

Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
October 14, 2013

Present: Kirk Konkol, Adam Field, Joann Wingers, Kevin Kessler, Fred Teitgen
Also Present: County Board Chair Ross, County Board Vice Chair Gove, Sheriff Richards, Chief Deputy Babcock, Captain Kuhl, Emergency Management Coordinator Beghin, Medical Examiner Hinze, PDR Lyn Jerde, NaDeanna Giuffre, DNR Reps: Mark Aqciono, Michael Brahm, Todd Schaller, and Bob Manwell, Township of Dekorra: Rick Schmidt, Columbia County Sporting Alliance: Jim Watson, Jr.

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

- 1) Meeting called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Konkol.
- 2) Posting compliance was met per Open Meetings Law.
- 3) *Motion was made by Kessler to approve the agenda. Seconded by Field. Motion carried.*
- 4) *Motion made by Teitgen to approve the September 9 meeting minutes. Seconded by Wingers. Motion carried.*
- 5) Chair's Comments: A) Adhoc Infrastructure Committee update: Potter Lawson will be meeting with department heads and employees regarding their needs. This is the data gathering stage, not policy-making. Potter Lawson will provide different options and scenarios for the final presentation slated for 02/14/14. The Adhoc Infrastructure Committee will be meeting more in November and December to keep the process moving.

II. Recreational Shooting in Columbia County. Kessler discussed his correspondence with the DNR at the end of August. Kessler further advised that he met with DNR reps last week in preparation for today's meeting. Todd Schaller indicated that they will meet with county representatives again before these monthly meetings to better prepare. Handouts provided by DNR. Eventually an Adhoc group of about 10 participants will be developed to evaluate and reduce the process of the seven sites down to two potential sites. Then the group will seek public input regarding the two proposed sites. DNR is hoping Columbia County citizens find this relay of information helpful and the monthly updates continue to answer questions as they arise. Public Safety Committee members suggested that DNR provide a timeline with milestones for the process. DNR representatives agreed to provide that information for the next meeting. Gove requested information as to why the Swan Lake decision-making is taking so long. The Swan Lake issue demands follow-up action. DNR reps advised that the concerns are known, legal constraints are being addressed, and it will all be addressed when more information and data becomes more clear. More concrete answers along with a timeline of events should be available at the November meeting.

III. Emergency Management.

- 1) **General Review of Department Activities.** Handout provided. Discussion. Grant fund work has been completed by the 10/01/13 deadline by the office. A new plan of work will start for the year 2014. School emergency plans are moving along. Two school districts have completed and adopted new plans by their school boards. Marquette County is developing the same plan for their schools. Beghin will be meeting with Sauk County officials to begin updating their plans with the same template as well. The new plans should make for a more coordinated effort in emergency response to situations at schools. In the Crystal Lake update, Beghin advised that there is a contested case hearing for permit at West Point Township on 10/21/13. Water will begin pumping on 11/01/13.
- 2) **2014 Budget.** The Emergency Management budget passed with the exception of a \$10,000 cut from the Emergency Response Numbering line item, thus leaving \$2,500 for any county expenses that may arise with the ERN process.

- 3) **Update on ERN System.** Only one change to 28-1-8 Fee for ERN Assignment, Sign, and Post. This change added (d) "When a Columbia County town-wide replacement of all ERN signs is required due to the age of the current ERN signs, Columbia County shall invoice and collect a fee from the property owner for the replacement ERN sign, post, and placement." County Board Chair Ross will draft a letter to the townships with this information in the near future. All proposed changes are currently at the Corporation Counsel's Office. Beghin provide the committee with a draft of this proposal. A formal update will be done at the December 2013 County Board Meeting.
- 4) **Expenditure Reports.** Visual review of reports was completed. *After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure reports, a motion was made by Wingers to approve the reports. Seconded by Kessler. Motion carried*

