

LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: March 24, 2023

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Morris at 8:40 a.m.

Roll Call: Members of the committee present were: Dwayne Morris (Zoom), David Drayna, Brandon White (Zoom), Karl Zarling (Zoom)

Others present were: Chief Deputy Donald Hunter, Sheriff Paul Milbrath, Corporation Counsel J. Blair Ward (Zoom), Medical Examiner Nichol Tesch

Absent: Mary Roberts

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

Approval of the agenda: Supervisor Morris suggested moving agenda item number 4 to the end of the meeting as Supervisor Zarling was having a hard time getting on to Zoom.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the February 24, 2023 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Supervisor Drayna, and seconded by Supervisor White that the February 24, 2023_minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Communications:

- Sheriff Milbrath spoke on how he has received nothing but positive feedback from the community on the Sheriff's Office as a whole. He added that the community always reaches out to praise the staff.
- Supervisor Steve Nass emailed the Sheriff directly last week about Deputy Farley on how he dealt with an incident involving a lost dog. Supervisor Nass was amazed that the deputy took time to figure out where the lost dog belonged and got it safely back to the owner.
- Kevin Kellogg was recognized by his supervisors for his assistance with an inmate who had recently been admitted to the jail and was in emotional distress and not being cooperative. Deputy Kellogg was already clocked out but he stayed to assist and eventually was able to calm down the subject and get him to cooperate with staff.

Grants - Update of ongoing or new grants:

- Chief Deputy Hunter spoke on how there are no new grants, however there will be grants available starting in summer.
- We Energies grant will still be applied for at the end of April or early May.
- The Office did get the State Law Enforcement grant for \$90,000 for training and equipment and hoping for another round of PSAP grant.

Discussion and possible action on sending to the County Board a Recognition of jail staff

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Minutes by: Megan Wegner

lifesaving efforts:

- Chief Deputy Hunter spoke on Deputies Yambor, Mejia, Altreuter, Priebusch, Gilson, Dutcher, Sergeant Heggie, Nurses Brost and Maasz and their swift action on a suicide attempt in the jail on December 16, 2022 that saved the life of an inmate.
- Supervisor Drayna motioned to have their efforts sent to the County Board for recognition and seconded by Supervisor White. Motion carried.
- Corporation Counsel J. Blair Ward spoke on working with Chief Deputy Hunter on creating a resolution for the County Board on this.

Proclamation of Law Enforcement Memorial Day – May 17, 2023:

- National Police week is May 14, 2023 through May 20, 2023. Supervisor White made a motion to send a proclamation to the County Board to recognize this, seconded by Supervisor Drayna. Motion carried.
- Law Enforcement Memorial Day will be May 17, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at the Fair Grounds.

Report from the Sheriff:

- Hiring continues to be an issue and the office is currently 12 deputies short. Captain Olson had testing and will continue to have testing for new hires. There were 8 potential hires who did the PRT and only 3 passed. Currently 4 new potential new hires, all male, that just went through Civil Service. There are 3 retirements the 1st week of April.
- Chief Deputy Hunter spoke on the personnel retirement spreadsheet he created to show the upcoming retirements the Sheriff's Office has.
- Recently lost a deputy who was with the office 23 years to Dane County. Hoping that there are not further losses.

Update on Communications Project:

- Todd Lindert spoke on how the project is still continuing forward and going well. GenCom will be coming to retune the radios soon to help with some of the issues that are occurring. There is still talk of booster systems that may be needed in some places but nothing set up yet.

Review monthly bills and financial items (December(final), January, & February): – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for December 2022 bills in the amount of \$233,407.68, January 2023 bills in the amount of \$459,050.86, and February 2023 bills in the amount of \$577,410.82. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Report on the budget:

- The Sheriff spoke on how the office came in at \$10,115 under budget.
- The take home squad program is still going forward. Currently have 8 new squads waiting on equipment.
- Currently have 21 squads total and will need 32 to be fully staffed.

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

Introduction of Policy Oversight Department Heads (Medical Examiner):

- Medical Examiner Nichol Tesch spoke on her department and its role in investigating deaths within Jefferson County. The Medical Examiner's office gets about 700 cases a year with about 120 scene calls. The end of last year and early this year have had an increase in suicides.
- The department consists of one fulltime medical examiner, one 32-hour deputy medical examiner, and some part-time deputy medical examiners. Currently looking to hire one or two part time deputy medical examiners.

Discussion and Possible action on approving jail assessment fund purchases:

Sheriff's Office requests monies from the jail assessment fund for \$575.02 for the dish washer lease.

The jail assessment balance at the end of February is \$222,440.21.

Discussion on potential items for the next meeting agenda:

- Agenda Item for the May meeting - District Attorney Monica Hall to present to the board on her office operations.

Adjourn: A motion made by Supervisor Drayna to adjourn at 9:43 a.m., was seconded by Supervisor White. Motion carried.