

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE:** May 24, 2024

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by County Administrator Ben Wehmeier at 8:30 a.m.

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

Others present were: Chief Deputy Donald Hunter, Sheriff Paul Milbrath, Corporation Counsel Yelena Zarwell, County Administrator Ben Wehmeier

Absent: Dwayne Morris

**Certification of Compliance with open meetings law:** County Administrator Ben Wehmeier certified compliance with the open meetings law.

### **Election of Officers**

- Administrator Wehmeier asked for nominations for committee chair. Supervisor Drayna made a motion to nominate Dwayne Morris and seconded by Supervisor Roberts. Administrator Wehmeier mentioned that he spoke to Supervisor Morris before this meeting and he was will to accept if he was nominated. Motioned carried.
- Administrator Wehmeier asked for nominations for committee vice-chair. Supervisor Drayna made a motion to nominate himself and seconded by Supervisory Roberts. Motion carried.

### **Discussion and possible action on future meeting schedule**

- Supervisor Drayna asked the committee members if they were ok with keeping the meeting schedule as the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. All members were in agreeance to keep the meeting schedule the same.

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of the March 22, 2024 meeting minutes:** A motion was made by Supervisor Roberts, and seconded by Supervisor Drayna that the March 22, 2024 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

### **Communications:**

- Chief Deputy Hunter mentioned to the committee that the only communication was a letter of commendation from the Sheriff for the individuals involved in the life saving event in the jail.

### **Grants – Update of ongoing or new grants:**

- Sheriff Milbrath informed the committee that the Sheriff's Office did not qualify for the Enbridge grant this year. However, he is trying to resubmit under Emergency Management to see if they would qualify.

- Sheriff spoke on applying for a federal government grant that was sent out by Senator Baldwin's office. The Sheriff's Office was accepted for the grant but just waiting to see when the Sheriff's Office will get it.
- The Sheriff informed the committee that the Sheriff's office cannot apply for the Alliant Energy grant this year as they received it last year.
- Currently the Sheriff is looking into getting a grant to cover Pocket Talks county wide as well as a grant for wearable thermal cameras for deputies.
- Chief Hunter informed the committee that currently the Sheriff's Office is working on the speed grant for 2024.

### **Report from the Sheriff:**

- Sheriff spoke on Palmyra Police department's short staffing in which the Sheriff's Office has had to provide most of the coverage of that area.
- The MOU for lateral patrol transfers was voted down by the union. However, the FAIR Overtime MOU is still good.
- Staffing continues to be a problem and currently the Sheriff's Office is 13 Deputies short. However, there are 10 candidates for command staff interviews and a new hire started this week. There were a couple potential candidates but they took job elsewhere.
- Sergeant Cherti retired in April and there were several resignations. Sergeant Behm. Deputies Villajuan, Broughton, and Brodhagen all signed from their positions.
- Promotions that have occurred within the department are Deputies Vandezande, Agnew, and Stapleton to Patrol Sergeant, Deputy Koch to jail sergeant, and Sergeant Kanters to administrative Captain.
- Sheriff spoke on how there is an increase in people applying and a better quality of people applying as well as many females. Which has been drastically different from the last year. If the female hiring situation is not resolves soon the department is looking at options of housing females elsewhere.
- As of right now the Sheriff's Office is scheduled for Sept 9-27 to move back into the building.
- Sheriff stated that he is retiring August 7 of this year.
- Chief Hunter spoke on how testing for new deputies has changed and allows the department to test faster and in smaller groups.
- Recently has 2 dispatchers leave for other departments and waiting on 1 dispatcher to be able to take the open records position. There was 12 people who took the recent dispatcher test and 9 passed and interviews were this last Tuesday. Hoping to be able to hire and try 3 new dispatchers soon.
- Chief informed the committee that in the Jail during April there were 22 deputies with 4 in training and 139 overtime shifts. In May there were 24 deputies in the jail with 3 in training and 123 overtime shifts. In April patrol had 19 deputies with 1 in training and 108 overtime shifts while in May there are 19 deputies with 2 in training and 101 overtime shifts.
- Staffing continues to be an issue and seems like it will be for quite a while.

### **Update on Communications Project:**

- Sheriff spoke on working with First Net in order to use deputy's smart phones as radios in areas where the signals cannot get through such as school and hospitals. This will be a huge cost savings compared to putting an amplifier in the buildings.

- Both Chief and Sheriff spoke on the ongoing site prep work being done at the UW Whitewater tower.
- Sheriff mentioned to the committee that Kenwood and Communication Director Todd Lindert are working together on possible programming errors on radios that are causing missed communications.
- Administrator Wehmeier spoke on how the company are also working on getting the fiber backbone to the sites.

**Proclamation for Life saving event in the jail, to be forwarded to full County Board**

- Chief Hunter explained the events surrounding the life saving event in the jail and how he is looking for the committee to make a motion to send the event to county board for recognition of the individuals involved.
- Motion made by Supervisor Drayna and seconded by Supervisor Zarling to send the Life Saving Event to the full county board. Motion carried.

**Discussion and possible action on Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff's Association Grievance Step 3**

- Chief Hunter informed the committee of the situation causing the grievance that was filed and what Sheriff Milbrath and his stance is on the grievance.
- Administrator Wehmeier spoke to committee that there need to be a motion that the grievance is not reconcilable. Supervisor Drayna made a motion and seconded by Supervisor Roberts that the grievance is non-reconcilable.

**Review monthly bills and financial items (February, March, April):** – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for February 2024 bills in the amount of \$209,850.16, March 2024 bills in the amount of \$185,304.02, and April 2024 bills in the amount of \$233,206.85. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

**Report on the budget:**

- Chief Hunter spoke to the committee on how the Sheriff's Office budget is right on track and as of April the department is ahead of where it needs to be.

**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 dish washer lease (02/01/24-03/18/24) for \$223.58, dish washer lease (03/19/24-04/18/24) for \$223.58, Jail inmate instruction for March and April for \$3,600.00 for a grand total of \$4,047.16

The jail assessment balance at the end of April is \$231, 702.52.

**Discussion on potential items for the next meeting agenda:**

Update on Evidence Storage at the Sheriff's Office  
Medical Examiner introduction

**Adjourn:** A motion made by Supervisor Drayna to adjourn at 9:35 a.m., was seconded by Supervisor Roberts. Motion carried.