

Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 13, 2014

Present: Kirk Konkell, Adam Field, Joann Wingers, Kevin Kessler, Fred Teitgen
Also Present: County Board Vice Chair Gove, Sheriff Richards, Chief Deputy Babcock, Captain Kuhl, Emergency Management Coordinator Beghin, Medical Examiner Hinze, DNR Casey Krueger, DNR Michael Brahm, DNR Mark Aquino, NaDeanna Giuffre

I. Called to Order. Posting Compliance. Approve Agenda. Pass Minutes. Chairman's Comments.

- 1) Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Konkell.
- 2) Posting compliance was met per Open Meetings Law.
- 3) ***Motion was made by Wingers to approve the agenda. Seconded by Teitgen. Motion carried.***
- 4) ***Motion made by Kessler to approve the December meeting minutes. Seconded by Field. Motion carried.***
- 5) Chair's Comments: A) Adhoc Infrastructure Committee update: Properties are still being looked at. A preliminary presentation will be at the 01/15/14 County Board meeting. Space studies with associated cost estimates will be discussed. The next meeting with the consultant will be 01/20 and will include department heads. At this meeting, better cost estimates and sites identified with seven different options. The project is expected to take a couple of years. A vote is anticipated after the new board is set in April 2014. Discussion on the necessity of holding a February Public Safety Committee meeting. It was determined that no February meeting will be held. If any issues arise before March, a special meeting may be held prior to County Board to address those issues.

II. Recreational Shooting in Columbia County. DNR Warden Supervisor Casey Krueger replaces Todd Schaller. Krueger advised that the first meeting of the advisory committee is scheduled at the Law Enforcement Center on 01/22/14. Large poster-sized maps of the proposed seven sites will be available and discussed on that night. It is hoped that by March 2014, the committee will be down to two sites. By hopefully May or June, contractors will be sought for bids. Per Aquino, background packets were sent out before the holidays; however, the county supervisors present today did not receive such notification. Email addresses for Konkell and Gove will be added in addition to Chair Ross. A "South Central Wisconsin rifle ranges providing or considering public access" handout was provided. Supervisor Gove commended the DNR for selecting Casey Krueger for this position. Next scheduled meeting with DNR present will be the next Public Safety Committee meeting on March 10, 2014.

III. Emergency Management.

- 1) **General Review of Department Activities.** Handout provided. Discussion. Beghin advised that the tabletop exercise with CP Rail, TSA, Homeland Security, City of Portage and other counties agencies went well. Any issues determined from that exercise will be addressed. The Crystal Lake pumping station is up and running and currently pumping around 1100 gpm which is above the 1000 gpm that was planned. The project engineer wishes to drop the lake about one foot before discontinuing the pumping. So unless it is a dry winter and spring, the lake level will most likely drop less than the estimated foot.
- 2) **Expenditure Reports.** Visual review of reports was completed. ***After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure reports, a motion was made by Teitgen to approve the reports. Seconded by Field. Motion carried***

VI. Sheriff's Office/Jail.

- 1) **General Review of Department Activities.** Handout provided. Discussion. The Sheriff discussed that since last month's meeting, there were two fatal accidents; one involving a snowmobile. The Coman

School currently housed in the old Fort Winnebago school building was discussed and how there seems to be another surge in juvenile referrals. Deputy Sheriff candidate testing will occur this weekend with interviews scheduled for 02/03/14.

- 2) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 144. One jailer position is currently open since that employee's last day will be 01/17/14. The Sheriff mentioned that the hiring process and quality/caliber of applicants seem to be dropping which is making hiring new staff much more difficult and costly. Some issues only appear once the background investigations are begun and then the whole process begins again.
- 3) **Court Services Unit Update.** As the CSU part-time staff process has unfolded, the Human Resources Office advised the Sheriff that any person employed under the CSU and working over 20 hours per week are eligible for benefits (sick leave, holiday and bereavement) based on the percentage of the hours worked in a week. With our currently affected three staff members, we will continue as is; however, new applicants/new hires will be sent to HR to discuss benefits per applicant as all candidates will vary since some may have previous law enforcement, how many hours they can work, at what level (I, II, or III), etc.
- 4) **Expenditure Reports.** Visual review of expenditure reports was completed. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office and Jail expenditure reports, a motion was made by Wingers to approve the reports. Seconded by Field. Discussion. Motion carried.*

V. Medical Examiner.

- 1) **General Review of Department Activities.** Handout provided. Hinze reported that December case numbers were pretty standard for this time of year. The first County Mass Fatality group met last week. County needs were identified. The state will be hosting a Mass Fatality Expert panel meeting in Wisconsin Dells on 01/28 where regional, state, and federal levels will be established. Two new applicants are upcoming for the on-call per diem. The part-time/per diem staff is working out very well. Hinze reminded the committee that her revenue and expenditures are solely dependent upon number of deaths per year.
- 2) **Expenditure Report.** Visual review of report was completed. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made to approve by Field. Seconded by Kessler. Motion carried.*

Motion by Field to adjourn the meeting at 10:41 a.m. Seconded by Teitgen. Motion carried.

Next meeting date: Monday, March 10, 2014.

Secretary of Record,

Recording Secretary,

Supervisor Kevin Kessler
Committee Secretary

NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Richards

cc: Public Safety Members
Chair Ross
Vice Chair Gove
Internet