

COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: September 26, 2008

Meeting called to order by Paul Babcock at 8:30 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Paul Babcock, Pam Rogers, George Jaeckel, Glen Borland

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

Absent: Rick Kuhlman

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

Approve agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Pam Rogers, and seconded by George Jaeckel that the August 22, 2008 meeting minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Review of board rules as they pertain to the Law Enforcement Committee: Pam Rogers and Chief Deputy Stapleton said that each committee needs to review the board rules pertaining to their committee after each election to make sure they comply with the rules. Some committees have some very specific rules and need to review those after each election. The Law Enforcement Committee does not have many rules in place and it seems they are in compliance. This item will be taken off the agenda.

Discuss proposed resolution received by Administration and Rules Committee: The committee members read the letter of a proposed resolution that was submitted to the Administration and Rules Committee by Mr. Gene German of Excelsior, MN. Chief Deputy Stapleton reviewed some of the background concerning the letter and said that these individuals want to openly carry firearms on their sides while conducting public business. He said that the legislature should be the driving force in making any decisions on this issue. Dave Wambach has determined that this can be construed as a disorderly act and that these individuals can be arrested on the premise that it could become a disorderly act or public disturbance. Dave also made it quite clear that he will review and prosecute these disorderly conduct charges. The Chief went on to say that the group wants a blanket resolution and cautions the committee members that this blanket resolution would conflict with constitutional duties to enforce laws. The law does not prohibit landowners from carrying weapons on their property. The Sheriff added that this group is concerned that the government wants to interfere with their rights to bear firearms and will eventually take all weapons away. He feels that it is not the business of this committee or the County Board to affect or create legislation. After some additional brief discussion concerning a motion for this proposed resolution the committee members decided on the following:

Pam Rogers made a motion that the Law Enforcement Committee has reviewed and considered the resolution concerning the right to bear arms in public and the committee members do not support the proposed resolution. Glen Borland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Review of Coroner's fees and Deputy Coroner reimbursement: Coroner Pat Theder was not present at the meeting, nor was he in his office at the time of the meeting. Pam Rogers said she could expound a little on this item. The coroner is looking at increasing cremation fees. It will increase his revenue line and put him more in line with neighboring counties. This item was tabled and will appear again on the next Law Enforcement Committee agenda unless other arrangements are made by the coroner.

Report from the Sheriff: Sheriff Milbrath said that the budget is the big news and it has been a rough ride. He thanked Pam Rogers for her service on the committee and indicated that he knew they had to make some tough decisions concerning the budget. The Sheriff went on to say that the Sheriff's Office budget was cut by four deputy positions. This will impact the Support Services Division. Luckily the cut will not mean that any current deputies will lose their positions; however, it does mean that after the Chief Deputy retires in December and Detective Sergeant Larry Lee retires in early January, the deputy positions those ultimately create will not be filled. At this time there also are two vacancies in Support Services that will not be filled. A conditional offer was recently made to one of the deputy candidates on the eligibility list, but now he will be offered part-time work due to the cutbacks and when a full-time position is available he will be moved to that position if he still wants it.

Sheriff Milbrath said he would be hearing shortly about a grant that he applied for from Enbridge for \$750.00 toward the purchase of an ATV. He also said he would be applying for a grant through Wal-Mart (Wal-Mart Community Service grant) in the amount of \$1,500.00 and hoped to use those funds if received toward the ATV as well.

The recent jail inspection went very well. The jail kitchen is also now a licensed restaurant in the State of Wisconsin after going through certification with the Health Department.

The Sheriff said they are working on getting the Family Assistance Centers cleaned out and closed. They still have some sandbag removal left to do as well. Emergency Management Director Donna Haugom has put in the grant for Flood Mitigation funds. The Chief said he also submitted to FEMA a recovery amount of about \$17,000.00 for deputy wages and 911 dispatch services during the flooding. He also said that the budget, obviously, is the hot topic right now. Most of the Sheriff's Office budget is intact with the exception of the positions not being funded. He said he appreciated the work the Finance Committee did with the difficult situation.

Pam Rogers asked about the security in the courthouse and how that would be impacted by the cuts and the new entrance that will be tabled. Chief Deputy Stapleton said that there will be a presence in the courthouse but it mostly will be walk throughs and the bailiffs will still be assigned to the courts. Deputies will respond to silent alarms which have been installed in all the offices. During high profile trials, there will be more deputy presence as well. Ultimately, the topic of courthouse security will come up again when the funding is available. The equipment will most likely stay in the lobby and be used for those high profile trials. There obviously won't be as much deputy presence in the courthouse as there has been the past year. Some brief discussion came up about some of the items that have been removed from the public going through detection and other issues that have happened.

Paul Babcock asked about the situation with the nurses in the jail. The Chief said that with the substantial increase in the nurse's wages, they have made a few changes regarding using RNs and LPNs. There will be some investigation into alternative solutions for nursing coverage. It is

something they now have to look at since the wages may not make them competitive any longer.

Paul Babcock also wondered if the Northwestern audit was still in progress. The Chief said yes, the individuals from Northwestern have segregated into their specialties and are working with him and the respective captains. A lot of information has been sent to them via, e-mail, mail and fax already. In the near future, they will have more of a presence in the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff also brought up that the social worker in the jail has been cut hours. She has gone from 20 hours per week down to 10. The Sheriff said her work in the jail has definitely made an impact on the Mendota transports which are very expensive stays. Those have been cut down significantly. Jails typically are dumping grounds for individuals with mental health issues. The Sheriff added that this won't impact the program they have with U.W. Whitewater, but he said he is also looking to find some additional funding to bring back some or all of the social worker's lost hours.

Discussion held on monthly bills. – The committee approved the monthly recap report for August bills in the amount of \$125,788.05. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members. While reviewing reports, Paul Babcock mentioned that the Wisconsin Counties Association has two or three proposed resolutions regarding law enforcement. One is probably the sun setting of the 911 cell phone surcharge and another would be the state interoperability system.

Pam Rogers asked Chief Deputy Stapleton when he would be retiring and he answered that Thursday, December 11, 2008 would be his last day.

Monthly Jail/Activity reports: Jail and activity reports were reviewed.

Jail assessment fund items: There were two jail assessment requests. Chief Deputy Stapleton explained the jail assessment fund and how it works to the new committee members. After the jail inspection it was noted that there was some missing shower tile grout in some areas that needs to be replaced. Also repairs are needed to some of the tinting in the windows in the law library and conference rooms.

A motion made by Pam Rogers to adjourn at 9:30 a.m., was seconded by George Jaeckel. Motion carried.

Motions Carried: 3 Lost: 0 .

Signed _____