

## COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**DATE:** December 19, 2014

Meeting called to order by Dwayne Morris at 8:34 a.m. Members of the committee present were: Dwayne Morris, Amy Rinard, Al Counsell, Mike Wineke, Kirk Lund  
Others present were: Sheriff Milbrath, Chief Deputy Parker, County Administrator Wehmeier, Corp Counsel Blair Ward

Absent: None

### **Compliance with open meetings law:**

#### **Approve agenda:**

**Approval of minutes:** A motion was made by Amy Rinard, and seconded by Al Counsell that the November 21, 2014 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried (All ayes).

**Public Comment:** None

**Communications:** Sheriff Milbrath received communication from a citizen praising the work of two deputies, Betanski and Thayer, regarding a complaint regarding the citizen's adult son who has serious issues. The son was violent and belligerent and the deputies got the situation under control, found a place for the son to stay and the help he needed. This citizen was very pleased about how the situation was handled.

#### **Discuss law enforcement contact with non U.S. citizens:**

- A contact was made with ICE (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agency) regarding reasons for taking non U.S. citizens into custody (undocumented immigrants).
- The agent indicated that it is somewhat of a fluid process, meaning it can change from week to week but some of the things they bring someone into custody for are:
  - If the individual has been in custody previously for other incidences.
  - Lengthy criminal history.
  - If the individual has three lesser misdemeanors or one significant misdemeanor, or a felony OWI charge.
- Individuals who are not legal U.S. citizens are handled exactly like everyone else. Contact may be made with ICE to see if there have been prior contacts with the subject which would require a hold on them.
- If ICE wants to place a hold, Dodge County or Kenosha County would be contacted as they are the agencies in our area that have agreements with ICE, and custody would be transferred.
- ICE would then decide what they will do with this individual. If deportation is indicated, the subject will complete their prison/jail sentence first and then deported.
- Undocumented immigrants follow the same court procedures as anyone else.
- The Sheriff's Office will never make contact with an individual just because he or she may look like an undocumented immigrant.

#### **Practice and policy regarding buying / acquiring surplus military items:**

Chief Deputy Parker gave an informative presentation about the surplus program

- The Defensive Reutilization and Marketing Office, managed by the Defense Logistics Agency, provides disposition/disposal services of excess property received from the military.
- Since 1997 the program has given Wisconsin law enforcement agencies \$25.6 million worth of surplus military equipment.
- The items have at one time been used by the military, have reached its longevity or are no longer used, and will be made available to outside resources such as the 1033 Program which establishes a relationship between the U.S. Government and law enforcement services.
- A partial list of procurements by the Sheriff's Office from the 1033 Program was shown. Chief Deputy Parker went through many of the items on the list and showed how the database worked to look up what agencies have received through the program.
- The Sheriff's Office pays an annual fee of \$500 to be part of the program. This allows the Sheriff's Office to visit the Waunakee facility and look through the items they have for possible purchase. Some of the smaller items have no cost.
- Over time most of the items will fall off the list and can be disposed of or sold if desired; however, the guns are tracked and agencies are required to assure they have all of the acquired guns in their possession every year.
- A video was shown about the MRAP in Dane County explained the program and what the vehicle will be or has been used for.
- There have been 24 MRAPs distributed in Wisconsin. Ours has been painted now and is a flat black. Decals and striping needs to still be put on.
- While a photo of the MRAP when it was received was up, County Administrator Wehmeier explained what all the fixtures that had been on the top of the MRAP were for that had since been removed. In addition, the MRAP received had been used as a communications center so only had a few chairs in the troop compartment with an area that had computer wires which had also been removed.
- All of the vehicles need to have the turret removed and ours did not have one when received.
- The Sheriff's Office vehicle will be "named" ERV – Emergency Rescue Vehicle.
- Active deployment incidences (when the MRAP will be used):
  - An active critical incident within Jefferson County involving the use of firearms or the potential use of firearms where the use of the emergency rescue vehicle will aid in stabilizing the situation.
  - An active or preplanned incident involving Jefferson County Sheriff's Office SWAT.
  - A mutual aid request from another jurisdiction for an active critical situation, or a mutual aid request for a preplanned event.
  - Community events that request the use of the MRAP (will be under discussion).
- The Sheriff's Office did not put out any money to purchase the MRAP, the only cost was for shipping it here and having it painted which was done at a lower cost due to volunteer time used to paint it.
- Sheriff Milbrath pointed out that the vehicle is made to get officers to an incident safely. There are no areas on the vehicle which would provide an access to shoot from.
- The Sheriff's Office does go out to the Waunakee site occasionally to see what they have available. Many of the smaller items that the Sheriff's Office has procured are at no cost to the agency. At this time there are no larger items that the Sheriff's Office is looking to acquire from the program.
- An explanation was given regarding semi-automatic rifles (such as what the Sheriff's Office received from the 1033 program) and the fact that they are a one-shot rifle which is also available at Walmart.
- Public perception is often influenced by the media which generally doesn't give the whole story.

