

COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE: LAW ENFORCEMENT/ EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: February 27, 2009

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

Others present were: Sheriff Milbrath, Chief Deputy Parker, Captain Scott, Captain Brown, Gary Petre, Sharon Schmeling, Carl Zentner

Absent: None

Compliance with open meetings law: Gary Petre assured compliance with open meetings law.

Approve agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of minutes: A motion was made by Pam Rogers, and seconded by Glen Borland that the December 17, 2008 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Carl Zentner asked the Law Enforcement Committee to reconsider their support of the security station in the courthouse. He said that he felt there were a lot of negatives to the security and that it was intimidating and discouraged public entry. It is unequal as well because the courthouse is the only one of the county buildings that has security. He suggested that the county should also add a referendum (in addition to the proposed Countryside referendum) regarding the courthouse security to see if the public thinks it is necessary. The cost of operation is another factor. In addition, Mr. Zentner added that he thought each department was going to be feeling the same amount of pain in position/budget cuts and the Sheriff's Office only ended up with four unfilled positions. If the security station can still be manned after the cuts, he said it made him wonder how tight the budget was before then. Mr. Zentner said he felt the security station could also be moved down to the area adjacent to the courts. He said we are dealing in possibilities, not probabilities and as long as we are doing that, there would be many scenarios as to potential safety hazards and law suits that could possibly happen in the county. Lastly, he said there are a lot of reasons for the committee to really think about whether the security station is necessary. Administrator Gary Petre put in that the Securities and Facilities Committee would be meeting the following Wednesday and they will be discussing the impact of the budget on the courthouse security.

Sharon Schmeling passed around a copy of a letter she received that was sent to the Sheriff regarding an inmate that had been in the jail. Apparently the inmate talked with the individual who wrote the letter and had some complaints about jail conditions. The Sheriff's Office just went through its annual jail inspection and passed with flying colors. Sheriff Milbrath sent an answer to the individual that wrote the letter and copies of his reply were passed out to the committee members.

Review/revise 2009-2010 Law Enforcement Committee meeting schedule: Gary Petre said there is a draft of the committee meeting dates and the only problems he sees at this time would be the day after Thanksgiving and the meeting in December. The committee requested that this item be added to the agenda again in March. They would like to review other meeting commitments in order to reschedule any meetings on the Law Enforcement calendar that will need to be moved.

Discuss and prioritize Jefferson County infrastructure projects that pertain to the Sheriff's

Office: Chief Deputy Parker reviewed the three items on the infrastructure list. The committee was asked to look at each of the items and prioritize them. A couple of the items listed; re-roofing Section B of the jail and making the juvenile cells handicap compliant, would be addressed using jail assessment funding, not tax levy dollars. The last item regarding a new jail and/or Huber facility would be a capital project. An approximate bid was received regarding the roofing project several years ago. The committee can move to obtain bids for the jail items listed, which should be accomplished to maintain the jail facility. It was determined that the jail projects should move forward but the motion would be made in the jail assessment funds agenda item.

Discussion and possible action regarding Strategic Planning Steering Committee

representation: Administrator Gary Petre referenced the handout that was given to the committee members in regard to the Jefferson County Strategic Plan Steering Committee. The Administration and Rules Committee recommended some changes to the committee members. The County Board Supervisor from the Highway Department on the committee was eliminated as well as the supervisor from the Law Enforcement Committee and the Parks Committee (see below). As replacements, a representative supervisor from the Solid Waste Committee was added as well as two at large (workgroup) supervisors. The number of department representatives was changed from seven to eight. Because Human Services was already represented on the committee by a County Board Supervisor, that department was removed and Land and Water Conservation was added. A representative from the Sheriff's Office (the Sheriff or his designee) and one from the Parks Department are on the committee so that facilitated the removal of the supervisor from those committees as a representative on the Steering Committee.

Pam Rogers made a motion to approve the changes in regard to the Law Enforcement Committee on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee and forward the recommendation to the County Board. Glen Borland seconded. Motion carried.

