

**Columbia County  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
January 9, 2023**

**Present:** Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh, Troy Ryan (left meeting at 10:01 a.m.)  
**Also Present:** Chris Polzer, Joseph Ruf, Shonna Neary, David Drews, Jessica Hale, Bob Koch, Madeleine Meeker, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Ryan Ringelstetter, Josh Priske, Jon Stefonek, NaDeanna Giuffre

**Monthly Agenda Items:**

- 1) Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. by K. Miller.
- 2) Compliance with Open Meeting Law. Posting compliance was met per Open Meetings Law.
- 3) Approval of Agenda. *Motion was made by L. Miller to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Weyh to approve the previous month meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) Public Input: n/a.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: Following a discussion about holding or foregoing the February 2023 PSC meeting, it was it was decided to keep it on the schedule for February 13, 2023 and cancel if not needed.

**Emergency Management.** (Koch)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. *After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure report, a motion was made by L. Miller to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee and made available during the meeting. Koch presented his report and highlighted ongoing and upcoming training, meetings, and projects for December and January. Koch advised that December was quite busy. The full scale EMPG/EPCRA exercise involving multiple first responders at Rusch Elementary on 12/20/22 was a success. There were approximately 120 emergency service personnel coordinating a simulated chlorine leak. End of year reports and grant paperwork are either submitted or near completion for EPCRA and EMPG awards. There were a few fires last month. Thanks to Kwik Trip for donating food and drink to the responding Fire, EMS, and law enforcement on scene. Capital outlay expenditure completed for the server replacement. Per the request of Supervisor L. Miller, Koch will follow up with the Executive Committee regarding the safety barrier system.
- 3) **Quarterly Mileage Action.** Discussion. The quarterly mileage reports are no longer required to go before the oversight committees. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Emergency Management Mileage Reading as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) **Discussion and Possible Action Granting the Emergency Management Office and the Sheriff's Administration Being a Point of Contact for Emergent Communications with Cellular Phone and Data Providers that the EM and SO have plans with.** One of the main functions of the Emergency Management Office is to plan for emergencies. Plans and points of contact must be in place for these situations and allow for in the moment decisions to be made. Areas of concern discussed were the data plans related to river gauges and cellular phone data providers. Discussion. Motion by L. Miller to allow Emergency Management and Sheriff's Administration to partner with the MIS Department and have Emergency Management listed as primary for access on the river gauges. Seconded by Ryan. Discussion. Sheriff Brandner advised that this is two separate issues with the primary issue at this point being the river gauges and granting the proper access and authority to Emergency Management and Sheriff's Administration to manage these with the applicable data providers. L. Miller/Ryan withdrew original

motion for rewording. K. Miller allowed this for rewording of the motion. ***Motion by L. Miller that effective 01/27/23 designate Emergency Management as Point of Contact along with the MIS Department for the river gauges and applicable cell service to run notifications effectively. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.*** The issue relating to the cellular phone services will be addressed at a future meeting involving MIS, cellular provider (AT&T), EM Koch, and Sheriff Brandner.

**Medical Examiner.** (Meeker)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. ***After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by Weyh to approve the report as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.***
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee and made available during the meeting. Meeker provided highlights for the month stating that there was a total of 50 calls. Of those, there were one suicide, one juvenile with influenza A, two autopsies, and 11 Versiti donations. Meeker advised due to a current deputy ME unable to provide adequate hours, she resigned; however, following a ridealong, a UW-Platteville applicant completed a background packet for a deputy ME position. After consulting with the Sheriff, the Law Enforcement Center has been designated as a central drop-off/pick up location for Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin.
- 3) **LIT – Body Lift.** Review and discussion. ***Motion by L. Miller to approve the Line Item Transfer in the amount of \$3,820 for a replacement electric body lift as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.***
- 4) **Quarterly Mileage Action.** No action required. These readings are no longer requiring oversight review/approval. Meeker submitted the readings dated 01/03/23 to the Accounting Office.
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Medical Examiner.** Per HR Director Ruf, department head replacements do not require a form, just oversight committee approval. ***Motion by Ryan to approve the hiring process to replace the Medical Examiner department head position. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried unanimously.***
- 6) **Position Description – Medical Examiner.** The proposed position description was posted on CCBoard and made available during the meeting. ***Motion by Valencia to approve the Medical Examiner Position Description as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.***
- 7) **Salary Range – Medical Examiner.** The 2023 Compensation Schedule was provided to the committee on CCBoard and made available during the meeting. ***Motion by K. Miller to proceed with the presented compensation schedule for Medical Examiner and approve as high as Step 6. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.***
- 8) **Medical Examiner Hiring Process.** Discussion. The evaluating committee will consist of County Board Supervisors as well as County Board Chair Polzer. This committee will make the decision on who will be hired as the next Medical Examiner.

