

LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: May 26, 2023

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Morris at 8:38 a.m.

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

Others present were: Chief Deputy Donald Hunter, Sheriff Paul Milbrath, Corporation Counsel J. Blair Ward, County Administrator Ben Wehmeier

Absent: David Drayna

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: Anita Martin spoke on Avian Flu and asked if there can be any local actions or ordinances to enact in case of an outbreak. She also spoke about an attorney from Madison who would come and speak on the subject who has done extensive research.

Approval of the April 28, 2023 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Supervisor Zarling, and seconded by Supervisor White that the April 28 2023 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Introduction of Policy Oversight Department Heads (District Attorney):

Supervisor Morris stated District Attorney Monica Hall addressed the committee on this item during public comment at the last meeting.

Communications:

- Sheriff Milbrath spoke on how the Sheriff's Office has had lots of positive interactions with the public.
- Supervisor Nass reached out to thank Deputy Farley for taking the time to figure out where a loose dog belonged and got him home safely which happened to be his.
- District Attorney's Office recognized Deputy Stapleton and Deputy Ritzman for there outstanding work in testifying at jury trials.
- Deputy Olszewski was recognized for an outstanding job dealing with a suicidal subject.
- City of Whitewater Police Department recognized Sergeant Cherti for all his help with their Spring Splash.
- Aztalan Inn recognized Deputy Gukich and Deputy Dandoy for their help in putting out a fire
- Jefferson County Emergency Communications and Cambridge Fire and Rescue were recognized for their help with a fire on highway 12.

Grants - Update of ongoing or new grants:

- Chief Hunter informed the committee that the Sheriff's Office received a PSAP Grant which consisted of \$400,000 of grant funds and a required county contribution of an additional \$100,000. He also spoke on how the Sheriff's Office will be applying for this again this year.
- The Sheriff's Office is waiting for approval on the Enbridge Grant and the We Energies Grant.
- The We Energies Grant will be used for outdoor lighting equipment.

Report from the Sheriff:

- Sheriff Milbrath spoke on how the building construction project is still on track.
- Chief Hunter spoke on how the Sheriff's Office is fully staffed in the Dispatch center and only looking for a part-time position.
- Hiring is still continuing to be an issue. Last week all of the open sergeant positions were filled. However, there are 33 deputies assigned to the jail and there are currently 10 in various stages of training. Some are scheduled to be done with training end of July or early August. The Patrol Division is short 10 deputies and hopefully mid-June there will be another deputy brought to patrol.
- Chief Hunter also spoke on how the Sheriff's Office had a detective retire in May and another detective who resigned due to not being able to retire due to age.
- The only state inmates the jail currently has are placed in Probation and Parole. The state has not yet brought back its inmates to any county jails.
- Chief Hunter spoke on the possibility of getting the U.S. Marshals to use the Jefferson County jail for their inmates. He and Captain Gray met with them last week to go over what it would look like for the jail. Currently the talks include for the jail to house 15 to 20 Federal inmates.

Update on Communications Project:

- Sheriff Milbrath spoke on how the communications project is coming to the end. There are a few glitches such as squad radios can be spotty at times, but otherwise working great.
- Another test will be done around the middle to end of July.

Review monthly bills and financial items (March, April): – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for March 2023 bills in the amount of \$446,592.23 and April 2023 bills in the amount of \$261,947.43. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Report on the budget:

- Supervisor Morris asked about the shortage of ammunition. Sheriff Milbrath stated that the department was able to purchase all the ammunition they needed.
- Chief Hunter mentioned that the only area currently not within its budget is the storage facility used by the Drug Task Force. He spoke on how the Drug Task Force is using grants to fund the program and once the grants start coming in the budget should balance.
- The Sheriff's Office Budget is currently within budget.

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

Discussion and Possible action on approving jail assessment fund purchases:

- Bills were presented for Jail instruction (January & February) for \$3600, Jail instruction (March & April) for \$3600, dish washer lease (3/19-4/18) for \$223.58, and dish washer lease (4/19-5/18) for \$223.58 for a grand total of \$7,647.16.

The jail assessment balance at the end of April is \$234,913.86.

Discussion on potential items for the next meeting agenda:

- How the transition looks from the old dispatch center to the new one
- Update on the jail housing inmates from the State and U.S. Marshals
- Update on retirements and training

Adjourn: A motion made by Supervisor Zarling to adjourn at 9:42 a.m., was seconded by Supervisor White. Motion carried.