverage in the area.
- The “go-live” date is projected to be the first part of 2022 at this time. System acceptance will take place after leaves are on the trees to be able to do the dry test.
- The microwave path between Watertown and Ixonia and between Watertown and Waterloo is being worked out. US Cellular changed their antennas on the tower in Watertown which is requiring a structural analysis be completed. The same thing will be done on the Ixonia tower as well.
- All of the radios have been received by General Communications. Todd is writing the file for them to be programmed.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the June 25, 2021 and July 23, 2021 meeting minutes: Due to the minutes not being approved at the July meeting, a motion was made by David Drayna, and seconded by Kirk Lund that the June 25, 2021 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

A motion was made by David Drayna, and seconded by Kirk Lund that the July 23, 2021

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Minutes by: Jessica Olszewski

minutes be approved as printed.
Motion carried.

Communications: None.

Grants – Update of ongoing or new grants:

- Currently the grants are in a holding pattern. Sheriff Milbrath is looking a few different grants that may be available. A few grants are for communications and Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD).
- The grant procedure for many has changed that you need to be invited to apply for certain grants. Sheriff has been in contact with some individuals to work on getting an invitation on some.
- The traffic speed grant is doing well; speeds on Highway 26 are starting to slow down with the squad presence. There has been a 40% citation to 60% warning ratio.
- One grant being looked into with NITSA is with the interstate on an area between Johnson Creek and a couple miles past Lake Mills.

Report from the Sheriff:

- Sheriff Milbrath reported that the Sheriff's Office received two generators from Generac at 1/3 of the cost. These generators will be used to replace generators at a couple tower sites as they are not big enough to handle the size of the new shelters.
- The jail kitchen is currently being inspected by County, State and Federal inspectors.
- Jail staff is doing a fantastic job with Covid. There have been more suicide attempts this year than ever in the past. Most of these are due to the mental health issues being seen throughout the entire state. Jail staff has been able to save these inmates; one attempt was intervened by other inmates and the life was saved.
- The Sheriff's Office is looking at eleven to twelve retirements within the next year. All of our sworn Support Services Division will retire next year. Recruitment continues to be a very difficult challenge. The last time of interviewing the Sheriff's Office had 80 people put in for applications and only 25-30 took the test.
- Chief Deputy Parker reported that the storage building now has fully insulated walls and ceiling. The Sheriff's Office has a contractor getting ready to give the specifications for the heater that needs to be installed. Lastly, the Sheriff's Office is working on the approved electronic gate system to be installed that is similar to what is installed at several of the County Parks; with the apartment complex adjacent to the property, this gate is a security and safety essential.
- The Sheriff's Office is working on ordering the 2022 Ford Explorers and the interior and exterior equipment prior to the end of the year, due to the extremely long wait to receive the equipment.
- A total of (4) new members were added to both the Dive and SWAT teams. Two actual dive team members and two line workers were added, and on SWAT, two actual team members and two members that will be trained on vehicle operations were added.
- The Sheriff's Office hired three deputies – Lauren Stevenson, Jared Mejia and Parker Gilson. Jared and Lauren are currently enrolled in the 720 hour Police Recruit Academy at MATC while Parker is in the Jail FTO program.
- Within the last month, the Sheriff's Office has handled a house explosion, the tornado on highway "E" in the Concord area, an assist with the fire in Fort Atkinson, another attempted suicide in the jail that was stopped by staff, and a triple fatality on I-94 near

Highway 26. In all of these incidents the staff handled each situation extremely well and very professionally.

- The Sheriff's Office received a substantial donation from the family and in the memory of retired Sergeant Lyle Borth. The family asked that the donation be utilized sooner than later. They only asked that the K-9 be named after him using his nickname "Butch." Our third handler still has two years left on his K-9 (Deputy Gukich) before he retires. There is an old K-9 squad that is already set-up. There will be a posting put up to select another handler this fall and that individual will go through the K9 certification school in the spring of 2022.
- The Sheriff's Office will be meeting with Lawson and Potter to discuss the tentative design plans for the Sheriff's Office that will be occurring with the County's building project.
- State inmates are being removed from all county jails throughout the state by September 3. This will remove a large amount of the revenue from the Sheriff's Office budget for both the end of 2021 and for all of 2022. Chief Deputy Parker has been working on revamping the budget for 2022 and has been working on the rest of 2021 purchases to account for this income loss.
- The process for changing over to take-home squads for patrol deputies is still in the works.

Review monthly bills and financial items (June): – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for June 2021 bills in the amount of \$162,782.09. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Report on the budget: Through the end of June the Sheriff's Office is under budget with respect to both expenditures and revenue. By the end of the year the revenue will be down due to the loss of the state inmates.

Review monthly jail and patrol activity reports: Jail inmate phone activity reports were available for review and patrol activity reports were not available.

Discussion and possible action on approving using jail assessment funds for the jail remodel projects:

The Committee received a report on jail assessment fund purchases of not more than \$8,806.69 to supplement funds already budgeted in the Jail Capital Improvement Building account for a project that will remodel the Booking area in the Jail. Chief Deputy Parker stated that the doors on the cabinets were falling off and some doors were not able to be locked causing a security issue. The sink is leaking and the trim and molding is falling off in some places. Jail Captain Gray stated that the cabinets will be able to be reused in the upcoming countywide building project.

David Drayna made a motion to approve the use of Jail Assessment funds to supplement the funds in the Jail Capital Improvement Building account in the amount of not more than \$8,806.69 for the remodel of the Booking area in the jail. Brandon White seconded. Motion carried.

The Committee received a report on jail assessment fund purchases of not more than \$4,469.92 for a project that will replace the flooring in the Central Control area in the Jail. The

flooring is hammered rubber flooring that is also magnetic which is starting to bubble in places and is causing a tripping hazard. The Central Control area is not part of the upcoming countywide building project.

Mary Roberts made a motion to approve the use of Jail Assessment funds to fund the replacement of flooring in Central Control in an amount of not more than \$4,469.92. David Drayna seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion and Possible action on approving jail assessment fund purchases:

The Committee received a report on general jail assessment fund purchases totaling \$4,589.86. Payment was made to US Foods for the dishwasher monthly lease payment in the amount of \$135.95 for May, to Interstate Power Systems for the annual inspection of the emergency generator in the amount of \$1,576.98, and to IWM Corporation for 60% of the cost for the cooling tower & boiler treatment in the amount of \$2,876.93.

The jail assessment balance at the end of June is \$257,196.22.

Discussion and possible action to recommend the lowest qualified bidder for demolition of flood mitigation property:

County Administrator Ben Wehmeier explained the demolition project of flood mitigation properties. There are 23 properties that will be purchased by the county for demolition due to being in the flood plain around Lamp Road and Blackhawk Island. These properties will be brought back to their natural state by removing all concrete/asphalt, basements filled in, wells capped, septic fields removed, etc. Emergency Management Director Donna Haugom received bids from various demolition companies and has decided to go with Robinson Brothers out of Waunakee with the low bid of \$305,500. To qualify for this the properties must be the primary residence and the owners must meet certain income levels. This is within the budget already approved for the grant received for this project.

David Drayna made a motion for the Law Enforcement/Emergency Management Committee to recommend to the County Board to accept the low bid from Robinson Brothers for \$305,500 for purposes of conducting demolition for the flood mitigation project 2021. Mary Roberts seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion on potential items for the next meeting agenda: None.

Adjourn: A motion made by Mary Roberts to adjourn at 10:15 a.m., was seconded by David Drayna. Motion carried.