VI. Sheriff's Office/Jail.

- 1) **General Review of Department Activities.** Handout provided. Discussion. Sheriff Richards provided a drug activity update for September 2013. An influx of media requests bombarded the Sheriff's Office during the recent homicide that occurred in the City of Portage. Typically the media learns of ongoing incidents from "scannerland" and subsequently phones the office incessantly demanding information regarding the call while the incident was still ongoing. When such incidents occur, all staff, administration included, must work together. The Sheriff commended Chief Deputy Babcock in his coordinating efforts of our staff members as well as other agencies and also attempting to manage the inquiries from the media of the critical incident. The Sheriff also commended his Dispatch staff identifying a recent suicide done while the subject was still on the line with a dispatcher. Per Sheriff Richards, "our Dispatchers are truly our unsung heroes." The Sheriff informed the committee about a recent A.L.E.R.T. (Advanced Law Enforcement Risk Training) competition in Sauk County where our Sergeant Richard Hoege took 3rd place which awarded the department recognition and \$2500 for Sgt. Hoege's achievement. The Sheriff's Office also received a letter of commendation for the deputies involved in lifesaving attempts for this gentleman's father. Although the attempts failed, the son was grateful for the deputies and their supervisors for all that they did. Copies of this letter will be placed in the files of each deputy and supervisor who were involved. Supervisor Field also took the opportunity to extend the Public Safety Committee's gratitude for the involved deputies too. Vice Chair Gove thanked Sheriff Richards for Lieutenant Stilson's participation on the committee as well as the use of the Sheriff's Office golf carts at the recent Prevent Suicide-Walk for Hope which drew over 300 participants.
- 2) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 169.
- 3) **2013-2014 Alcohol Enforcement Grant.** The Columbia County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a \$25,000 Highway Safety Grant from the Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) for alcohol enforcement. \$5,000 of this grant will be used to purchase new equipment and the remainder will be used for traffic enforcement. This grant begins immediately and ends 09/30/14.
- 4) **2014 Budget.** The Sheriff advised that in the first budget meeting, the Sheriff's Administration was asked to cut \$200,000. Faced with this decision, the Sheriff made the difficult determination and proposed cutting the volunteer Dive Team, Water Patrol, and the Drug Education and Enforcement budgets and still falling short of the \$200,000 cut request. The Finance Committee did not recommend any of the newly requested positions at the first budget meeting. However, after further review, the Finance Committee decided to recommend approval of the two Deputy Sheriff positions and two of the three newly requested Jailer positions. Sheriff Richards thanked the Public Safety Committee for their continued support as well as understanding the efforts and demands the Sheriff's Office and Jail are faced with. Supervisor Kessler also made mention of the difficult decisions and efforts the Finance Committee has in the county budget process. Chair Ross advised that a non-lapsing utility account helped to facilitate the 2014 budget. The current open bonds status were discussed.
- 5) **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 Teitgen to approve the reports.*

Seconded by Field. Discussion. Motion carried.

VII. Medical Examiner.

- 1) **General Review of Department Activities.** Handout provided. Medical Examiner Hinze discussed that the call volume is again up this month. The old ME vehicle has now gone to auction. Staff updates: the per diem process is working out much better as staff are taking shifts and completing the investigations and paperwork. The monthly inservice/staff meeting/training are going well. Chief Deputy ME Katie Sopha has graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from Globe University. She will be attending training in Arizona next week and will sit for her ABMDI Certification within the next couple months. Hinze discussed her office's involvement with the Prevent Suicide group. Supervisor Field commended and thanked ME Hinze with the Prevent Suicide-Walk of Hope's success. Hinze attributed most of its success to Vice Chair Gove's support.
- 2) **2014 Budget.** No changes were made to the proposed 2014 Medical Examiner budget. Hinze advised that the new cameras may be purchased from remaining funds from 2013 budget.
- 3) **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 Teitgen to adjourn the meeting at 11:23 a.m. Seconded by Field. Motion carried.

Next meeting date: Monday, November 11, 2013.

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