

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 11, 2021**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl
Also Present: Vern Gove, James Foley, Joe Ruf, Jodi Burmania, Shonna Neary, Kathy Johnson, Katelyn Schara, Pam Stock, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, 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 Pufahl to approve the agenda as posted. Seconded by K. Miller. The closed session portion of the meeting was requested to be moved to the final item for the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by K. Miller to approve the previous meeting minutes after correcting typo. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) Public Input: n/a.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: No February 2021 committee meeting is being planned; however, if something urgent arises, please contact Chair Polzer.

Emergency Management. (Johnson)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed. *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.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Johnson presented her report and highlighted the following topics: ice jam on the Wisconsin River causing higher levels; free COVID testing sites continue – handout provided; at some undetermined time in the future, at some point in the future, the National Guard will be setting up vaccination sites; and acquisition/demolition projects discussed.
- 3) **FEMA Acquisition/Demolition Grant Acceptance Resolution – Town of Fort Winnebago.** Discussion. Corporation Counsel is drafting this resolution. It is set to go before the Finance Committee this week.
- 4) **FEMA Acquisition/Demolition Grant Application Approval – Town of Dekorra.** Discussion. At this point, Corporation Counsel and the Comptroller have reviewed. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the FEMA Acquisition/Demolition Grant Application as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

MAT/NNAI Program Update: The monthly update was emailed by DHHS/Lori King on Friday, 01/08/21. This message was forwarded to the committee via email as well as provided in meeting binders. In summation, Ms. King advised the following: 14 active MAT cases; one MAT referral in intake process; and one active NNAI case. It was noted in her email that Ms. King will be leaving Columbia County and her position as Crisis/MAT Coordinator. Chair Polzer took the opportunity to commend Ms. King on her efforts and work in the program.

Medical Examiner. (Schara)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made to approve the report by K. Miller. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.*

- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Schara presented the monthly report and highlighted the following topics: 62 calls for service in December and 613 in 2020; call volumes remain above-average, donations are down. Covid testing and criteria not being met continues which create donation shortages and will also affect budget numbers. There were 17 Covid deaths in December and 33 total for 2020. Fee increase will likely be addressed in March 2021. Schara advised that the current staff consists of three deputies and her and advised that there will be possible ridealong of an individual who may be interested in pursuing a career in this field. PPE supplies are good. After the arrival of the 2021 vehicle, the office will have three vehicles in the fleet and available for staff at the LEC. Schara advised that Stephanie and Pam are stepping up while she is doing managerial tasks.
- 3) **Medical Examiner's Office Management and Organization.** (This topic was moved to the last agenda item for the committee today.)

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

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made L. Miller to approve the report. Seconded by K. Miller. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. The Sheriff provided December highlights to include: total calls for service in 2019 were 91,581 vs. 2020 were 104,337. There were 37 OWI arrests, five overdoses, and one fatal crash. There were four squads vs. deer crashes in December. Over the weekend, a one-year-old child was saved with CPR following a head injury from an accidental fall. A resistive inmate in the jail fell as a result from being tased and received an injury to his eye. A review of the incident determined that appropriate force was used in order to gain control of this out of control inmate. After the graduation of K9s Riley and Artus, two more units are out and active on patrol which now brings the office to four K9 teams. Covid update: to-date, 20 employees have contracted the virus. With the use of strict internal practices, the jail has been successful-so far-on keeping our inmates safe. Due to a drastic increase of serious criminal activity occurring at and near The Boxx Office, Sheriff's Office staff have met with the owners which resulted in some of the Boxx Office staff being terminated. The Sheriff advised the committee of a few statistics related to The Boxx Office: 30 impaired driving arrests, 20 drug arrests, four weapons violations, six fights, one eluding/high-speed chase, and two warrant arrests. Potential liquor license violations will be discussed at the upcoming town board meeting. Columbia County Traffic Safety Commission continues to discuss the topic of UTV and ATVs on county roadways. Because Columbia County does not have off-road trails for these vehicles, the pressure to operate them on county roadways. Chair Gove mentioned Grant County and all the issues they have experienced since allowing them on their county roadways. There was a favorable resolution following an incident this past weekend where a 36-year-old male barricaded himself with broken glass as a weapon and stated he wanted to make law enforcement shoot him. Negotiations, taser, and use of a K9 failed, but a less lethal gas deployment was successful. Discussion on use of force and how Sheriff's Office deputies are trained. Chair Polzer also provided additional details of less lethal vs. less than lethal and the progression of what must be done in volatile, high-risk situations. The replacement deputy is a returning law enforcement officer who was previously employed by the Sheriff's Office several years ago. The field training is expected to be expedited. Following an arrest of two subjects, false claims were splashed over social media. The internal investigation is ongoing. Along with record numbers in calls for service and arrests, another spike was experienced in 195 welfare checks in December. This is quite alarming as it truly reflects mental health of some citizens, their families, and the impact on the Sheriff's Office staff. With a much more proactive enforcement on patrol, there were 435 impaired driving arrests in 2020, which easily surpassed years past where totals were in the 200s. Supervisor Liz Miller commended the Sheriff's Office for their proactive and aggressive stance. Secretarial update: With the staff shortages, a pending retirement, and a discipline