**Sheriff's Office/Jail.** (Brandner, Bisch)

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. ***After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by Weyh to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Ryan. Motion carried unanimously.***
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Activity report was previously provided to the committee on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee and made available during the meeting. Sheriff Brandner began by thanking Supervisor Theresa Valencia for her efforts with the Recruitment and Retention Employee Survey and her 01/04/23 confidential meetings with employees from all divisions at the Sheriff's Office. There has been plenty of positive feedback as it meaningful for employees to be heard. Two more serious incidents occurred in the jail. One was an inmate found stabbing himself and a drug overdose where both were saved by jail staff. Staff followed procedures and the immediate medical care were incredible. Mental health is

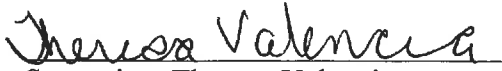
critical. Following the report of burglary and thefts from vehicles in the Lodi area, deputies responded, attempted to stop one vehicle, and a high-speed chase ensued. It turned out to be stolen vehicle by a 14-year-old. The second vehicle was later located and determined to also be operated by a juvenile. Community outreach was conducted reminding citizens to secure vehicles and homes. The Sheriff spoke about the coverage provided on Christmas Day. Most of the Administrative staff came into work the road and allowed deputies to stay home a little longer with young families that morning. As an additional thank you, Chair Polzer also brought donuts to the on-duty staff and commended the Sheriff's Administration for their incredible support and how it serves as a great reflection of their leadership. GIS Mapping with adding and updating fire numbers continue to be concerning. The Sheriff advised a new issue where Fort Winnebago changed EMS services which will require the dispatch center to know or remember to page different units. If appropriately skilled staff are not hired with the county soon, contracted services through Motorola or another entity will be needed for safety. A swatting call at Portage High School occurred this week. Many law enforcement and emergency personnel responded. In those types of critical incidents, all available staff go. Portage Police Department and Sheriff's Office supervisory staff did a great job coordinating law enforcement and first responder personnel. The 12-hour shifts are now in place for patrol, jail, dispatch. Thank you to Charles Sailer in MIS and HR personnel for the backend work on implementing those changes in the payroll system. Staff shortages persist with one down in dispatch and four down in the jail, but more interviews are upcoming. The Sheriff's Office prefers that they did not have high-speed chases, but criminals continue to try to elude and due to the reckless behavior, the Sheriff's Office must at times pursue. Due to the increased liability and safety concerns of everyone involved, a road spike system is being demo'd. Sheriff's Administration agrees that TikTok should not be on any county devices. Two recent incidents involving firearms where a parent had a firearm pointed at their kids as well as a suicide call where shots were fired. Both incidents involved firearms and alcohol. There were two overdoses, but both were saved.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 164. There have been 187 bookings and 189 released. There were 63 doctor visits and 537 nurse screenings.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request – 911 Coordinator.** With only two applicants so far, alternate options were discussed on how to better balance the dispatch supervision. Options could remain with one 911 Coordinator and one sergeant or possibly two sergeants. Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the position replacement request for 911 Coordinator as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Dispatcher.** After 28+ years, William Breunig is retiring from the Sheriff's Office. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the position replacement request for Dispatcher as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Resolution – Accept 911 PSAP Grant.** Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the 911 PSAP Grant as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Roll call vote: L. Miller-yes; K. Miller-yes; Valencia-yes; Weyh-yes, Ryan-absent. Motion carried.*

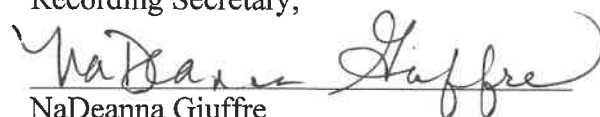
Next meeting date: Monday, February 13, 2023 at 9 a.m.

*Motion by L. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 a.m. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried unanimously.*

Secretary of Record,

  
Supervisor Theresa Valencia  
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,

  
NaDeanna Giuffre  
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

cc: Public Safety Members; Chair Polzer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Brusveen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Rohrbeck; Internet