

LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: August 26, 2022

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Morris at 8:32 a.m.

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

Others present were: Captain Travis Maze, Corporation Counsel J. Blair Ward, County Administrator Ben Wehmeier

Absent: none

Vacant: one

Certification of Compliance with open meetings law: Corporation Counsel J. Blair Ward certified compliance with the open meetings law.

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

Public Comment: None

Approval of the July 22, 2022 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Supervisor Roberts, and seconded by Supervisor White that the July 22, 2022 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Communications:

None

Discussion and possible action on resolving a Step 3 grievance filed by an employee of the Sheriff's Office:

Corporation Counsel J. Blair Ward explained the grievance was filed by a Deputy at the Sheriff's Office regarding her getting called in for an overtime shift when there was someone she felt was less senior on the list who should have been called. The dispute with the Sheriff is over how the collective bargaining agreement should be applied. There is a process of how to file a grievance set forth in the collective bargaining agreement and the first step is to go to the Chief Deputy and try to resolve it with him directly. She did that and didn't get it resolved so step 2 is the Sheriff and the Sheriff decided there was no violation. Step 3 if the Deputy cannot resolve it with the Sheriff the collective bargaining agreement states the grievant shall attempt to negotiate a resolution with the chair of the Law Enforcement Committee. Corporation Counsel J. Blair Ward felt this was worthy of discussion in front of the entire committee not just Supervisor Morris who is the chair even though the agreement does not call for it due to not having a grievance go this far in his entire time working for the county. It is up to the grievant to present her burden of proof on

whether or not the county violated the collective bargaining agreement. The collective bargaining agreement calls for certified and qualified deputies to be able to serve in the jail. The problem is that there may be less senior deputies, but they may not be qualified. A Memorandum of Understanding entered into in 2019 stated that in order to be qualified a deputy must work in the jail once every 3 months, but the MOU lapsed at the end of 2019 when the current contract was entered into. Discussion held on the situation and how the problem could be fixed going forward, but that the usual practice was the K-9 Deputies were always treated differently when it came to being called into the jail for shifts. The Sheriff recognizes this is an issue and is moving forward to fix this in the future. The Sheriff's Office is asking the union to discuss what it believes is certified and qualified and allowing K-9s in the jail in the new contract. The committee as a whole suggests denying the grievance, but to look into a change in practices in the future. Supervisor Morris agrees as the chair of the committee. Corporation Counsel Ward will draft a letter for Supervisor Morris to review and sign to send to the grievant denying the grievance.

Grants – Update of ongoing or new grants:

Speed enforcement grant- Captain Maze reported that the Sheriff's Office has spent \$29,800 out of the \$40,000 in grant funding that was awarded by the State of Wisconsin. Targeted for next year's Speed Enforcement Grant which starts October 1, 2022 from the State is \$40,000. Also, the Office applied for a \$40,000 Occupant Restraint grant. This grant was formerly called the Seatbelt Grant, but the State has expanded that to include car seats.

Report from the Sheriff:

None

Update on Communications Project:

County Administrator Ben Wehmeier spoke on how testing has been taking place on the microwave system. There was one area that needed reinforcements between Watertown and Waterloo. The alternative site was acquired using a We Energies tower just over the border in Dodge County and the structural analysis has been completed and hoping to finalize it soon. The goal is mid to late September to conduct drive by tests on the system by the consultants and vendor to confirm system meets all requirements. Various departments have been testing the system. Five sites need new clocks which will cost about \$50,000 through a change order. All the agencies are ready to go. Todd Lindert and the dispatch center has created a scheme for Fire and EMS so there is a consistency between all the agencies. A meeting was held with the fire chief's association earlier in the week to discuss what their needs were due to some of their challenges. The new system will help with paging issues that have happened in the past. October is the goal to have everything ready to fully go.

Review monthly bills and financial items (June): – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for June 2022 bills in the amount of \$255,945.42. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Report on the budget:

County Administer Ben Wehmeier spoke on how the Sheriff's Office is on track. Some Jail revenue streams set aside within the Jail operation budget specifically for having prisoners that is still not fully operational. Constantly trying to manage the overtime. Staffing levels are still an issue with lots of training going on. Fuel costs are still high, almost double of what was anticipated, but the Sheriff's Office is able to manage. On September 7th the Finance Committee will address advance ordering of patrol vehicles and reallocating funds for next year. There is a 4-6 month wait time for patrol vehicles and the Sheriff does not want to take a chance that these vehicles will not be available when needed. There are also plans to reallocate current year funds to purchase patrol equipment and consider the possibility of allowing Deputies to take home patrol vehicles.

Review monthly jail and patrol activity reports: Jail phone activity report was looked at and there were no patrol activity reports available.

Discussion and Possible action on approving jail assessment fund purchases:

Sheriff's Office requests monies from the jail assessment fund for \$200.00 for the lease on the dishwasher

The jail assessment balance at the end of July is \$305,793.92.

Discussion on potential items for the next meeting agenda:

None

Adjourn: A motion made by Supervisor Roberts to adjourn at 9:21a.m., was seconded by Supervisor White. Motion carried.