The mission of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office is to protect the citizens of this county. We have worked to establish the trust of the community we serve. It is our job to make sure every law enforcement officer goes home to their family each day. The Emergency Rescue Vehicle is simply a tool to accomplish that goal. "Always have a pre-practiced plan of response."

**Committee discussion regarding reducing number of members and / or number of meetings:**

- Amy Rinard began by saying she thought it was good to look at the way things are done every once in a while in an effort to streamline while also saving time and money.
- The Solid Waste Committee and the Air Quality Committee have talked about reducing the number of their members.
- The Administration and Rules Committee looked at the possibility and found that the rules currently do not allow it.
- She suggested that the committee possibly reduce the number of meetings they hold and should leave it at the discretion of the chairperson and committee itself to decide if or when a meeting should be held, making it more flexible.
- The cost if all the committee members are present at each meeting is \$363.88; however, it is not only the committee members that are present.
- In addition, she said she realizes that the Sheriff, under the State Constitution, has broad powers and can do what he sees fit to run the Sheriff's Office. He does not need consent and the committee generally is not approving anything the Sheriff's Office does.
- Reviewing bills and financial items is another area that should be re-vamped. A recommendation was made to have the Sheriff's Office give a brief summary of financial items or purchases that are out of the ordinary and not the general run-of-the-mill types of invoices and not have the committee review the bills/invoices.
- A suggestion to combine Law Enforcement and Emergency Management into the same meeting was given. The committee already does both of these meetings and the Sheriff said in times past there used to be 16 meetings a year for the committee because the Emergency Management meetings were separate. The Sheriff's Office eliminated four meetings to make them for Emergency Management although both the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management can have items on either meeting agenda.
- It was discussed that the Finance Committee is the regulatory committee for approving the payment of bills (and the county administrator) so the LEEM Committee really doesn't have any input on what is paid. It is only a matter of transparency.
- Much discussion was had about cutting down the number of meetings and eliminating the redundant or unnecessary tasks to reduce the amount of time spent at meetings.
- County Board Chair Jim Schroeder said he hopes all the committees look at options and the Task Force will be looking at trying to streamline and/or cut unnecessary items as well. The budget has been getting tighter and tighter every year. One possibility is to reduce per diems to reduce costs. It is up to each committee and committee chair as to how many meetings they wish to hold.
- Chair Morris requested that current budget information be supplied at each meeting and Vice-Chair Rinard mentioned the stack of bill vouchers be made available in case someone wants to look at them. In addition, a report containing a list of bills paid each month will be supplied by Brian Lamers for each meeting for committee review.
- No resolution to the question of the number of meetings held by the committee was reached after a very long discussion about that and the process of looking at bills. As noted above, the number of committee members cannot be altered at this time due to County Rules.

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

- Sheriff Milbrath reported that a propane grant was located for the transport van. That was the only propane system installed in 2014 as no new squads were purchased this year. The amount of the grant could be up to \$5,000.
- An OWI enforcement Traffic Safety Grant has been awarded to Jefferson County as part of a task force which includes Rock, Dane, and Sauk Counties as well.
- Another Highway 26 corridor grant will possibly be coming around summertime. This would be another task force grant and would be around \$40,000 total.
- The Sheriff's Office is continually looking for other grants, especially smaller ones as the few larger ones left aren't really available to us anymore.

**Report from the Sheriff:**

- Everything is working very smoothly with the Rome/Sullivan tower. Pagers are working well. With the money they saved, they are updating towers and putting in some redundancy features to keep communications flowing when a piece of equipment malfunctions.
- Are still working on a system that allows the Sheriff's Office to work with the new system in Watertown which will provide an additional safeguard. Watertown would be able to act as a backup for the Sheriff's Office dispatch center if anything went wrong.

**Review monthly bills and financial items:** – The committee approved the monthly recap reports for November bills in the amount of \$208,534.46. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

**Report on budget:**

- Chief Deputy Parker handed out the budget summary sheets and indicated that the percent of budget fulfilled is at 92.98% which includes the AO payout for deputies (comp time).
- The only anomalies in the budget would be some carryovers for the interface system (paging).
- Good news was received this week regarding the price of propane. This year the Sheriff's Office is paying \$1.39 per gallon and a contract was just signed for next year at 88¢ per gallon. The federal government has also extended the 50¢ alternate fuel rebate for next year so at the end of the year the net cost per gallon will be 38¢. That will be about a \$45,000 savings for next year in the budget.
- The project for next year regarding the 911 system interface that \$380,000 was budgeted will be expeditiously moved forward because the current system is only guaranteed to be backed up until July 1, 2015. After July 1<sup>st</sup> they will fix it only if parts are available.

**Review monthly jail and patrol activity reports:** Jail and patrol activity reports were reviewed.

**Jail assessment fund items:** No jail assessment fund items were presented. County Administrator Wehmeier talked about the jail camera system which will be replaced as soon as it is approved and contracts are signed.

**Adjourn**

Next meeting date is January 23, 2015 (Emergency Management)

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:53 a.m. (too much noise on the recorder to tell who made and seconded the motion). The motion carried unanimously.

Motions Carried:   2   Lost:   0  .