

**Columbia County  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
May 8, 2023**

**Present:** Liz Miller, Theresa Valencia, Mike Weyh  
**Excused**  
**w/Notice:** Keith Miller, Troy Ryan  
**Also Present:** Chris Polzer, Shonna Neary, Jessica Hale, David Drews, Jason Willemarck, Bob Koch, Madeleine Groenier, Roger Brandner, Greg Bisch, Jonathan Stefonek, NaDeanna Giuffre

**Monthly Agenda Items:**

- 1) Call to Order. Meeting called to order at 9 a.m. by L. Miller.
- 2) Compliance with Open Meeting Law. Posting compliance was met per Open Meetings Law.
- 3) Approval of Agenda. *Motion was made by Weyh to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*
- 4) Approval of Previous Committee Meeting Minutes. *Motion made by Valencia to approve the previous month meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*
- 5) Public Input: Chair Polzer provided an update on PSC Chair Keith Miller. Chair Polzer also spoke about the recent line-of-duty death in St. Croix County and how the Columbia County Board values all our employees and continues to strongly support our law enforcement.
- 6) Approval of Expenditure Reports. Reports will be reviewed by each office.
- 7) Chair's Comments: n/a.

**Emergency Management.** (Koch)

- 1) **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 April and May. Koch advised the committee that damage assessment is being done in the Blackhawk area. Individual assistance is more difficult to obtain, but a greater, per capita damage is being sought. Local municipalities may be better able to assist those who experienced damage. Discussion on reunification training at the Cambria-Friesland High School. Hazmat training grant was closed out. Efforts continued in providing access to deputies to more Columbia County schools in the event of critical incidents. Additional safety suggestions were discussed from the quarterly safety and security meeting at the courthouse. The river height reached 19.24 which was the 8<sup>th</sup> highest crest.
- 2) **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 Weyh to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*

**Medical Examiner.** (Groenier)

- 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 Valencia to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*
- 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 spoke about her monthly report and that April had 51 calls to include one motor vehicle fatal, three Covid-19 deaths (with multiple comorbidities) one ATSF donation, and five Versiti donations. A total of 18 Next of Kin packets were sent to all 2022 substance-related deaths families. A new intern application was received and the 2022

intern is returning for this summer too. Staffing discussion. Groenier is working with HR and Accounting for a cost analysis and possibly restructuring the office due to the low interest. Discussion on suicide boxes and what is included in them. Groenier was asked to learn what other counties do and maybe include a comfort blanket in ours.

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

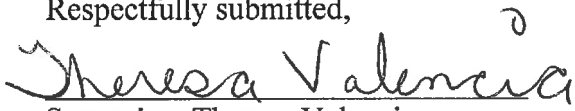
- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Expenditure report was previously provided to the committee via email, posted on CCBoard/Public Safety Committee, and made available during the meeting. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by Weyh to approve the report as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Discussion/questions answered. Motion carried.*
- 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 in binders. The Sheriff advised that the NextGen911 project is moving forward. A GIS contractor is being hired for address data points and formatting the data. It is hoped to be completed by late fall/early winter. Captain David Clark is in his last few weeks of the FBINA training in Virginia. The Sheriff will be driving out to attend the honorable graduation in June so the costs will be minimal for county. A recent traffic stop involving a stolen vehicle evolved into a high-speed chase that resulted in a K9 being injured during the pursuit. Veterinary appointment is set for this Friday to assess. During the recent storm including sleet and hail covering the roadway near Poynette, a fatal accident occurred. Another fatal accident occurred when a 16-year-old operator pulled out from a stop sign and hit a motorcycle near Arlington. As subsequent internal promotions continue to backfill, Nicholas Firestone was promoted to Jail Sergeant and Tyler Henriksen was promoted to Patrol Sergeant. Due to a staff member not meeting standards, a demotion also occurred from Detective to Patrol Deputy. Dispatch is finally at full staff, but another retirement is anticipated later this summer. Because the MAT Program no longer exists, the jail wishes to revive the program through grant funds to educate the Jail Nurses, staff, and inmates and provide more resources before and after inmates are released in an attempt to slow re-use. Vivitrol is being administered when needed. Unfortunately, drug use is difficult to combat. There was a significant traffic stop that ended with a major drug bust including \$40,000 cash, money counter, over 7000 vape cartridges, shrooms, marijuana wax, a vehicle, and a firearm. Call volumes are up to 4264 for the Sheriff's Office, 8008 for the county so far this year. Warmer temps tend to spike calls for service. There were two squad vs. deer crashes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Open House/K9 Fundraiser was a success despite the cold temps, rain, hail, and snow. Over 500 attended, sold approximately 300 meals, and approximately 100 citizens toured the Dispatch Center. This year's Cops & Bobbers event is set for 05/10/23 at Swan Lake for approximately 20 kids. The entire event is supported through donations and volunteered time. The Sheriff is meeting with Pardeeville officials to discussion continued and perhaps expanded police service coverage to include Wyocena. Squad maintenance expenditures are increasing due to squads needing to be run longer. Older vehicles and more miles driven creates increased maintenance for upkeep. Receiving the new squads is delayed. The Sheriff's Office is sending an honor guard to St. Croix County for the recent line-of-duty death of their deputy. Incidents like these can impact law enforcement and those who continue to serve. Mental health support is offered and available for our deputies. With the intent of retaining long-term staff members, the Sheriff discussed creating a "senior grade" for jail, dispatch, and secretarial staff who have achieved greater expertise, skills, and training with the department. A proposal and further discussion will be brought to the committee next month.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 140. There were 46 doctor visits, 452 nurse screenings, and five ER visits. Other agency holds are down, however, the US Marshal is looking to obtain contracts because Dane County abolished their federal contract. In order to participate and earn more revenue, the Sheriff is hopeful to achieve full (or close to full) staff and accept a contract in the future.
- 4) **Ordinance – Amend Chapter 8 – Dive Team Per Diem.** Discussion. *Motion by Weyh to approve the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 8 – Dive Team Per Diem as presented. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*

5) **Jail Booking Glass Replacement.** This replacement is for the glass that separates the Jail Lobby from the Jail Booking Office. Facilities Management worked on this project, sought bids, and from that bidding process, two companies bid. Based on the recommendation from the Facilities Management and Sheriff Brandner, approval is being sought to move forward with Stronghold Industries, Inc. with the bid amount of \$10,900 and their anticipated project completion of three months earlier. *Motion by Valencia to approve the Stronghold Industries, Inc. for the Jail Booking Glass Replacement project as presented. Seconded by Weyh. Motion carried.*

Next meeting date: Monday, June 12, 2023, at 9 a.m. at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, John Roche Community Room.

*Motion by Weyh to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 a.m. Seconded by Valencia. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

  
Supervisor Theresa Valencia  
Committee Secretary

  
NaDeanna Giuffre  
Recording Secretary

cc: Public Safety Members; Chair Polzer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Brusveen; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Rohrbeck; Internet