

LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: August 25, 2023

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

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

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

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 approved as presented.

Public Comment: None

Approval of the June 23, 2023 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Supervisor Zarling, and seconded by Supervisor Drayna that the June 23, 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 was from an anonymous person reference an event in Watertown, however the Sheriff's Office did not send any personnel to help with that event. Another communication was sent from the Jefferson High school thanking the Sheriff's Office for help during a mock accident around prom in May. The last letter was from Paul and Constance Aldige to Detective Sergeant Dan Horvatin and Secretary Mindi Rue who helped change their tire. They also donated to the Drug Task Force.

Grants - Update of ongoing or new grants:

- Chief Hunter spoke on finishing up the \$40,000 speed grant in which the Sheriff's Office partnered with the City of Watertown and Jefferson Police Departments.
- The Sheriff's Office is targeted for an \$80,000 speed grant from the State in 2024. The hope is to partner with the City of Watertown, Village of Johnson Creek, Fort Atkinson, and Jefferson Police Department on that grant.
- Chief Hunter noted that the Sheriff's Office has not heard back on the 2024 Seatbelt grant but anticipate receiving it.
- The Sheriff's Office did receive the We Energies grant for scene lighting.

Report from the Sheriff:

- Chief Hunter spoke on how the 2024 budget is closed on the department level so it is now at the county for approval.
- Chief Hunter showed the committee a translation device that Sheriff Milbrath discovered at the National Sheriff's conference. It is Wi-Fi and cellular capable with 82 different languages programmed in it. Sheriff Milbrath would like to purchase more of these and work with other departments in the County as well as other police departments who are in need to get a better discount by purchasing larger quantities. They start at \$279 which includes 2 years of cellular support however if you order 10 then the price drops to \$259.
- Promotion of Deputy Breitenfelt to detective, but unsure of when he will transition to the position as Deputy Gonzalez is ahead of him to transition to detective and that will not be until around the first of the year. Detective McIntyre was assigned to the Drug Task force.
- Currently the Sheriff's Office is 14 sworn personnel short. 20 applications have been received but only 5 of them have signed up to take the test and none of them are female. Still struggling to get people signed up and go through the hiring process. Still looking at females who recently retired or left for other lines of work and are still certified to come back to work the jail part-time. The jail has 32 people currently on the roster and that is the number they are supposed to have however 7 deputies are in various stages of training. Patrol is currently at 23 people and they need to be at 32 with 1 deputy in training.
- Chief Hunter told the committee that for July there were 74 overtime shifts in the jail and in August there will be 104 overtime shifts. Patrol had 86 overtime shifts in July and 50 for August.
- Patrol Deputy Riesen is retiring in October and one Jail deputy has a conditional job offer with another police department.
- Chief Hunter showed the committee pictures of the new dispatch center and said October 3 is the move date.

Update on Communications Project:

- Chief Hunter told the committee that the southeast area of the County is the only area of concern with lack of reception.
- The project is moving along with some adjustments to antennas throughout the County.
- Drive testing started this week and will finish this weekend and the report should be available next Wednesday on any issues that were found and signal strength.
- County Administrator Wehmeier told the committee that there have been weekly meetings and that the county will not accept or sign off on anything for this project until the problems get fixed.

Review monthly bills and financial items (June & July): – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for June 2023 bills in the amount of \$172,448.72 and July 2023 bills in the amount of \$187,284.75. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

Report on the budget:

- Chief Hunter told the committee that the DTF storage shed budget has stabilized as grants have come in.
- County Administrator Wehmeier told the committee that 58% is where the county would like to see budgets and both the revenues and expenditures of the Sheriff's Office are in good standing.

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 (July & Aug) for \$3600, dish washer lease (06/19-7/18) for \$223.58, and dish washer lease (7/19-8/18) for \$223.58 for a grand total of \$4,047.16.

The jail assessment balance at the end of July is \$251,594.33.

Discussion on potential items for the next meeting agenda:

None

Adjourn: A motion made by Supervisor Zarling to adjourn at 9:26 a.m., was seconded by Supervisor White. Motion carried.