

## COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

**DATE:** March 28, 2008

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

Others present were: Sheriff Milbrath, Chief Deputy Stapleton, Gary Petre, Paula Sumpter, Captain Brown and Captain Scott.

Absent: Carol Knox

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

**Approve agenda:** The agenda was approved as published.

**Approval of minutes:** A motion was made by Rick Kuhlman, and seconded by Jim Maurer that the February 22, 2008 minutes be approved as printed. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**Report from the Sheriff:** Sheriff Milbrath commended all the agencies on the jobs they did with the recent homicide in Cambridge. The State Patrol and the Department of Justice Criminal Investigation Bureau assisted with the investigation. Detective Gray did a great job with the long, slow interview of the suspect and the rest of the detectives involved also did excellent work.

The Sheriff commented on a new program that the Sheriff's Office will be participating in called, "With Wings and a Halo". It is a program started in Dane County (Waunakee) by Paul Gilbertson who is an author of children's books. Mr. Gilbertson had the idea of distributing backpacks with children's books to law enforcement and others who deal with children in traumatic situations (much like the Teddy Bear program). Each backpack contains about 10 age and gender specific books to hand out to children who are involved in traumatic or stressful situations (accidents, home issues, etc.). The program has really taken off and many book publishers, stores, and even libraries are participating by donating books for the backpacks. The Sheriff is hoping to have a backpack available by the County Board meeting in April to show everyone.

The "A Child is Missing" program that the Sheriff's Office has been a part of for more than a year now also has every municipality in the county now participating. Palmyra P.D. originally elected not to take part in the program, but the new chief (Chief Warren) has asked to come on board.

Chief Deputy Stapleton said that there will be no April meeting unless absolutely necessary. Since the elections are early in April, most committee members are not set yet by the end of the month so that meeting will be skipped.

The Chief added that on the May agenda there will be an item regarding the Emergency Management and Law Enforcement Committee meetings. Since this committee is also the Emergency Management committee, it has been suggested that during the months that the Emergency Management Committee meets, the Law Enforcement Committee will not meet. If

there is anything that comes up and needs to be addressed by the Law Enforcement Committee in those months, it will be added to the Emergency Management Committee meeting agenda and vice-versa. The Emergency Management Committee only meets quarterly so it will save the committee members from having two meetings in those months. More discussion and action will be taken at the May meeting.

The last thing the Chief brought forward was a resolution that some counties have enacted regarding the statewide VHF digital trunking system which has been proposed by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. He passed around copies of a couple resolutions (from Brown and Oconto Counties) and will be adding this item to the May meeting agenda as well. The counties are opposed to this system for a number of reasons (such as the cost to each county, the state holding on to federal funds that should be passed on to local agencies, etc.). In May, the Chief will bring more information about the proposed system, how it will work, the impact of how it would affect the county, and the costs. At that time, the committee may recommend a resolution similar to the examples he passed around.

The Sheriff mentioned that there were two meetings in Ixonia this week with the DOT regarding the Highway 16 corridor. There have been many issues with this corridor. The state brought in a firm to do a study (OPUS) and they will be working on those problem areas that were identified in the report. The Sheriff added that they would probably be putting extra deputies up there occasionally as well.

#### **Review of RFP for Sheriff's Office operational audit:**

The committee members all received a copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for review. Chief Deputy Stapleton said that it is much like all the other requests for audits. He referenced pages 4 and 5 which summarizes the specifications and services that the chosen firm will provide. Briefly, the firm will assess each division within the Sheriff's Office to evaluate staffing and service levels, as well as scheduling, effectiveness and efficiency of each area. In addition, they will be including recommendations and the fiscal impact if any; although some of the personnel issues may be contractual so that will be taken into consideration. The report will be issued to the County on or before August 15, 2008.

Some discussion came up about expectations of what the audit will find and about whether there will be any recommendations on space needs. The Sheriff's Office has looked forward to the audit and will be welcoming any recommendations that come from it. And since the county has already done a space needs study, the firm will not be addressing those concerns as such.

Rick Kuhlman made a recommendation that the RFP move forward to the Administration and Rules Committee for approval. Jim Maurer seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Review/recommend to County Board the L.E. Memorial Day (May 15) resolution:**

The committee members had also received a copy of the resolution to be brought before the County Board regarding the Peace Officer Memorial Day on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Rick Kuhlman made a motion that the resolution be presented to the full County Board at the next meeting in April. Randy Mitchell seconded. Motion carried. All of the committee members are encouraged to attend the program. It is held on the courthouse lawn, starting at 11:15 a.m. with a luncheon following.

**Discussion held on monthly bills.** – The committee approved the monthly recap report for February bills in the amount of \$140,868.80. A spreadsheet summarizing current bills was reviewed by the committee members.

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

**Jail assessment fund items:** None

**Next meeting:**

May 23, 2008. Agenda items: Discussion/action regarding the statewide digital trunking system proposed by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance.

A motion made by Rick Kuhlman to adjourn at 9:25 a.m., was seconded by Jim Maurer. Motion carried.

Motions Carried:   4   Lost:   0  .

Signed \_\_\_\_\_