

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 10, 2022**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl
Also Present: Vern Gove, Jim Foley, Jessica Hale, Jodi Burmania, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, Bob Koch, Katelyn Schara, NaDeanna Giuffre

Monthly Agenda Items:

- 1) Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. by Polzer.
- 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 posted. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Pufahl to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) Public Input: n/a.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: In recognition of Law Enforcement Appreciation Day on 01/09/22, Supervisor Liz Miller presented a box of donated fruit and snacks for the Sheriff's Office employees and K9s. The Public Safety Committee appreciates and supports the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Brandner thanked Supervisor Miller and the committee for their continued support.

Emergency Management. (Koch)

Chair Polzer welcomed Bob Koch to the Public Safety Committee and his new position in the county. Sheriff Brandner further explained that following a long and in-depth process in replacing longstanding employee Kathy Johnson, Koch rose to the top and he earned it.

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed and provided in the meeting binders. *After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure report, a motion was made by K. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** The monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Koch presented his report and highlighted the following topics: upon a spot check with Johnson, Koch advised that the flood gauges were functioning well. The last vaccination clinic was held on 01/07/22. No more National Guard or future vaccinations or testing are planned at this time. Otsego claim filed on 12/23/21. The DARES & RACES large exercise will be scaled down due to Covid concerns. HazMat Tech course will be held at Portage Fire Department on 02/26/22. New PPE will be ordered this week. Free N95 masks have been given to the county. HazMat spill checks have been distributed. The 2023 HazMat Agreement will be completed later in 2022. At the recent Land Records Council meeting, a draft plan was approved. Koch thanked the committee and Sheriff Brandner for allowing the two-week training and transition period with former EMC Kathy Johnson. Chair Polzer also commended Johnson for the smooth transfer of information to Koch.
- 3) **Vehicle Listing/Odometer Reading Report.** Discussion. *Motion by K. Miller to approved the odometer report as presented. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) **Carryover Funds from Operating Line Items for New Emergency Management Coordinator Academy Not to Exceed \$3,500.** Discussion. *Motion by Long to approve the carryover of funds from the operating line items for the new EMC Academy not to exceed \$3,500. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Medical Examiner. (Schara)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed and provided in the meeting binders. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by K. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** In recognition of the 01/09/22 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, Schara thanked and offered her appreciation to the Sheriff's Office and all law enforcement for their assistance to her and her staff.

Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Schara highlighted that there was a total of 55 calls in December, 45 were certified, 35 cremations, three autopsies, four Versiti donations, one traffic fatality, two overdose deaths, and nine Covid-related deaths (all with past medical conditions as well). Versiti discussion. Schara advised that she is coordinating with Sheriff's Office staff for a presentation at the next Chiefs' meeting for basic death investigation training. A unique and ongoing case involving a possible infectious disease is being worked on with coordinated efforts from Public Health, Emergency Management, and UW Hospital. Schara provided a staffing update that even though some candidates are interested in ridealongs, no new applications were completed for the deputy position.

- 3) **Dodge County Invoice.** Due to extenuating circumstances in October 2021 with staff shortages in the Medical Examiner's Office, Dodge County Medical Examiner was mutually aided to assist. During this time period, the individual remained in-county and accrued lodging charges. Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to pay the \$480 lodging fees for the Medical Examiner coverage provided by Dodge County. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) **Vehicle Listing/Odometer Reading Report.** Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the odometer reading report as presented. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Ordinance – Amend Title 7 – Medical Examiner Fees.** Discussion. Due to a likely typo, the morgue fee needed to be corrected. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the correction from \$100 to \$400 morgue fee as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

MAT Program Status Report. No representative from Health and Human Services was present and no correspondence was received. Chair Polzer will follow up with DHHS.

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

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Report was reviewed and provided in the meeting binders. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by K. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller.* Discussion about OWI blood tests. *Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Sheriff Brandner provided highlights of the monthly report to include staffing: two deputies were hired, one from the jail and one with experience and a K9 from Sun Prairie Police Department. Both are great individuals. A replacement dispatcher was hired and comes with an EMS background. With five vacancies in the jail, the recruitment process is ongoing. The Sheriff commended and thanked the Human Resource Office for their continual efforts in assisting with interviews, backgrounds, hiring, etc. There was a demotion from Detective to Patrol due to standards not being met. From the Police Lights of Christmas Program, deputies were able to provide gift cards to citizens in need around the holidays. There was a hostage situation which resulted in an ERT call-out in Wisconsin Dells. Despite a crossbow being fired, Detective Sergeant Leda Wagner performed negotiations for over five hours and the event was resolved with less lethal action and no injuries.

Body camera update. With the rapidly changing technology, research shows that you get what you pay for. Chair Polzer commended Sheriff Brandner on educating the committee and keeping them apprised of changes and updates. The goal is getting everyone home safely. The Sheriff updated the committee about the officer involved shooting incident from October 2021 that was investigated by Department of Criminal Investigations and then reviewed by the District Attorney. All staff were cleared of any wrongdoing or charges. There were 96 overdoses in 2021 and 11 deaths. Some toxicology results are still pending. The next swearing-in ceremony will be held 01/13/22. The Sheriff's Office is utilizing the technological devices available in an ongoing stalking case. The Sheriff commended his command staff, but more specifically CD Bisch and Captain Stilson, for working patrol on Christmas so that the younger staff with families could be home with them. CD Bisch further commented that Sheriff Brandner himself did the same. This is a highly unusual practice. Some trainings that were postponed in 2020 and 2021 are slowly getting back to normal. Supervisory training funds have been carried over into 2022. With the likelihood of the Public Safety Committee changing by the April meeting, the Sheriff took the opportunity to thank the committee for their dedication, questions, inquisitive inquiries, and support. Questions are how we all get better. Supervisor Pufahl commented that he really enjoyed his involvement with the Public Safety Committee and the departments during his tenure.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 140. Captain Stilson advised that there are 24 out of county holds including Marathon and Dodge County inmates which help with increasing revenue. Stilson commended the Jail Health Services Unit for their dedicated efforts with 55 doctor visits, 490 nurse screens, and four ER visits that required more medical care. Some Covid issues persist, but the staff are working through them. From an incident involving a volatile inmate, a glass window facing the block was broken/spiderwebbed. It will cost approximately \$3000 to replace. Restitution will be sought. The new food vendor Consolidated Correctional Food Service seems to be doing well through the transition. The transition from Dr. Jackson to Dr. Mironovich went smoothly.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Jail Sergeant.** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the replacement of Jail Sergeant Kyle Williams. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Resolution – Jail Staff Recruitment and Retention Incentives.** Discussion. In lieu of protective status, wage grade increase consideration and retention incentives were proposed. Those proposals include weekend shift premium pay and five years of service incentive pay. Much time, effort, collaboration, research, and resources were used to achieve these proposals. Despite all of that, jailing is a tough job and they deserve it. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the Resolution – Jail Staff Recruitment and Retention Incentives as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

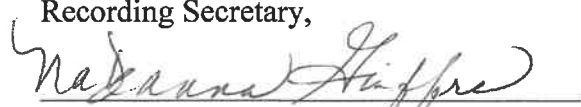
Next meeting date: Monday, March 14, 2022 at 9 a.m.

Motion by L. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary of Record,


Supervisor Liz Miller
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,


NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

cc: Public Safety Members; Chair Gove, 1st Vice Chair Foley; 2nd Vice Chair Polzer; Internet

Approved