Report from the Sheriff: Sheriff Milbrath reported that due to last year's budget struggles, the Sheriff's Office command staff sat down and really looked at the way things were handled in the departments. Many things that were being done did not really have rules or mandates to dictate the way they were being done. So, for example, the command staff is looking at creating more beds (bunk beds) in the jail. They are waiting to get some information from the jail inspector about that before moving forward. The Sheriff's Office will also be handling the District Attorney's Office's paper service. This should save the D.A.'s Office between \$6,000.00 and \$10,000.00 the first year. It also will generate more revenue (possibly \$60,000.00 to \$80,000.00) for the Sheriff's Office (keeping it in house). In regard to the security station, it will mostly be manned by part-time deputies, allowing the full-time support services deputies to do transports, paper services and other duties. Backgrounds are being conducted to hire a couple additional part-time deputies. The cost will be more than offset by the income generated with the added paper service revenue. The Sheriff's Office is also documenting checks on parks in the county. This will allow accountability and will give the ability to limit the time frame for acts of vandalism, etc. in the parks. The Sheriff added that they are hoping the inmate numbers come down a little. The average inmate population has been close to 200 for quite a while. Creating space by adding beds or reducing numbers would help to generate some revenue by contracting from other counties or the state. Sheriff Milbrath said they also have been looking at electronic monitoring (E.M.). In the past, this has not been a program that has been used much. Only certain inmates would be allowed out on E.M. Public safety is the first consideration. The cost of electronic monitoring would be paid by the inmate. Set

up fee would be about \$50.00, a charge for the Sheriff's Office paperwork would be about \$5.00 (this would be paid to the Sheriff's Office), and the daily fee for the inmate to go out on EM would be \$18.00 per day. Tracking could be done easily online. In addition, Chief Deputy Parker explained that inmates will be used to wash squad vehicles when possible and may be spending some time working with the parks department to help maintain the parks. Having inmates help in the parks is an old program that will be revamped and tried again. Additional discussion was had about the jail population and the justice system as well as about the electronic monitoring program.

Chief Deputy Parker also added that they will be looking at slightly increasing the various fees associated with jail inmates and paper service. The recovery of revenues associated with the inmates has been very good, better than originally expected. The Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP) has helped garner revenue from the inmates as well. Questions about violations of the Huber program were also brought up. Huber inmates have more freedom and less accountability which is the nature of the beast. Electronic monitoring will be a lot more restrictive. Lastly, the Sheriff said he had put out a request regarding a vehicle (ambulance) for use the detectives to use for an evidence vehicle. The vehicle would be converted and would allow the detectives to store everything used to gather evidence. The vehicle would be driven to crime scenes when needed. The military surplus program (10-33 Program) in Waunakee contacted him regarding an ambulance that they were able to procure. Detective Hunter, Captain Scott and the Sheriff's Office mechanic, Randy Frohmader, will be going over today to look at it. The program does not give away items as in the past anymore, but the Sheriff's Office would only have to pay for transportation costs (\$1,350.00).

Discussion held on monthly bills. – The committee approved the monthly recap report for November bills in the amount of \$129,363.72. The monthly report for December receipts is \$182,272.68 and January bills totaled \$187,831.13. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

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

Jail assessment fund items: Three jail assessment fund items were presented. They included a Nobles Auto Floor Scrubber in the amount of \$4,718.95. The second item was an Alto-Shaam cook and hold oven for \$3,874.00, and the last item was a galvanized 16 gauge and frame outside kitchen doors with a 10" x 10" insulated window for \$2,350.00. The committee reviewed and approved those items. In regard to the items listed that pertain to the jail discussed earlier in the infrastructure project list, Rick Kuhlman made a motion to obtain bids for re-roofing Section B of the jail and for remodeling the juvenile cells to make them handicap accessible. Pam Rogers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Agenda Items:

Review/revise 2009-2010 Law Enforcement Committee meeting schedule
Electronic Monitoring update

A motion made by George Jaeckel to adjourn at 9:48 a.m., was seconded by Rick Kuhlman. Motion carried.

Next meeting date is March 27, 2009.

Motions Carried: 4 Lost: 0 .

Signed _____