

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
March 14, 2022**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl
Also Present: Vern Gove, Jim Foley, Eric Shimpach, Joe Ruf, Lois Schepp, David Drews, Bob Koch, Katelyn Schara, Madeleine Meeker, Heather Gove, Stephanie Nickel, 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 L. Miller to approve the agenda as posted. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Long 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: Chair Polzer thanked recording secretary NaDeanna Giuffre for her assistance, the entire committee for their participation and individual expertise, and County Board Chair Gove. Finishing up their terms, Supervisors Pufahl and Long will be missed on the county board. Polzer further thanked Captain James Stilson for his speaking about mental health and how it relates to law enforcement during a criminal justice class at UW-Platteville.

Emergency Management. (Koch)

- 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 Long to approve the report. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.* Discussion on rising fuel costs and concerns for 2022. Schepp advised the county is prepared.
- 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: Kathy Johnson was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent Governor's Conference. There have been some minor flooding issues in Pardeeville that were managed with sandbags. To continue with Covid-19 precautions, many masks were given to other departments, schools, law enforcement, EMS, and Fire. Assistance was provided during a recent structure fire in the City of Portage. The HazMat Tech course was held 02/26/22 and great feedback was received. Grants will again be applied for more future trainings. Koch thanked the Executive Committee for the approved ARPA funds that supplied the EM office with two laptops which will aid Koch and Darling-Ellis with access during emergencies and during trainings. National Weather Service will be conducting Storm Spotter training at the LEC on 03/29/22 at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- 3) **Review/Approve 2021 Annual Report.** Review/discussion. *Motion by Long to approve the Emergency Management 2021 Annual Report as presented. Seconded by L. 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 Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity reports for January and February were provided in meeting binders. Discussion. Schara provided highlights for the months of January and February. Collaboration and resources are being shared with Health and Human Services. A debriefing was held and attended following a double fatal accident in January. The new forensic filer database has begun for case management. Marquette County assisted in January for a scene response. ME staff is also working with the Veterans Office to develop a suicide review for Veteran decedents. Collaboration with outside agencies to provide information for the Overdose Fatality Review group. Meeker applied for and has received the ABMDI materials for national certification.
- 3) **Kratz Funeral Home Invoice.** Because of calls for service and no staff or ME vehicles were available, Kratz Funeral Home performed a removal and transport. Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to pay the \$250 to Kratz Funeral Home for their services. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 4) **Review/Approve 2021 Annual Report.** Review/discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the Medical Examiner 2021 Annual Report as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

MAT Program Status Report. (Gove, Nickel)

With the MAT Coordinator Angela Smith being out of the office until mid-April, Heather Gove and Stephanie Nickel provided background information regarding the program as well as a current status report to the committee.

Sheriff's Office/Jail. (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. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity reports for January and February were provided in meeting binders. Chief Deputy Bisch provided highlights of the last two months including the following: Although public reception to law enforcement seems to be good, disrespect to law enforcement officers continues to rise. Examples of increasingly dangerous high-speed chases were given. The Freedom Convoy that came through the county was discussed. With Captain Horn's organized plan and preparation, the Sheriff's Office as well as many other agencies were involved to make this large and potentially politically charged issue safe for those participating and our citizens. County Highway also provided preventative road preparations to included deicing and signage to keep all our roadways open without any closures. The snow squall that came through the county caused damage to one of the radio towers. With a recent drug overdose, there were concerns of a secondary exposure to a deputy discussed. The patient was scripted on charges and security at the hospital was not needed. There was a goodwill and successful K9 search for a driver who was passing through our state and county that resulted in a vehicle key being located by K9 Jax and Deputy Lange. Because staffing issues persist in all divisions, but more particularly in the jail and dispatch too, Sheriff's Office administration continues to seek additional creative ways to draw in and retain our well-trained staff. The patrol sergeant vacancy was filled by Ronald Stage who also brings his K9 Riley to his new sergeant position and duties.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Counts: January: 128 and February: 133. Captain Stilson advised that Huber numbers are up. Medical totals for January and

February were as follows: 115 doctor visits, 968 nurse screens, and eight ER visits. Covid restrictions are being kept in place with isolated cases to keep staff and inmates safer. There has been an uptick in use of force problems with a general lack of respect towards staff. From a recent lockdown, a few inmates were refusing to comply. Their resistance was met with quick and unified support from jail staff, administration, and three different K9 teams responding to squelch the disturbance. The use of cameras, both those posted in the facility as well as the upcoming body cameras, will provide improved evidence in use of force incidents, increasing security, and quickly disproving accusations made against staff. Positive feedback and thanks have been offered by some current jail staff with the passing of the wage increase.

- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Jailer.** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for Jailer Joshua Tester who was promoted to Patrol Deputy. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Deputy.** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for Deputy Daniel Hayes. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Position Replacement Request – Dispatchers (2).** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement requests for Dispatchers Kelly Rhodes and Michele Anderson. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 7) **Position Replacement Request – Patrol Sergeant.** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for Patrol Sergeant Darrell Ward. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 8) **Review/Approve 2021 Annual Report.** Review/discussion. *Motion Long to approve the Sheriff's Office 2021 Annual Report as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Next meeting date: Monday, April 11, 2022 at 9 a.m.

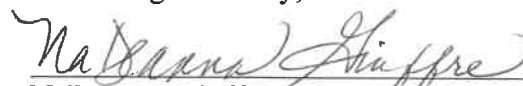
Motion by K. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 a.m. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.

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