

LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: June 23, 2023

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Morris at 8:37 a.m.

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

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 except for the added note that the date stated June 26th and not June 23rd.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the May 26, 2023 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Supervisor Zarling, and seconded by Supervisor Roberts that the May 26, 2023 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Communications:

- Chief Hunter spoke on three communications the Sheriff's Office has received from the public recently. One from Eli Misener thanking the Sheriff's Office for all the times they came out to his house and dealt with him while he was battling addiction. George and Nadine Longohr donated to the Sheriff's Office K-9 unit and also sent a letter thanking the deputies for the work they do. Lastly the Kiwanis Club of Jefferson sent a thank you to Deputies Heine and Petig for their participation in their take a kid fishing program.

Grants - Update of ongoing or new grants:

- Sheriff Milbrath informed the committee that besides the traffic grant the Sheriff's Office is in a waiting pattern on the rest of the grants.
- The Sheriff's Office should be hopefully hearing from We Energies within the next month or two on the grant for outdoor lighting.

Report from the Sheriff:

- Sheriff Milbrath spoke on how the community is happy and giving a lot of positive feedback on the Sheriff's Office and utilizing the traffic safety grant. There is still a lot of poor driving habits continuing and, in some areas, deputies are catching cars driving in excess of 100 mph.
- A lot of local residents are calling to set up extra patrols on areas they are seeing speeding.
- Fatalities are still around the number they were last year and Sheriff Milbrath spoke on how the Sheriff's Office would like to keep that under ten again for the entire year.
- The entire Sheriff's Office is still short about 15 sworn staff. In the month of May there will be 133 open shifts in the jail, 78 open shifts in patrol, and 13 traffic grant shifts that could not be filled.
- Sheriff informed the committee that he is working with Human Resources to change the rule that Captains and the Chief Deputy are not allowed to fill these open shifts. Sheriff mentioned that it would be a bonus type situation for the Captains and Chief Deputy when they fill these open shifts.
- Sheriff also mentioned that he has been working with Human Resources for the ability of recently retired deputies to be able to come back and fill these open shifts.
- Chief Hunter informed the committee that there were two deputies Jon Olszewski and Adam Altreuter promoted to fill the vacant jail sergeants' positions. Deputy Olszewski is currently in the training process and hoping to get Deputy Altreuter in training by the end of July.
- Currently there is one pending resignation of a jail deputy just waiting on an official date. Deputy Jared Brandenburg was recently promoted to patrol sergeant and there is no official date when he will take that role. Deputy Katie Ritzman will be transferring to the detective division on July 17. Recently Deputy Jarred Gonzalez was promoted to detective however it will be around the end of the year before he can fill that role. There is still a detective opening that had testing this week.

Update on Communications Project:

- Sheriff Milbrath advised the committee that the project is doing really well and just reviewing some issues, but the tower sites are working as they should.
- A test will take place at the end of July or early August.
- Sheriff Milbrath informed the committee that there is an antenna that needs replacing at the Palmyra site due to ice damage. He also mentions that at the main tower site in Jefferson the antenna needs a leg replacement due to a bend in it.

Update on State and Marshall Inmates

- Sheriff Milbrath advised the committee that the State will not be utilizing the County jail for State inmates. The State has made other arrangements.
- Sheriff Milbrath spoke on how a contract with the U.S. Marshalls is still in the works. There is no projected date to receive inmates and the Sheriff's Office is waiting to be contacted.
- Chief Hunter informed the committee that the Sheriff's Office is looking to increase part time deputies for transport when the U.S. Marshal contract is signed.

Update on deputy training progression

- Chief Hunter spoke on how in the jail there are eight deputies in various stages of training. The patrol division currently has one deputy in the FTO program and the Sheriff expects to have one more July 3rd.
- Sheriff Milbrath informed the committee on how the jail is working on training the newer deputies on certain tasks so they can be counted as working a shift in the jail. This will help with covering some of the overtime shifts.

Review monthly bills and financial items (May): – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for May 2023 bills in the amount of \$191,174.95. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Report on the budget:

- Chief Hunter informed the committee that the Sheriff's Office is operating at or below the target 41.5%. The overall budget is in good shape and the only thing that is off is the storage facility that the drug task force uses, but the Sheriff expects this to reach its target budget percentage.

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 (May & June) for \$3600, dish washer lease (06/19-06/18) for \$223.58, and tower chemicals for \$2860.61 for a grand total of \$6684.19.

The jail assessment balance at the end of May is \$237,754.11.

Discussion on potential items for the next meeting agenda:

None

Adjourn: A motion made by Supervisor Zarling to adjourn at 9:27 a.m., was seconded by Supervisor Roberts. Motion carried.