

**Columbia County  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
February 13, 2023**

**Present:** Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh, Troy Ryan (left meeting at 10:02 a.m.)  
**Also Present:** Chris Polzer (via teleconference phone), Denise Brusveen, Shonna Neary, Jessica Hale, Bob Koch, Madeleine Groenier, James Stilson, 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 Valencia. 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 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: Supervisor L. Miller voiced concerns over the Memphis situation, but after speaking with Sheriff Brandner about the Sheriff's Office policies and audits on body cameras, she reiterated her great confidence with the Sheriff's Office and wished to thank the staff for adhering to those policies. Captain Stilson spoke about how that footage was appalling, unacceptable, and not the norm.

**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 Ryan 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. Koch presented his report and highlighted ongoing and upcoming training, meetings, and projects for January and February. Koch updated the committee about the ARPA funds for the river gauges. Work with Motorola, Nixle, and Everbridge has been ongoing to get the Command Central operational. There were multiple meetings in January, and specifically, Koch spoke about the WI Disaster Fund Update from the December cold snap storms where the City of Wisconsin Dells met the criteria for debris cleanup. The 2022 EPCRA and EMPC grants were successfully closed out. Koch advised that his office is setting a goal of monthly outreach for emergency and hazmat planning. The annual Weather/Storm Spotter training is set for 03/16/23. The daytime session will be held at the LEC and another evening option will be held at an alternate location in the county. A press release will be sent as the date nears. The Village of Cambria had a gas leak. Thank you to Pardeeville and Randolph Schools who graciously offered their locations for evacuees' safety during the alert. The EM office assisted the Pardeeville family in obtaining clothing following a house fire. The E-MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm Systems) drill was a success. MABAS cards have different alarm levels. The MOA for Command Central has been submitted. The Hazmat Agreement between Portage and Columbia County has been approved and signed. Supervisor Valencia requested an update on the point of contact changes for the river gauges and cell phone software access between MIS/EM/Sheriff's Office from a previous meeting. ACC Hale advised that she is working with the Sheriff and MIS/Drews to resolve these issues.

**Medical Examiner.** (Groenier, fka 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 L. Miller 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. Groenier provided highlights for the month stating that there was a total of 64 calls. Of those, there were three overdoses (pending toxicology) one neglect, two Influenza A, two autopsies, and seven Versiti donations. Groenier spoke about other monthly activities to include collaborating efforts with the Survivors of Suicide kits, work with Probation and Parole regarding notifying foster care children of their parents' passing as well as implementing notification of the ME's Office and procedures of placing a hold on toxicology samples after non-natural death events. Groenier also advised that she is scheduled for the 03/01/23 ABMDI exam. Discussion on accidental overdoses and if anything further can be done to alert the public about possible "bad batches" being distributed in the community.

**Sheriff's Office/Jail. (Stilson)**

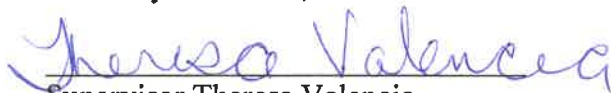
- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. ***After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by Ryan to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Weyh. 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. Captain Stilson spoke about the recent swearing-in ceremony where five new deputies were formally sworn into the law enforcement family. The Sheriff's Office Awards Ceremony was held on 01/26/23 and approximately 120 attendees. The narratives told of the incidents remind everyone of the important roles each plays. Chair Polzer spoke about how well organized the awards event is and thanked Sheriff Brandner and PSC Chair Keith Miller for the honor to speak. Stilson thanked all those involved in planning the event and making a difference. An additional Cradlepoint device will be purchased from a recent Badger Sheriff donation. An elderly-targeted alert press release was sent regarding a scam affecting 21 different communities. The FBI was assisting the Sheriff's Office on this federal case. The FBI also assisted with a recent contractor fraud investigation that led to an arrest. Through professional teamwork, a kidnapping and high-speed chase incident ended with no injuries and an arrest. The female victim who was kidnapped was able to dial 911 and through great communication between the dispatch center, Sheriff's Office deputies and outside agencies, the vehicle was ultimately stopped with the use of a Pitt maneuver by WSP. Through alert and quick responses, an inmate who was attempting to end their life, was found, CPR performed, and saved by two jail deputies. Following a joint investigation with the US Postal Service, a portion of the forfeiture was given to the Sheriff's Office. The annual Motorola Spillman User Conference being held in Florida is set for April 10-13, 2023. 2023 training monies were budgeted for three staff members to attend. Stilson spoke about seeing a recent billboard in Columbia County seeking Dane County employment. Because no candidates matched the qualifications required to fill the 911 Coordinator position in the Dispatch Center, Stilson advised that the Sheriff made an emergency appointment of an additional Dispatch Sergeant. These sergeants will still dispatch and perform the additional administrative duties as well. Two Sheriff's Office deputies attended and represented the Sheriff's Office at the visitation and funeral of a recent Milwaukee Officer duty death.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 166. There have been 204 bookings and 200 released. There were 70 doctor visits, 497 nurse screenings, and seven ER visits. More inmates are being evaluated at the ER due to potential drug ingestion. Drug precaution screenings continue for incoming inmates, but also on mail pieces packaged and disguised as "attorney privileged" were found to contain traces of fentanyl. New procedures of photocopying all mail may be implemented. Through expedited and skilled negotiating, jail staff were successful in deterring an inmate who was threatening to jump off of the upper tier of the jail.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Captains.** With the recent announcements, both Jason Kocovsky and Todd Horn are planning well-deserved retirements. ***Motion by Ryan to approve the position replacement request for two Captain positions as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.***

- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Jailer.** After just under two years, Carter Jenatscheck resigned. *Motion by Weyh to approve the position replacement request for Jailer as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Position Replacement Request – Deputy.** After approximately six years, Ryan Fleischhacker resigned. *Motion by Ryan to approve the position replacement request as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 7) **Resolution – Accept Safer Community Funds for Law Enforcement Agencies Grant.** Discussion. These funds will be used to purchase Cradlepoint devices. This topic and resolution will go before Executive Committee. **Motion by L. Miller to accept the Resolution – Accept Safer Community Funds for Law Enforcement Agencies Grant as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.**

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

*Motion by Weyh to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried.*

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

Approved