

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
April 12, 2021**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl

Also Present: James Foley, Joe Ruf, Shonna Neary, David Drews, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jim Stilson, Liz Schutz, Kathy Johnson, Katelyn Schara, Pam Stock, 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 Long to approve the previous meeting minutes as presented. 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: Chair Polzer commented that with National Volunteer Week slated for 04/18/21-04/24/21, he wished to commend his fellow committee members and all who serve and selflessly volunteer many hours of their time as members of the County Board.

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 Pufahl. 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: Portage River gauge transducer was replaced; River gauge MOUs for City of Portage-Wisconsin River, Village of Pardeeville-Fox River, and City of Columbus-Crawfish River are being reviewed and will be sent to Corporation Counsel before returning to National Weather Service; per the State of Wisconsin's plan of work grant requirements during COVID, vaccination clinic site visits can be counted as tabletop exercises. The proper paperwork was completed and submitted to the state. On 04/09/21, Johnson reported that her office participated in the State of Emergency Operation Center tabletop exercise where the state wanted to test responses to multiple scenarios before the storm season hits. Plan of work grant requirements were also met with this training.
- 3) **Vehicle Listing/Odometer Reading Report.** Discussion and review of new form, the data it intends to collect, and where the reports will be submitted. *Motion by L. Miller to request that the county form also provides the mileage comparison from the previous quarter to better ascertain proper usage. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion by Pufahl to approve the Vehicle Listing/Odometer Reading as presented by the Emergency Management Office. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

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 L. Miller. 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: 53 cases in March, nine autopsies, and one donation. Covid-related deaths are decreasing. Staffing: Deputy Melissa Waller

resigned, leaving Katelyn, Pam Stock and Stephanie Wittrock in the department and are sharing on-call hours. Recruitment posting is on website. Discussion on switching from Dane County to UW for autopsies.

- 3) **Vehicle Listing/Odometer Reading Report.** Discussion. *Motion by L. Miller to approve the Vehicle Listing/Odometer Reading Report as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

MAT/NNAI Program Update: The monthly update was emailed by DHHS/Kate Young on Thursday, 03/25/21. The attachment was included with the committee meeting binders.

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 Long. Discussion. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** In recognition of National Public Safety Telecommunicators' Week, Sheriff Brandner invited Sheriff's Office's Communications Sergeant Elisabeth Schutz to attend today's meeting. Sheriff Brandner and Chair Polzer thanked Liz and her staff for their hard work and dedication to positions they serve in at Sheriff's Office. To get a true and better understanding, Chair Polzer encouraged committee members to job shadow in the dispatch center if/when they can.

Monthly activity report for March was provided in meeting binders. Sheriff Brandner provided highlights of the report to include: two of our deputies were first on scene to a large accident with multiple ejections, fatalities, and 10 injured; a domestic incident in Columbus which resulted in a drowning in the Crawfish River; an infant death that is still under investigation. A motorbike crash resulted in the death of a 17-year-old male and because multiple family and friends were on scene, two chaplains were also dispatched to assist deputies. There were 53 impaired driving arrests with the majority of them being local county citizens; a joint effort between local, state, and the DEA investigation resulted in 2.2 pounds of cocaine being seized; a recent high-speed chase involving the county, WSP, and Lodi Police Department resulted in two squads with tire damage. The level of disrespect for authority continues to grow. Chase v. no-chase are difficult weighing of liability decisions and in most cases, it's a no-win situation. Problems involving the Boxx Office and the criminal activities are ongoing; however, solutions are being sought with and through the township. Body cameras: the newest version of the Panasonic is not available yet. Other options with the auto trigger are being researched, but the Sheriff's Office is waiting for the newer technology instead of settling for the older version. In the meantime, anticipated storage challenges are being worked on between MIS and the Sheriff's Office. Multiple vandalism complaints on CTH P involving mailboxes coated with Vaseline and shaving cream. There were six overdose investigations with two of them being fatal. The Sheriff's Office Detective Sergeant David Clark applied for and was awarded another \$12,500 methamphetamine grant. Looking ahead to the 2023 budget, the Sheriff's Office will need to include the Spillman maintenance. Despite all the challenges faced and overcome in 2020, the Sheriff's Office budget ended positively without going into the red. Overtime was up due to Covid and other staff covering for those who were required to be off. There was no decline in crime, so Sheriff's Office operations continued status quo through the pandemic and despite most other county departments having their Covid quarantine time off paid, Sheriff's Office staff had to utilize their benefit time. CD Bisch provided a Radio Tower project update. Connectivity work between Fire, EMS, and law enforcement continues despite application errors with the Spillman Touch product. Communication with these agencies is imperative.

- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 120. Captain Stilson reported that the jail had 13 out of county holds after Marathon County inmates were returned.

Following his transfer back to Marathon County, one inmate wrote a letter thanking and commending the jail officers, facilities, positive attitudes, and respect given. Well-being checks on inmates have doubled to better ensure inmate safety. Captain Stilson reported the jail had 239 bookings, 267 released, 88 doctor visits, 492 nurse visits, and two ER visits. The camera project is moving forward. With the increase of suspects secreting drugs and paraphernalia into the jail, body scans are done on every intake and strip searches are performed whenever there are suspicions. Counseling is automatically offered to drug and alcohol dependent inmates. NNAI/MAT referrals continue.

- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Jailers (2).** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for the resignation of Jailer Kimberly Bursaw and retirement of Toni Ebert as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Secretary.** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for the resignation of Jennifer Eberle as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **Courthouse and Administration Building Security.** Discussion. The Sheriff discussed the need and requested to hire additional CSU staff to accomplish more tasks for less money and not exceed the budgeted monies. These staff members with limited hours can assist with transports and security. *Motion by K. Miller to support the request for hiring more staff to accomplish the coverage while not exceeding the set budget. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*

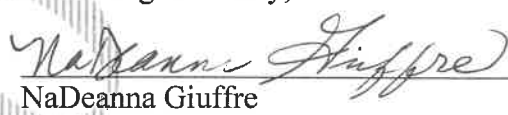
Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m. Next meeting date will be: Monday, May 10, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Secretary of Record,



Supervisor Liz Miller
Committee Secretary

Recording Secretary,



NaDeanna Giuffre
Assistant to Sheriff Brandner

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