

## COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

**COMMITTEE:** LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** February 22, 2008

Meeting called to order by Paul Babcock at 8:30 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Paul Babcock, Rick Kuhlman, Carol Knox and James Maurer.

Others present were: Sheriff Milbrath, Chief Deputy Stapleton, Captain Scott and Captain Brown.

Absent: Randy Mitchell

**Compliance with open meetings law:** Chief Deputy Stapleton assured compliance with open meetings law.

**Approve agenda:** Committee members approved the agenda as amended.

**Approval of minutes:** A motion was made by Rick Kuhlman, and seconded by Jim Maurer that the December 28, 2007 minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**Report from the Sheriff:** Sheriff Milbrath said that the annual report was compiled and is now in the county's copy center to be copied and bound. It will be given in front of the County Board in April.

The Sheriff said that he really appreciated the committee members' efforts in getting the new communications center up and running. He added that during the last big snowstorm, all four of the consoles were being manned and dispatchers were able to handle all the calls that flooded in. The two dispatchers that were called in had to be picked up because of the driving conditions but the extra personnel were really helpful during that busy time. Rick Kuhlman mentioned that he would like to see some sort of recognition for the dispatchers for their efforts during that snowstorm. Jim Maurer noted that because of his volunteer firefighter status, he would like to add that the dispatchers have done a remarkable job. He wanted the Sheriff to pass on his gratitude (on behalf of himself and the Lake Mills Fire Dept.). The sheriff also added that the deputies have been doing an excellent job as well. We've been getting a lot of letters from families that have had positive contacts with deputies. Rick Kuhlman suggested that the County Board pass a resolution regarding the dispatchers' efforts as they will be doing for the Highway Department. Jim Maurer added that the deputies should be included as well. Rick Kuhlman then made a motion to put together a County Board resolution commending the Sheriff's Office dispatchers and deputies for their efforts. Jim Maurer seconded. Motion carried.

The last item the Sheriff reported was that the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office jail and the U.W. Whitewater graduate program have been working on a program regarding mental health/life issue counseling. Some of the students in the U.W. Whitewater counseling program will be doing their practicum/internship in the jail setting. They will be putting in time counseling inmates as part of their program. The inmates will benefit from the additional counseling. It will also help keep our costs down and the students will receive practical experience and credit for the hours they spend. It is a great collaboration for both the Sheriff's Office and U.W. Whitewater students.

**Discussion and recommendation regarding rental/purchase of an instrument for crime scene and traffic measurements:** Chief Deputy Stapleton explained that the Sheriff's Office has a group of deputies that comprise our MAIT (Major Accident Investigation Team) program. The deputies have been trained to reconstruct major accidents. The MAIT investigations are often used in trials and need to be as accurate as possible. Since technology is changing quickly, the method our MAIT team uses is rapidly being outdated. Most of the surrounding counties have what is called a Total Station. It is a series of survey equipment that gives a complete re-creation of the accident scene. It uses special software that creates a 3-D picture or graph with the measurements that the equipment takes at the scene. At this time, the deputies use hand drawn sketches or have been borrowing equipment especially from Dodge County, and sometimes having State Patrol come in with their equipment. Court proceedings have become reliant on much more accurate technology that has a smaller percentage of error. The Sheriff's Office recently had a demonstration of the Total System. Three bids were received for the equipment with the smallest bid amount coming in at just under \$20,000.00. Chief Deputy Stapleton said that the capital account will have a surplus in it because the Sheriff's Office secured 2008 squad vehicles at the 2007 price. There should be approximately \$18,000.00 left in the account at the end of the year and they would like to take \$10,000.00 of that for partial payment of the system. He added that they asked the company with the low bid whether they would be willing to give us the system for two payments, one right away for half and the other half at the beginning of next year. They were willing to do that. Discussion about the high and low bids (\$29,000.00 versus \$20,000.00) and the location of the companies bidding ensued. Jim Maurer asked what else, if anything, (training) the \$20,000.00 bid included. The company with the low bid has a sub division in Milwaukee and their bid does include training, as well as software, upgrades and calibrations. The company also carries replacement parts if needed and the equipment would not have to be shipped for calibration or repair, possibly avoiding any accidents through shipping. Paul Babcock asked about the mobility of the system. Chief Deputy Stapleton said the system is collapsible and can be transported in any squad car. He also asked about a timeline to get the equipment. Since the company is near by and after the finance committee approves (amending budget, not requesting additional funds), the equipment could be acquired (as early as March). Carol Knox asked if the system could be used in other crime scenes and Chief Deputy Stapleton answered yes, it can be used for those applications as well and will be a benefit for the entire county.

Rick Kuhlman made a motion to send a recommendation to the Finance Committee for the purchase of the crime scene/traffic measurement system. Carol Knox seconded. Motion carried.

**Discussion held on monthly bills.** The committee approved the monthly recap report for December and January bills in the amount of \$298,473.67 and \$327,497.00, respectively. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members. Discussion about the cellular 9-1-1 grant funding came up. The state has collected more money from the assessment on user's cell phones (used to fund the grants) than they have paid out so they will be sending an extra \$47,000.00 to Jefferson County. The extra funds the county will receive have created an issue with accounting but that has been discussed and resolved.

**Monthly Jail/Activity reports:** Jail and activity reports were reviewed. Carol Knox had a question regarding PTS. Chief Deputy Stapleton and Captain Scott explained that PTS stands for Prisoner Transport System and it is a company that will pick up felony extraditions for us. They are much cheaper than trying to pick these subjects up ourselves. Sometimes the Sheriff's Office

will gain some revenue from them when they are on long trips and need to house some inmates overnight. They are billed the same as any other county agency that houses inmates here when that happens. Additional discussion about recovering the costs of transporting these inmates as well as costs that are incurred by any inmate housed in the jail came up. The TRIP (Tax Refund Intercept Program) was discussed and the fact that Jefferson County does recoup a decent amount of costs incurred by inmates (daily fee, medical, etc.).

**Jail assessment fund items**: None. Rick Kuhlman asked whether the jail flooring was completed. Chief Deputy Stapleton and Captain Brown said the flooring is done and is very nice.

Jim Maurer asked about the proposal for one secure entrance to the courthouse. The Sheriff is in total agreement with securing the courthouse and making it an efficient operation and did have some other ideas regarding accomplishing that. The issue of parking came up as well, which is a major factor and has come up frequently. Rick Kuhlman talked a little about the last Infrastructure meeting where this issue was also discussed. He asked the Sheriff to attend the next Infrastructure meeting (March 19).

The next Law Enforcement Committee meeting will be on Friday, March 28.

A motion made by Rick Kuhlman to adjourn at 9:22 a.m., was seconded by Carol Knox. Motion carried.

Motions Carried:   4   Lost:   0  .

Signed \_\_\_\_\_