

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 13, 2020**

Present: Barry Pufahl, Dan Drew, Tom Borgkvist, Keith Miller, Gary Leatherberry (arrived at 9:02 a.m.)
Absent w/Notice: Christopher Polzer
Also Present: Vern Gove, Joe Ruf, Shonna Neary, Kathy Johnson, Angela Hinze, Katie Schara, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, James Stilson, Todd Horn, Cory Miller, Matt Menard, Brian Kjorlie, Elisabeth Schutz, NaDeanna Giuffre

Monthly Agenda Items:

- 1) Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. by Pufahl.
- 2) Compliance with Open Meeting Law. Posting compliance was met per Open Meetings Law.
- 3) Approval of Agenda. *Motion was made by Miller to approve the agenda as posted. Seconded by Borgkvist. Motion carried.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes – 12/09/19 and 12/18/19. *Motion made by Drew to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Borgkvist. Motion carried.*
- 5) Public Input: n/a
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair’s Comments: 2019 Annual Reports are to be presented at the 03/09/20 PSC meeting and due to the County Clerk by 03/13/20.

Emergency Management. (Johnson)

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Reports viewed overhead and provided in binders. *After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure report, a motion was made by Miller to approve the report. Seconded by Borgkvist. Motion carried.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report viewed overhead and provided in binders. Discussion. Johnson highlighted their monthly report to include an update on the recent rain events which have caused dams north of Columbia County to increase their flowage; seven of the 21 school districts attended the county-wide school district administrators emergency planning; the Town of Randolph filed for reimbursement from the damages in the Sept/Oct 2019 flood event. Adams County along with the Federal Correctional Institute in Oxford have been working to build a helipad at FCI in the near future. Johnson also advised that the National Weather Service arranged a meeting to discuss working closer with the Dells area on outreach and public safety for weather events.

Medical Examiner. (Hinze, Schara)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was viewed overhead and provided in binders. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made to approve the report by Borgkvist. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report viewed overhead and provided in binders. Discussion. Hinze highlighted her monthly activity report to include the VERSITI agreement. An ordinance is needed to establish county billing procedures. Recommended fees were reviewed. The draft ordinance is anticipated to be ready for the March Public Safety Committee meeting. Hinze advised the committee that she attended a meeting with County Board Chair and Corporation Counsel regarding the Farber Funeral Home concerns. As of 01/09/2020, Sharlene Beebe was hired to fill a vacancy within the ME Office and her orientation has already begun.

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

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Reports viewed overhead and provided in binders. *After a review of the Sheriff’s*

Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made Borgkvist to approve the report. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

- General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly report viewed overhead and provided in binders. The Sheriff discussed a few highlights from the December activities to include CD Bisch's work with MIS and US Cell to resolve the cellphone overages. The Sheriff advised the committee that the jail's main oven failed and an emergency year-end purchase was approved by Chair Gove to replace it. The Sheriff then introduced his command staff to the committee to include Chief Deputy Greg Bisch, Captain Jason Kocovsky, Captain James Stilson, Lieutenants Todd Horn, Matt Menard, and Cory Miller, Dispatch Sergeant Liz Schutz, and Executive Assistant NaDeanna Giuffre. The Sheriff spoke of the 76 accidents in December as well as 259 impaired drivers that were arrested in 2019. The Sheriff commended his staff for their handling of these calls. With the most recent traffic fatality at CTH CS & J, Supervisor Leatherberry offered his support and willingness to attend the next Traffic Safety Commission meeting to speak about this intersection. With the 15 domestic-related calls and many of them involving firearms in December, the committee was reminded how volatile and extremely dangerous these situations are. Because CCI has been experiencing more batteries to correctional officers and subsequent lockdowns to their facility, our detectives have been out there with investigations more often. The Sheriff commended the Detective Division for their diligent work on investigations and also completing 25+ background investigations in 2019 for new hires at the Sheriff's Office. The 2020 in-service for Columbia County and municipal law enforcement will include some additional training in handling incidents where dementia patients are involved, active shooter, and sovereign citizen awareness. The Sheriff advised that two K9 units are currently training. Once completed, the Sheriff's Office will have three K9 units deployed.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 149. Stilson advised that there were 218 bookings and 222 releases. The medical staff had 85 doctor visits, 121 nurse visits, and one ER visit at the hospital. Captain Stilson advised that the rise of mental health issues in the jail are ongoing. Captain Stilson spoke of a recent issue where jail staff needed to use a taser, OC, and restraint chair to gain control of an out of control inmate. After being tipped off by other inmates, felony charges are being sought against a female who smuggled heroin into the jail. The reconstruction of a wall will be included in next month's expenditures. This wall will be built with security glass, a pass-through, and intercoms. Inmate Trust funds will be utilized. Captain Stilson spoke highly of the inmate educational programs made available in our jail. He recently received information from a former inmate who was able to successfully complete his GED. Vice Chair Dan took a moment to commend the Sheriff and his Administrative staff on how smoothly the transitions have gone in his first year in office. Stilson added that the Dispatch Center, under the direct supervision of Sgt. Schutz, is where the calls for service originate. Through thorough training and guidance in their FTO program and trainers, great dispatching staff grow.
- 4) **FBI National Academy.** Discussion. Sheriff Brandner was the first ever from Columbia County to attend this prestigious program. Now Captain Jason Kocovsky has also been nominated and selected to attend this training January – March 2021 in Quantico, VA. All expenses are paid for and/or reimbursable. *Motion by Drew to approve Captain Jason Kocovsky's attendance at the FBI National Academy in 2021. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried unanimously.* Chair Gove stated that Kocovsky's acceptance into this program is an honor.
- 5) **Jail Nursing Staff Reclassification.** In a recent recruiting process, no applicants applied. An increase may or may not draw applicants, but something needs to be done. Discussion. This topic has already gone before and passed at the Human Resources Committee. *Motion by Miller to move the Jail Nurse RN compensation from J to K and the Jail Nurse Health Care Service Administrator compensation from K to L. Seconded by Borgkvist. Motion carried unanimously.*

Other Business:

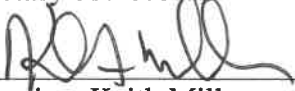
Power Project Update. The Caledonia Tower footing was discussed. CD Bisch advised that a firm called Rainmaker was hired to evaluate the footing. This will delay the progress of the project.

Chair Gove advised that a meeting with the Attorney General will be set for February 2020 regarding the anti-government group.

Action by Borgkvist to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

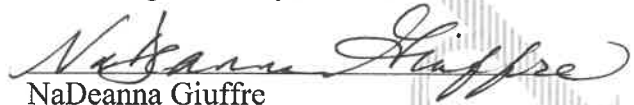
Next meeting date: Monday, March 9, 2020 at 9 a.m. Should emergency hiring decisions need to be made between now and the next PSC, Chair Gove can assist.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Keith Miller
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,



NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

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

Approved