

**Columbia County
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
May 10, 2021**

Present: Chris Polzer, Keith Miller, Liz Miller, Nancy Long, Barry Pufahl
Also Present: Vern Gove, James Foley, Joe Ruf, Susan Fisher, Shonna Neary, Roger Brandner, Kathy Johnson, Katelyn Schara, Pam Stock, David Drews, 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 K. Miller 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 and encouraged the committee members to seek out ridealong opportunities. A tour of the jail was discussed and will be done at the June meeting. As a member of the Crime Stoppers Board, Chair Polzer also thanked Sheriff Brandner for attending and County Board Chair Gove's county donation.

Emergency Management. (Johnson)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Emergency Management expenditure report, a motion was made by Pufahl to approve the report. Seconded by K. Miller. 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: LEC emergency plan is now done and posted. Vaccination clinics: there is hope to make these clinics mobile and have them available in other communities, encourage walk-ins, and offer to 16 and 17-year olds.

Medical Examiner. (Schara)

- 1) **Expenditure Report.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Medical Examiner expenditure report, a motion was made by K. Miller to approve the report. 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: 48 cases in April, 47 certified, 37 cremations, five autopsies, and one donation. UW Hospital is now being used for testing and going really well. Additional staff is being sought as the office is down two deputies. New vehicle was delivered and an appointment has been set at Belco.

NNAI/MAT Program Update: The monthly update was provided by DHHS/Kate Young. The update was included with the committee meeting binders. Chair Polzer will evaluate the continuation of monthly NNAI/MAT updates and this topic may be removed from the Public Safety Committee meeting agenda in the future.

Sheriff's Office/Jail. (Brandner)

- 1) **Expenditure Reports.** Report was reviewed. *After a review of the Sheriff's Office's expenditure reports, a motion was made by Pufahl to approve the report. Seconded by K. Miller. Discussion.*

Motion carried unanimously.

- 2) **General Review of Department Activities.** Monthly activity report was provided in meeting binders. Sheriff Brandner provided highlights of the report to include: the next swearing-in ceremony is set for 4 p.m. on 06/01/21 at the Law Enforcement Center. The committee was encouraged to attend, support, and welcome the newest deputies. Eluding and high-speed chases continue. The decision to chase versus no-chase, weighing of liability, potential injuries, public safety, and damage to property assessments are made constantly. The current law enforcement environment and how these officers are viewed by the public are very different. Two trial body cameras are being tested. The Sheriff's Office is hoping to order in June with a targeted deployment date in July. No grant opportunities to help fund body cameras have been released yet, but there is talk of some possible federal funding. Spillman Touch has been fixed and MOUs with Fire and EMS are being worked on by MIS. The recent fatal crash involving two teenagers from the Sheboygan area is still being investigated. Jail staff shortages continue. It has been difficult to even get individuals to apply and then get them through the background process. The high level of expectations for job applicants cannot be reduced or minimized. County Board Chair Gove directed Sheriff Brandner and the Public Safety Committee to begin the process of attaining protective status for our Jail Deputies in hopes to retain our current staff and attract more qualified candidates to serve in our jail. Detective Sergeant Mark Smit along with efforts from the US Postal Inspector and drug unit, a seizure of drugs valued over \$100,000 were recovered from subjects in Columbus. The Sheriff recently corresponded with the DA and Judges regarding Huber work release privileges and how it works. Additional measures are being taken to assist our deputies in distinguishing between firearm vs. Taser. County deputies are trained and certified in both uses of force. Community leaders must continue to educate and advocate for use of force and failure to act. While in Columbia County, subjects failing to comply with law enforcement directives will be met with force; however, excessive force will never be tolerated and will be dealt with according to policy. This is the time to support good police action and be reminded that qualified immunity does not protect bad cops. Of the eight overdoses in April, two were fatal. Through quick and incredible poise, Deputy Larry Bielke was able to apply a tourniquet to save a patient who would have surely succumbed to their injuries. The Sheriff commended the efforts of Captain Todd Horn, Corporation Counsel, and Human Services for their relentless efforts in finding ways to better support and aid the elderly, Alzheimer, and dementia citizens of Columbia County. The Sheriff's Office's LTE Barb Turner's hours are now completed and despite the reports continuing at an all-time high, he is hopeful the newly trained Secretaries will be able to manage effectively. The Sheriff spoke about Police Week and how he and his office feel supported by the Public Safety Committee and Columbia County.
- 3) **Inmate Count and General Review of Jail Operations.** Inmate Count: 108. Sheriff Brandner spoke about that although we continue to house state inmates, no federal or Huber inmates are available and this will impact revenue. Because the courts are finally reopening, the Sheriff anticipates this may shift and more inmates may become available. Body scans are being done on all incoming inmates to assist in reducing drugs being concealed and brought into the jail. Recently a Huber inmate upon returning from work had overdosed on heroin and was found passed out in the lobby. Through the use of CPR and Narcan, he was brought back.
- 4) **Position Replacement Request – Patrol Sergeant.** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for the resignation of Patrol Sergeant Christopher Weber as presented. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 5) **Position Replacement Request – Jailer.** *Motion by Pufahl to approve the position replacement request for the resignation of Jailer Anthony Navone as presented. Seconded by Long. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 6) **2021-2022 Sheriff Sworn Union Contract.** Discussion. *Motion by Pufahl to approve the 2021-2022 Sheriff Sworn Union Contract and forward it onto the County Board as presented. Seconded by L. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

- 7) **Tower Project Update and Purchases.** The Accounting office presented a handout providing the committee with a breakdown of items needed to purchase. Discussion. The Ad Hoc 911 Radio Upgrade Committee meets regarding this topic later today. *Motion by K. Miller to approve the interactions for the bid process to begin for generators. Seconded by Pufahl. Motion carried unanimously.*
- 8) **Corona Virus Emergency Supplemental Funds Grant.** The Sheriff explained this is a highly competitive grant for a law enforcement-specific purchase larger than \$5000. The Sheriff's Office applied for approximately \$144,000 for another body scanner for use in the Huber Center. *Motion by Pufahl to accept the grant process. Seconded by K. Miller. Motion carried unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m. Next meeting date will be: Monday, June 14, 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
Internet

APPROVED