issue, a backlog of reports has accumulated and has created an emergency event. Extra help was required to catch up with the criminal reports. A former retiree was willing to come back to assist as an LTE as the new staff are hired and begin training.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 102. Captain Stilson reported that following a resistive inmate incident, the jail is currently locked down. Stilson further reported that there were 183 bookings and 185 released in December. There were 136 doctor visits, 319 nurse visits/screenings, and four emergency room visits for the previous month. HSU Admin Bartels was commended for going above and beyond to cover during the absence from the other nurse.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Secretary.** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for retiring Secretary Peggy Jobe as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Dispatch Equalized Pay.** Human Resources, Accounting, and Sheriff's Office admin have worked on a fair and equitable balance of monthly payroll checks for the dispatch staff. Discussion. There is no fiscal impact. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the Dispatch Equalized Pay as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **SWAT Vest.** With the new deputy coming on board, a portion of his SWAT vest was previously paid by his former agency. Because the vest is coming with him for his new assignments at the Sheriff's Office, the balance due would be in good faith the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office. *Motion by L. Miller to pay the outstanding \$600 invoice to cover the balance of the vest. Seconded by K. Miller. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*

Medical Examiner (continued).

3) **Medical Examiner's Office Management and Organization.**

Motion by Polzer to enter into closed session at 10:13 a.m. pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c), considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility [Medical Examiner's Office Management and Organization]. The Committee will return to open session following the closed session discussion. Seconded by K. Miller. Roll call: Polzer, Pufahl, K. Miller, L. Miller, N. Long. Motion carried unanimously.

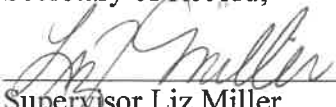
Closed Session.

Motion by Pufahl to return to open session at 10:46 a.m. Seconded by K. Miller. Roll call: Polzer, Pufahl, K. Miller, L. Miller, N. Long. Motion carried unanimously.


Meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Next meeting date will be: Monday, March 8, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Secretary of Record,


Supervisor Liz Miller
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,


NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

cc: Public Safety Members 1st Vice Chair Foley
Chair Gove 2nd Vice Chair Koch Internet

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 11, 2021**

Closed Session Minutes:

3) Medical Examiner's Office Management and Organization *

**The Committee may go into closed session pursuant to WI State Statute Section 19.85(1) (c), Stats, considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility [Medical Examiner's Office Management and Organization]. If the Committee goes into closed session, it will return to open session.*

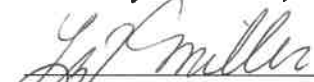
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Discussion of Angela Hinze.

Mr. Ruf gave update. No action required by Public Safety Committee. The Human Resources Committee made motion at their last meeting to terminate Ms. Hinze.

Motion by Pufahl to return to open session at 10:46 a.m. Seconded by K. Miller. Roll call: Polzer, Pufahl, K. Miller, L. Miller, N. Long. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Liz Miller
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,



Sheriff Roger Brandner

cc: Public Safety Members
County Clerk's Office